



# AUTO + ASSEMBLY

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## FORGING CLOSER LINKS

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# FIA PRESIDENT CELEBRATES CROSS-PILLAR COOPERATION

The FIA's series of year-ending meetings drew to a close in St Petersburg this morning, with FIA President Jean Todt telling the Federation's General Assembly that the goal of forging closer ties between the organisation's two pillar – Sport and Mobility – is being reached and that a shared sense of purpose is reaping real rewards in a number of areas.



Prior to the President's address, the Assembly was honoured by the presence of Igor Levitin, Aide to the President of Russia who, on behalf of President Vladimir Putin, thanked the FIA and its Member Clubs for their attendance in St Petersburg and for their efforts in promoting motor sport and road safety in Russia.

He also extended President Putin's congratulations to the FIA's motor sport champions who will this evening gather at the St Petersburg Philharmonia for the annual FIA Prize Giving ceremony. "You are the best of the best," he said.

Following the opening of the Assembly, President Todt pointed to a number of successful cross-pillar programmes as evidence of the progress being made in a number of fields.



"Our FIA Smart Cities initiative uses Formula E to enhance one of the campaigns of Mobility – Better Urban Mobility for All. This initiative has great potential and we now need to focus on making it more relevant to Clubs by developing resources to help measure what is happening in major cities. This will assist you in advocating more effectively for better, and safer mobility solutions."

He also cited the work of two new Commissions – in Disability and Accessibility, and in Environment and Sustainability – as further evidence of growing collaboration between the two arms of the FIA.

"The Disability and Accessibility Commission is chaired by Nathalie McGloin, who is a champion for regulatory change and for giving better access to motor sport to those with special abilities. She has passion, expertise and, importantly, personal experience to make a significant contribution. The Environment and Sustainability Commission is chaired by the former President of Mexico, Felipe Calderón, who brings a high level of experience, knowledge and credibility to the role.

"The Environment is important for both Sport and Mobility and we have developed and launched an Environmental Accreditation Programme for ASNs," he continued. "We are also developing a similar programme for Mobility and the principles involved are already being implemented within the FIA Administration."

He also referenced the growing diversity within the FIA, saying: "All of the FIA Governing bodies – the Senate, both World Councils and a number of Commissions, have women members. In the past, the FIA and its ASNs and Clubs have had little female representation and I encourage us all to move in this direction. To do so is only to recognise and reward genuine talent which will help ensure stronger FIA and Clubs in the future."

Lastly, he emphasised even greater cooperation in the future, particularly through the 2019 FIA Conference, which will be jointly staged by Mobility and Sport in Sun City, South Africa, in late April and early May next year.

Elsewhere, the FIA President looked back on another busy year for the Federation, highlighting the founding of the FIA Innovation Fund, the FIA Young European Women Programme, the Youth Olympic Games project, and the Federation's ongoing success with its Track to Road technology transfer initiative.

Turning to his role as the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, he spoke of his pride at the establishment of the United Nations Road Safety Trust Fund.

"I originally suggested the Fund to the UN Secretary-General as a way of coordinating the efforts of all road safety stakeholders," he said. "It was welcomed by the General Assembly at its meeting in April this year in New York.

"The Fund will act as a catalyst that inspires other donors to contribute to worthwhile projects. The FIA is represented on the Trust Advisory Board by our Deputy President for Automobile Mobility and Tourism, Thierry Willemarck, and holds a joint seat with the FIA Foundation on the Executive Committee."

He also acknowledged the close partnership on road safety matters enjoyed with the FIA Foundation, and the innovative work being carried out by the FIA High Level Panel for Road Safety.

Closing he said: "We have a clear vision of what the FIA stands for and its role in the modern world. It is important that we all understand and support this vision and to this end I propose to consult all ASNs and Clubs on how to best represent the values we share. At our next General Assembly in 2019, I expect to announce a set of principles that better define the FIA's DNA and bring clarity to our role in society."

The Assembly later approved a number of appointments to its Sporting and Mobility Commissions, and also welcomed new Clubs to the FIA Family – the Automobile Association of Vietnam and the Belize Automobile and Touring Association – both with competency in automobile mobility and tourism.

A more detailed list of the appointments ratified by the 2018 FIA General Assembly can be found at [FIA.com](http://FIA.com).





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