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17th UEM Congress in Belgrade



After the invitation by MSS, sporting branch of AMSS (which celebrates this year 90 years of activities, the 17th UEM Congress was held in Belgrade from the 28th of June to the 1st of July.

It was an event with big expectations, whose aim was to demonstrate the vitality of a Federation that was for many years at the side of the European activity, not because of lack of enthusiasm, but for a number of difficult political situation in this country.

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Belgrade is an attractive city, with friendly inhabitants, MSS staff is particularly efficient, therefore all ingredients were there for a successful organisation of the Congress, which was held in the prestigious Hyatt Regency Beograd.

The Congress officially started on Thursday the 28th of June with the meeting of the two (Sporting and Non Sporting) Councils, composed by the chairmen of the corresponding commissions, which were asked to evaluate at half season of the scheduled activities.

The next day was fully dedicated to the meetings by all UEM bodies: from the Management Council, to all commissions, to the panels.

The Sporting Commissions examined with attention the situation of the different championships and cups, expressing overall satisfaction even if there were some defections by organisers, mainly due to financial reasons. Few were the decisions taken, apart from the Trial Commission, which established an International Class that shall be included in each event for riders of at least 16 years of age who compete on the same Section route as the over 40 Cup .

The Road Racing Commission, on the other hand, faced the resignation of its chairman, the Dutch Ap Ruitenbeek, which was substituted ad interim by Ted Bartlett, who at the same time left his presidency of the Sporting Council to the German Wolfgang Glas, respecting a previous agreement of turn-over.

Regarding the Non Sporting Commissions



Delegates arriving in Belgrade



Motocross Commission meeting

meetings, the Environment commission activities, like track inspections, were judged positive and it was considered the new project together with SVEMO and with a Swedish University about off-road activities. The Commission declared also to be ready to continue with the Green Class with a seminar with attendance of people from different countries.

The Road Safety Commission confirmed its intention to continue its activity towards European Federations on issues like traffic and to encourage them to put in place lobbying actions with local authorities for decisions that are then taken in Brussels. For example, the new driving license, which will be implemented in 2013, could create important problems for some disciplines, like Enduro and Trial. Another



Track Racing Commission meeting

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Management Council meeting

important activity is the encouragement to the development of bikes fuelled by alternative energy and on this issue are still undergoing contacts with ACEM for technical issues for Powered Two Wheelers.

The meeting of the Marketing Promotion & Industry Commission saw the participation of two important University professors, Carlo Alberto Pratesi e Giovanni Mattia, who brought an interesting contribution of ideas for the development of an improve marketing strategy. Satisfactory remarks were expressed for the activities of the Press Office, which spends a great amount of time in the production of the regular newsletters and UEM magazines that are available directly after events, also on the website. Finding new sponsors and partners is not easy at this moment. The members discussed many items concerning the website, media, (potential) partners, relation with federations and the future marketing strategy of the UEM.

In order to cooperate in a better way with the national federations it was discussed the idea to visit clusters of federations in different zones of Europe. The federations can expose themselves on the UEM website on a dedicated page, exchanging opportunities and creating a network for sporting and non-sporting topics.

Not positive outcomes arrive, on the other hand, from the Touring Commission, which needs to

be thoroughly re-organised and extended to federation elements more active in moto touring, because the external experts cannot manage alone to help the take off this sector.

Also the Management Council had an intense meeting, where it was acknowledged the good results of the Emergency Course for Event Physicians, of the Senior Activity and of the first attempt of del Twinning Project. The Management Council examined then the conflict between ACCR and CAMS, after the debatable FIM decision to assign to the latter the organisation of some world events. Considering not its competency the national sporting activity regulation, FIM gave indirectly full freedom to the National authority (Ministry of Sport) for any decision in this regard. The Ministry authorised then CAMS to release sporting licenses, creating a big confusion that influenced many sporting events in Europe and in particular the situation of the Alpe Adria championship.

The Management Council considered as valid the documentation presented by CAMS for its affiliation to UEM and expressed its positive opinion, but also decided to propose to the General Assembly to delegate any final decision to the FIM.

The Management Council examined also the pressing request by FIM to change UEM name into FIM Europe, like it was done already by the other Continental Unions. The change of name



Stéphane Desprez, Vito Ippolito and Steve Aeschliman at the UEM Management Council

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involved time and financial resources and it was appreciated the reassurance by FIM President that it will cover most the relative costs. Finally, the Management Council ratified the change of tasks among Vice-Presidents Ted Bartlett and Wolfgang Glas, respecting the agreement between the two undersigned in 2010 during the Porto Congress, and it confirmed the previous decision to forbid, starting from next year, the participation to events of the European Championships and Cups of riders holding only a FIM license.

In the afternoon of the same day took place the General Assembly with the participation of delegates representing 38 national federations and with the initial welcome of the ASS President, Dragan Stankovic, of a representative of the Belgrade mayor, Vladimir Jevtic, and of the FIM President, Vito Ippolito. Immediately after the official opening of the Assembly saw the presentation of the UEM President, Vincenzo Mazzi.

Two hot issues were in the agenda. The first one was the name change from UEM to FIM Europe. FIM brought in Belgrade all its top management to assure a correct discussion on this topic and to persuade the delegates of those Federations not yet fully convinced of the utility of this operation.



Shots from the UEM General Assembly

A name change is not only an aesthetic operation, but it means also to waste many years of hard work to affirm the UEM brand in Europe, to review all the contracts undersigned with promoters and sponsors, to change uniforms of Officials, to review the recently



Presidency table during the UEM General Assembly



UEM Vice-President, Luigi Favarato, FIM EDO, Steve Aeschlimann, and FIM CEO, Stéphane Desprez

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The welcome to the UEM General Assembly by the MSS President Dragan Stankovic

renewed website and many more activities that require time for their implementations and considerable costs, of which the FIM President assured the full coverage. Among these also the costs for summoning an extraordinary assembly by the end of the year.

In order to avoid a unpleasant quarrel with FIM, it was wisely accepted the suggestion of the Management Council and it was decided to postpone any decision to an extraordinary assembly to be held as soon as possible. In the meantime, UEM will identify a group of expert lawyers to study the changes of the Statutes.

During the discussion on the opportunity for this name change, the President of the San Marino

Federation, Amedeo Michelotti, taking the chance of the presence of the FIM President, brought his criticism to the recent changes in FIM, following the new statutes. Michelotti proposed to organise a round table to analyse if the new FIM, which stemmed from a debatable strategic plan, does have effectively reached the proposed objectives, before imposing them to the National Federations and the Continental Unions. His opinion is that FIM is not an international organisation from which derive Continental Unions and Federations, but it is exactly the opposite. FIM cannot allow the creation of internal conflicts of interest and to an even lesser extent that financial objectives prevail on the sporting ones. There are many more important issues that deserve to be reviewed and that could affect UEM, once it will become FIM Europe.

FIM President took note of Michelotti observations and promised to consider the possibility to summon as soon as possible a round table to analyse these issues.

A second hot issue was the situation in the Czech Republic with the Automobile Club (ACCR) member of FIM and the Motorcycling Association (CAMS) organiser of world and European event. An embarrassing situation, which created great confusion in the European



FIM Vice-President Nasser Khalifa Al Atya with Francesco Zerbi



The FSM President Amedeo Michelotti propose a FIM round table

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FIM President give a commemorative plate to Nicoleta Olariu for the 85 years of FMR

sporting activity, and where nobody still understands which of the two really represents the Czech motorcycling sport.

Also in this occasion, it was preferred to postpone the solution of the problem to the next FIM General Assembly.

Solved, or better postponed, the two most itchy problems, the Assembly continued without particular problems. After approving the report



MSS President awarded by Nasser Khalifa Al Atya

of the President, a political document on the activity of the Management Council in the past year, the interest was focused on the 2011 balance sheet and on the 2012 budget, which were approved after the clarifications of the treasurer and the report by the auditors.

The proposal by the Italian Federation, to introduce in the Sporting Code the rule that a rider cannot hold in the same year more than one National license, was also approved without any particular discussion. In addition, a FMN may issue a National license to a foreign rider or passenger, after the FMN to whom the application is made has obtained the approval of



FIM President gives a commemorative plate to SML President Juhani Halme for the 90 years of his federation



CAMS delegate Ivana Ulmanova

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Honorary UEM members awarded during the UEM General Assembly

the FMN (recognised by the UEM or FIM) of the country in which the applicant is a permanent resident. Such approval will be given for the period of validity of the license and in accordance with the age limits fixed in the country of origin.

It was also confirmed that each rider or passenger taking part in a European Open Calendar Event with a FIM/UEM/FMN license is required to have a start permission for the event in writing certified by the FMN that issued the license, and granting that the rider or passenger is insured according to the FIM/UEM rules.

Afterwards, the Assembly re-elected with acclamation as Vice-President Luigi Favarato, took note of the program of the next "Moto Culture Rally in Guimaraes" and celebrated the 100 years of FMB, the 90 years of MUL and AMSS and the 85 years of FMR assigning a commemorative place to the corresponding delegated.

Finally, a well-deserved recognition was addressed to who contributed significantly to the foundation and growth of UEM. The title of "UEM Honorary Member" was assigned with great motivation to Francesco Zerbi and to Giuliano Gemo and of "Supermoto Commission Honorary Member" to György Kökenyesi.

The Assembly, which appreciated particularly the presence of FIM Vice-President Nasser Khalifa Al Atya, a sincere UEM friend and greatly interested in the activity put in place in Europe, ended with the appointment to the next year in Vilnius in Lithuania.

On Sunday the 1st of July, it was held the traditional Road Safety Conference focused this year on "The motorcycle in traffic: problems and opportunities"

The conference, organised on every aspect by Silvio Manicardi, was opened by the UEM President Vincenzo Mazzi and by the Road Safety Commission chairman Jean-Pierre Moreau.

After a brief presentation of the new CEO of FIM Stéphane Desprez, was the turn of Mr. Stojadin Jovanović Director of Agency for Road Safety for Republic of Serbia, and after of John Chatterton Ross, who reported on the recent law proposals of EU in Brussels..

The French Stéphane Espié presented on "2-Wheeler Behavior and Safety- Study about spontaneous riders driving behavior in urban



Road Safety conference

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and peri-urban traffic”, describing the riders’ habits in traffic circumstances inside and outside the city.

Then followed the Belgian Stijn Vancuyck Febiac of the Leuven University, with a presentation on “Commuting by motorcycles: an impact analysis”, the result of a study on the changes in traffic on the Leuven-Brussels highway with the change of the percentage of PTW. With only a 10% less of automobiles and corresponding more PTW, the classic traffic jam of the morning could be drastically reduced improving quality of live and knock down pollution, etc



Meeting of the General Secretaries

Jean-Pierre Moreau managed then to summarize all the interventions and to close the conference, which also this year attracted a good audience, also local.

After a quick coffee break, started in another room the meeting of the general secretaries of the different national Federations. Two interesting projects were presented by SVEMO and by Rescue, an Italian-Israelian company holding an original patent.

Its president, Ghigo Capasso, former automobile rider, presented his invention which consists of a fan app for smartphone that transforms the mobile in a blackbox and sends SOS in case of accidents and that could be extremely useful in particular for motorcyclists..

The Belgrade Congress then ended and represented an important step for the improvement of relationship between FIM and UEM, because it allowed for the first time a frank confrontation and was positive that FIM president recognised UEM autonomy and the right of European Federations to freely decide their future in the respect of the statutes rule of FIM.

Few days after in Seefeld (Austria), these concepts were resumed by the two presidents during a meeting promoted by KNMV and that brought an important agreement that will surely bring positive benefits to the future motor cycling activity of UEM in Europe.



The Belgian Stijn Vancuyck Febiac from the Leuven University



Presentation by French Stéphane Espié