

AUTO+ ASSEMBLY

MEDICINE MEN

The FIA shares medical experience
with the IOC and FIM

ACTION ON FAKE HELMETS

African clubs take measures to weed
out dangerous helmets

A CONSTANTINOPLE COCKTAIL

A dynamic start to Assembly week
on the banks of the Bosphorus



WELCOME
TO ISTANBUL

Welcome to the first edition of Auto+ Assembly, the daily newsletter of the FIA Annual General Assembly. It's going to be a busy week here at the Ciragan Palace in Istanbul and every morning we'll bring you all the key moments from the previous day. So whether it's crucial decisions from the meetings of the World Councils or all the glamour of the glittering annual Prize-Giving, Auto+ Assembly will bring the stories straight to your inbox

ACTA Meeting



African clubs take action on counterfeit helmets

The African Council for Touring and Automobile Clubs yesterday reported on measures taken by member clubs to prevent the spread of counterfeit motorcycle helmets in the region.

John Muntenda, President of the AA Uganda, told the meeting that meetings were underway in the country to counteract the use of sub-standard helmets, while Nizir Jivani, President of the AA of Tanzania added that similar measures were being taken in his country, where he said that anecdotal evidence suggests that the use of unapproved helmets is often associated with an influx of cheap motorcycles from China.

Mr Jivani also mentioned that in Tanzania steps are being taken to improve road safety for motorcycle and three-wheeler users via a twice-weekly television broadcast in the Kiswahili language that encourages riders to obtain proper licences and which also offers tips on correct riding techniques and good road behaviour.

As part of a wider discussion on improving road safety across Africa, Karen Bryden, CEO of the AA of South Africa, revealed that the club has recently been involved in the distribution of bags that double as high-visibility vests. The yellow bags, she explained, were targeted at the most at-risk group of road users in the country, cyclists from poor backgrounds who are dependent on bikes to get to and from work. She added that the initiative had been extremely successful and had addressed a major road safety concern in South Africa – that of visibility in traffic.

Mr Muntenda continued the theme, saying that in Uganda the National Road Safety Council, of which he is also chairman, has implemented a National Road Safety Week during which victims of road traffic crashes are remembered. He explained that the AA of Uganda has also been actively encouraging the private sector to sponsor road safety activities.

In Mozambique, Automóvel e Touring Clube de Moçambique President António Marques reported that the club has begun a hard-hitting poster campaign aimed at raising awareness of road safety issues. The images have been displayed in five key areas of the country's capital Maputo.

However, despite activity across the region, a number of speakers, including Ms Bryden and David Njoroge of the AA of Kenya, said that progress on road safety issues remains slow. Mr Njoroge added, however, that a new National Transport and Safety Authority has been established in Kenya with the aim of advising and making recommendations to the government on matters relating to road transport and safety and to subsequently implement policies arising from their recommendations. It was, he said, a step forward for the country. "Road safety is a long-term project, we can't be planning for just three or ten years," he said.

Medicine in Motor Sport



FIA learning the medical lessons of the Olympics and world motorcycling

Leading sports medicine professionals from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) yesterday joined with experts from the FIA to share information on competitor and spectator care at the Medicine in Motor Sport Summit at the FIA's Annual General Assembly in Istanbul.

Welcoming delegates from a range of disciplines, including physicians, engineers and technical personnel, FIA President Jean Todt said: "This is a very important meeting and I'm pleased to see such a strong medical presence here.

"Safety in motor sport has been developing in a good way," he added. "Within the FIA we have instigated the Serious Accident Study Group, which is working very closely with experts around the world. We need to talk about safety at all levels, not only in the FIA's international championships such as Formula One, WEC, rallying and touring cars but also starting at grass roots level. Much has been done so far but a lot remains to be done."

Explaining the multi-disciplinary nature of the summit, and the presence of the guest speakers from the IOC and FIM, Gérard Saillant, President of the FIA Institute said: "This meeting is a new concept. Progress arises from sharing, sharing with the other members of the FIA family. We have to discuss these matters not only with physicians but also with all the managers of the FIA and with people not involved in motor sport."

Following a morning session in which reports were heard on a number of international racing series, as well as reports on anti-doping, driver extrication and dealing with mass casualties at motor sport events, the afternoon began with addresses from IOC Medical Director Dr Patrick Schamasch and FIM Medical Director Dr David McManus.

Dr Schamasch outlined the medical structure of the Olympics paying particular attention to the Games' aim of caring for both spectators and athletes. "Just as in motor sport it is important that the Olympic Games has well trained doctors and first aiders who can rapidly intervene and help our competitors," he said.

Dr McManus explained the system of medical care in place at motorcycle world championship events and said that while the services provided by FIM at circuits used by the FIA are broadly similar, motorcycling has specific concerns that differentiate it from other forms of motor sport. Sharing this knowledge, he said, is key to the development of medical care in sport.

The summit concludes today with workshops on serious accident management, burns and other hazards, resuscitation and extrication. These will be followed by an emergency extrication demonstration at midday.

Arab Council

Assistance of ACTAC is lauded by Palestinians



The President of the Palestinian Motorsport and Motorcycle Federation has paid tribute to the Arab Council for Touring and Automobile clubs for its ongoing assistance in furthering the club's goals.

Khaled Qaddoura told yesterday's meeting of ACTAC that the body's aid, and particularly that of its chairman Dr Mohamed Ben Sulayem, on all matters concerning the federation has been of great value. He thanked Dr Ben Sulayem for his support in the development of the club and for his assistance with the club's recent successful admission to FIM. He presented the ACTAC president with a commemorative plaque in appreciation of his efforts.

Dr Ben Sulayem then told the meeting that further assistance for clubs will be provided early next year at a new workshop to be held in Qatar. "This will help clubs share information and knowledge so they can learn from each other," he said. "It will also strengthen co-operation between the leaders and top management of the Arabic-speaking FIA clubs. Additionally, the workshop will help clubs define strategic solutions to overcome differences, to engage in road safety initiatives and to support FIA Action for Road Safety."

Finally, the ACTAC chairman asked all the council's members to put forward representatives involved in road safety in their country for the new Masters degree in Road Safety Management at St Joseph's University in Lebanon. The Beirut university course, aided by the Renault Foundation, is aimed at Middle East and Gulf State countries and will work towards the resolution of an identified and increasing road safety problem in the region.

AIT/FIA

New Customs Network aims to strengthen CPD system

The Customs Network of the FIA and the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme met yesterday to discuss strengthening its system for facilitating cross-border motoring.

After holding its first meeting in Dubai in September, the latest gathering centred on a number of key factors aimed at guaranteeing the future stability of the system.

First was an explanation of the foundation and composition of the FIA's new Customs Council, developed in the wake of the federation's commissions reform process of last year. Following this, the meeting heard of work on the Carnet de Passage de Douane (CPD) programme to lower risk exposure and also of progress with a balancing scheme designed to incentivise guarantor clubs to reduce the number of notated claims, which burden the system and threaten its sustainability.

The Network members were then given a presentation by Marek Retelski of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) on the TIR transit system, which may act as a good benchmark for the CPD carnet.

Finally, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Customs Council will be held in Vienna next May, while the next meeting of the Customs Network is scheduled for December 2013.



Welcome cocktail By the banks of the Bosphorus

After a busy day's meetings, the Annual General Assembly relaxed into its first evening with a cocktail reception at the Ciragan Palace Kempinski hotel at which FIA President Jean Todt welcomed delegates for what he described a vision-defining week of meetings. "It is a privilege to have you here, with delegates from 134 countries and around 250 clubs represented tonight," he said. "We have a lot of activities concentrated during the week in Istanbul. It is a beautiful location here in this palace, with the Bosphorus behind us. It will be a great opportunity to share a vision for our organisation, to create greater synergy between sport and mobility, to speak more about the grassroots of motor sport and about the FIA championships, to speak about mobility, the environment, and of course to talk about something very dear to all of us, FIA Action for Road Safety."



