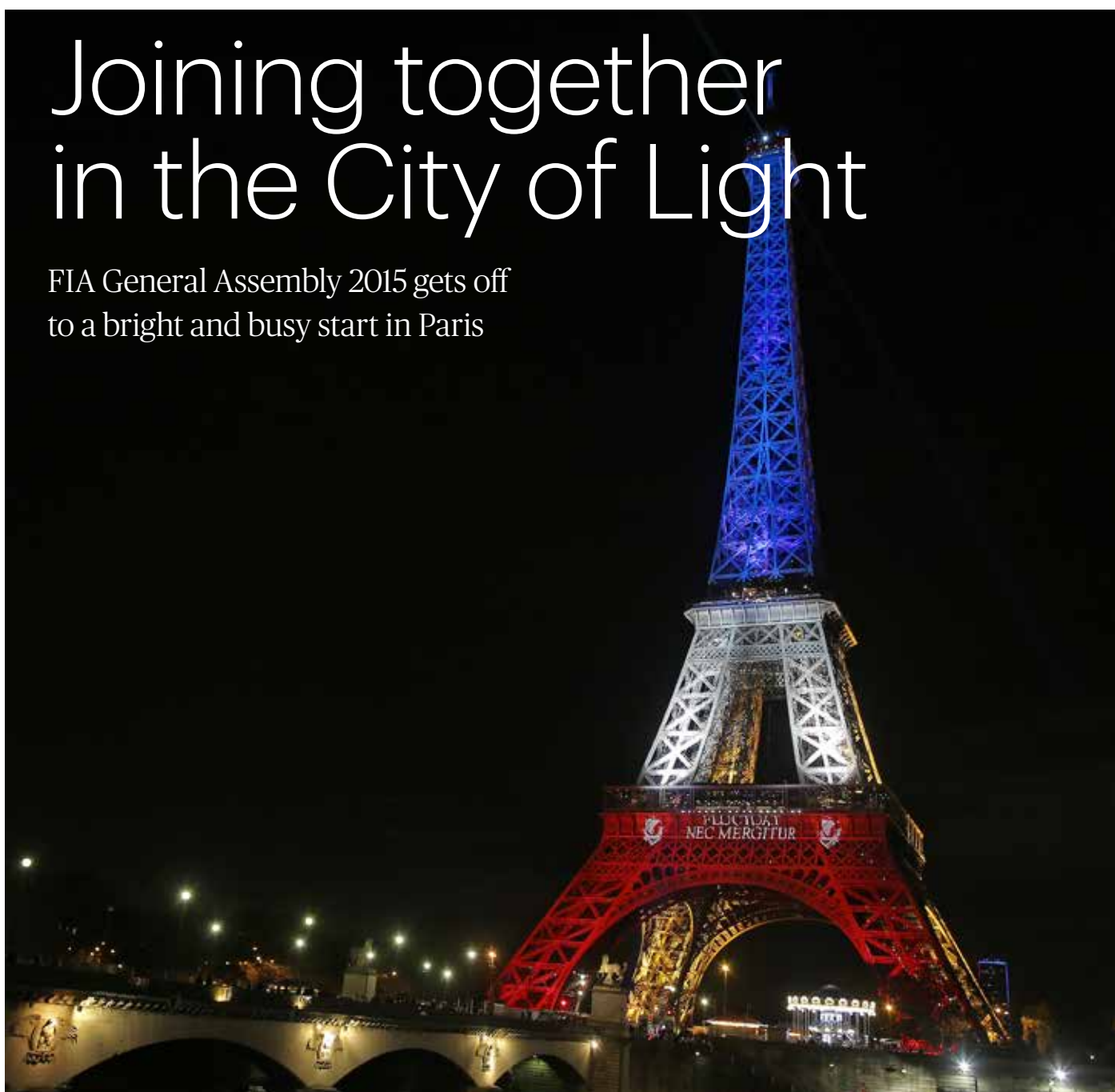


# AUTO+ ASSEMBLY

## Joining together in the City of Light

FIA General Assembly 2015 gets off  
to a bright and busy start in Paris



## OPENING DAY

# Todt thanks delegates for 'show of strength'

FIA President says presence of 168 club representatives in Paris demonstrates 'what and who you are'

Yesterday, FIA President Jean Todt welcomed delegates to this year's Annual General Assembly, saying that their presence in Paris demonstrated their strength and "showed what and who you are".

Speaking at the first social event of the General Assembly week, held at the headquarters of the Automobile Club de France on Place de la Concorde, President Todt first thanked the evening's hosts, the ACF, and its President, Robert Panhard, before saying that in the wake of the Paris terrorist attacks of 13 November, the FIA had given consideration to postponing this year's event.

"We thought that maybe we should postpone or delay the General Assembly, or change the location, but finally we said, 'we will do it in Paris', because we will not be threatened by anybody," he said.

"In joining us here in Paris you have demonstrated what you are and who you are, so you all deserve a big round of applause for being here and for being who you are," he added, before inviting delegates to join him in a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the attacks.

Introducing the week's events, President Todt said: "This year we have 114 countries here and we have representatives from 168 clubs – from mobility, from sport, and from clubs mixing both. I am sure we are going to have a very interesting week featuring many important meetings, a lot of very useful networking and also a lot of socialising".

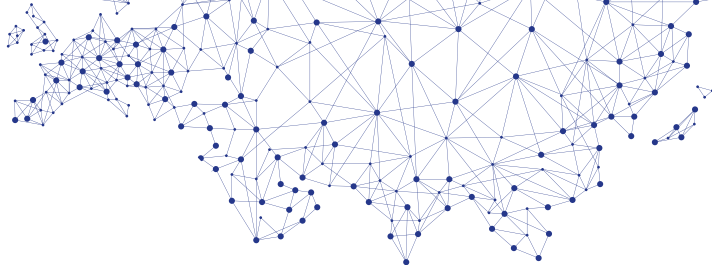
"This week also represents a yearly opportunity to make an assessment of our organisation – how we improved, where we failed to improve, where we need to improve and I'm very thankful that you are all here to participate in this important week."



FIA President Jean Todt addresses the gathering after which (below) delegates enjoy the atmosphere of the ACF headquarters.







## REGIONAL FOCUS: ACTA

# African clubs map the road ahead

ACTA members to formulate club development plan ahead of 2016 Mobility Conference



ACTA members discuss next year's development plan.



ACTA members yesterday agreed to deliver a development plan for African clubs in time for next year's Spring Meeting/Mobility Conference in Helsinki, Finland.

"We have decided to come up with a development plan to help clubs in the future for the purpose of funding and growth," said ACTA President, John Mutenda. "Our clubs are saying that they are too small, so we have agreed to prepare this development plan, which will encompass all of the ideas of the clubs."

"The FIA has agreed to give us a consultant to move within the clubs in order to see how they can help us in the future," he added. "We have targeted next year's Mobility Conference in Helsinki to have the plan finalised and we will go from there. As yet there isn't a time scale for the development programme."

"Once we finalise the plan then we can talk about the period involved, whether that's up to 2025 or 2030."

Mr Mutenda, who is President of the AA Uganda, said that many clubs in the area face infrastructural challenges and that with no clear, funded development path in place this problem would persist.

"The big issue is infrastructural", he admitted. "We don't have enough equipment; we don't train our staff fully; we don't have professional enough staff. We need to train our people so that we reach a level of professionalism comparable to other clubs around the world".

"The clubs need to grow, but you cannot grow when you don't have funds and you cannot have funds when you don't have a plan," he added. "The eventual target is for the clubs to grow sufficiently so that we become a region of our own."

## REGIONAL FOCUS: COFO

# Vanicek elected interim COFO chairman

UAMK President says clubs will examine establishment of multi-lingual regional call centre

Oldrich Vaníček, President of the Czech Republic's UAMK has been appointed interim chairman of the COFO region, after Danijel Starman of Slovenia's AMZS stepped down from the position.

"I hope with my appointment that we can bring something new to the region, even though it brings with it a lot more work!" said Mr Vaníček. "I think we have a very good connection among the countries in the region and I think we can do a lot together."

"You cannot compare our situation to that of western European clubs as many of our clubs started quite recently," he added. "It's complicated for some of our clubs to express to the public what they offer. With long established clubs in western Europe, the services they offer are a known package, but many of our clubs only began after 1990. We need more

years, we need support from Region I and we need more support on Road Safety initiatives."

The new COFO chairman said that one development issue that presented a problem for small clubs was the establishment of roadside service call centres.

"For some small clubs in eastern Europe this is the most complicated and demanding service to finance," he said. "It has been an idea to establish a common, multi-lingual call centre to service many countries, especially in territories which have Russian as a second language. I think this idea is something we can progress with, as without communication we have nothing."

"Beyond this I think the priority for the region is road safety, particularly for children and also for cyclists and pedestrians."

Interim COFO Chairman  
Oldrich Vanicek.





## WELCOME COCKTAIL

# Relaxing into the week in halls filled with motoring history

In keeping with tradition, the first day of meetings at the FIA General Assembly ended with a very much more relaxing cocktail evening. And in terms of tradition, venues don't come with more history attached than the beautiful headquarters of the Automobile Club de France. The 11,000m<sup>2</sup> building, in the Hôtel Pastoret and Hôtel Moreau, occupies the best part of a historic façade – designed by Jacques-Ange Gabriel – and overlooks one of the most beautiful squares in the world, the Place de la Concorde. The ACF, a founding member of the FIA, provided delegates with an ideal environment in which to recover from long journeys, while once more meeting up with colleagues from around the world.





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