



▶ THE NEW EUROPEAN ROAD RACING CHAMPIONSHIP



▶ MORE ATTRACTIVE FORMULA



▶ NEW CHALLENGES

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# UEM MAG

## focus

MONTHLY ONLINE MAGAZINE OF THE EUROPEAN MOTORCYCLE UNION (UEM).

## The New European Road Racing Championship

*It was a long time since I was studying with the UEM Press Office and the Marketing, Promotion & Industry Commission the best way to prepare an online newsletter in order to provide information and in-depth views on UEM activities. It is important also to explain these actions and the modality to follow them.*

*Once all the most urgent issues were solved, it was finally possible to find time to start this project that will be published monthly on a dedicated page of UEM website, each time in-depth covering a single relevant subject.*

### The UEM President

The first issue of UEM Mag Focus highlights the current hot topic in European motorcycling: the new format of the European Road Racing Championship. The news gave rise to some criticism, but also a general approval, even

if, it must be said, the new formula is known only superficially by most.

Let's try to clarify. The Road Racing European Championship presents itself in 2008 on a completely new basis. It will be held in two phases: a selection one, which will involve almost all the best European riders, and a final one scheduled for the 12th of October 2008 on the Spanish track of Albacete.

The change was required for several reasons. First, is the opportunity to attract the interests of media and communication at a single event characterised by the presence of the best continental riders.

Secondly, in order to revitalize the Championship that in the

years lost much of its appeal and registering a substantial decrease of participants. All this happened, when some National Championships were opened to riders from all Europe and they grew significantly in interest, becoming a key window for many young talents.

Anyway, I would like to reassure the fans of the former European Championship. It will continue to be held on the same tracks (Rijeka, Most, Karlskoga, Schleiz, Cartagena and, from this year, also Poznan), and the same classes (125 cc., 250 cc., Stocksport 600 cc., Supersport 600 cc. and Stocksport 1000 cc.). The only difference is that it will change name in "European Cup".

After requests from the promoters of the World Championships, Dorna and FGSport, who are only interested in an European Championship that can really improve the quality of young riders and prepare them to the big jump to the more ambitious World Championships, a renewing process was urgently needed without further delay.



## Road Racing European Championship





**Press Conference at the Diputacion Palace of Albacete after the agreement signing with the Spanish track. From left: Oscar Gallardo (Dorna), Vincenzo Mazzi (UEM President), Augustin Moreno Campayo (Vice President of Albacete Province), Joan Moreta Munujoz (RFME President) and Juan Antonio Belmonte Atencia (Sport Councillor of Albacete City).**

Help came from RFME and its new President, who offered the availability of the Albacete track to host the final event for the next five years.

The classes that will form the new Championship are 125 cc., Supersport 600 cc. and Superstock 1000 cc., the most widespread classes in the different European Championships. The term Supersport deserves special attention as in some countries it is used to define Superstock 600 cc., creating confusion with this last class. In order to avoid misunderstandings, the FIM technical rules will be strictly followed in order to guarantee in Albacete the presence of motorcycles of similar standards.

A condition for riders to be allowed to the final is to be holders of UEM licence and to respect the age limits: 23 years for the 125 cc, 27 for the other two classes.

At the beginning a limit of 23 years was considered for all three classes, but in order to meet requests from different national Federations it was elevated for 2008 to 27 years for the two major classes. This age limit will help the growth of young riders gradually towards World events.

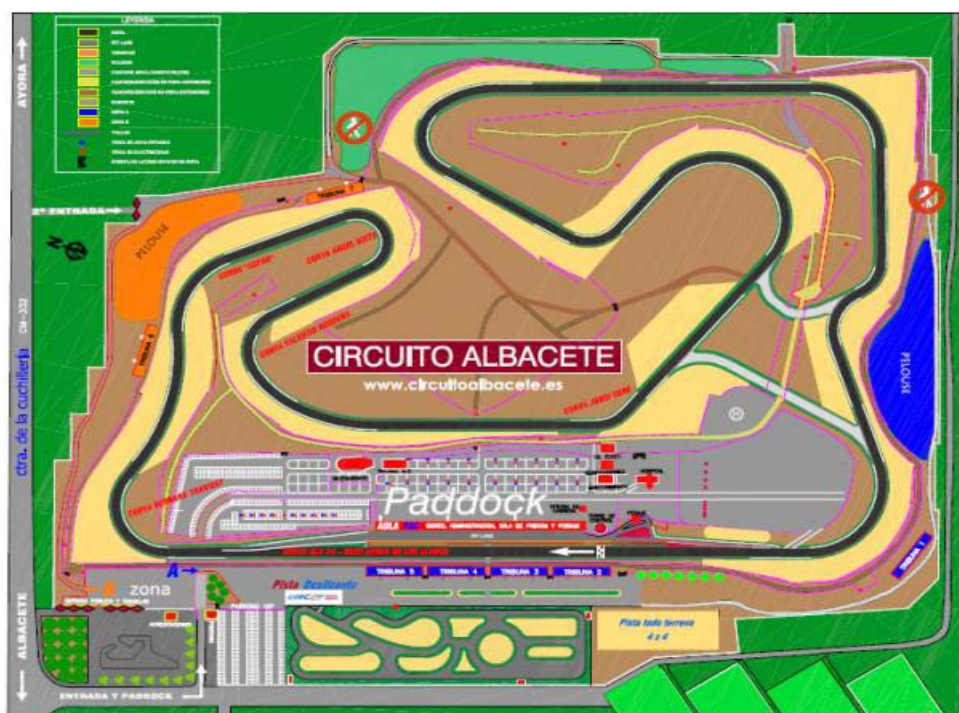
Final winners, even if they do not have the automatic right to move to the World Championship, will have the opportunity to show their riding capabilities.

If an under 23 rider manages to finish in one of the first three final ranking positions, this will give them the right to participate in next years World Cup. Riders from the most important national Open Championships currently held in Spain, France, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands, except Great Britain as ACU decided they were not interested, will be selected to take part in the final. The first riders of each class in these Championships will be enrolled in the Albacete final. The top riders from the European cup will also take part in the final. In addition to the above mentioned National Championships, some regional Championships with a certain degree of success, like those in Scandinavia, Balkans and Alpe-Adria that involve many riders of those regions and representing some FMNs with a limited number of riders for

**“ A renewing process of the Championship urgently needed and no further delayable. ”**

developing their own national Championships. The first four classified in each class of these Championships will be able to take part in the final at Albacete. In the Spanish track, therefore, on the 12th of October will see on the starting grid the best riders from Europe, who will have the chance to show their riding capabilities. The total prize money has been fixed in € 90.000 for the three classes.

The race will be followed with interest by media and will have full television coverage. Provisional rankings of the different Championships of the selective phase will be updated and published on UEM website.



**Road Racing Circuit “La Torrecica” – [www.circuitoalbacete.es](http://www.circuitoalbacete.es)**

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# 2008 UEM European Road Racing Championship

12th October 2008: ALBACETE (SPAIN)

## National Open Championships:

- Dutch National Open Championship
- French National Open Championship
- German National Open Championship
- Italian National Open Championship
- Spanish National Open Championship

First 5 classified

First 5 classified

First 5 classified

First 5 classified

First 5 classified

## UEM European Cup

First 5 classified

## Regional Championships

- Alpe Adria Championship
- Scandinavia Championship
- Balkans Championship

First 4 classified

First 4 classified

First 4 classified

## UEM European Championship

-One day event

-Track of Albacete (Castilla-La Mancha - Spain)

-Support by Dorna and FGSport

-Classes 125 cc., Supersport 600 cc., Superstock 1000 cc

-Participants at the competition best classified in 6 National Open National Championships, Regional Championship and UEM European Cup

-Event integrally broadcasted by television

-Winners will have the possibility to participate to next year World Championship

To assure the correct functioning of the Championship a Management Committee has been created, composed of representatives from Dorna, FGSport, UEM and Albacete track, that will suggest eventual corrections and changes to the current format in order to make the European Championship increasingly interesting and attractive to the European Road Racing fans.

These are the guidelines that lead to the new European Championship format. A great deal of

work has been done to avoid possible inconveniences at the first final.

The welcome showed in Albacete, where on the 17th of December 2007 the agreement was signed by RFME, Albacete track and UEM, was very enthusiastic and should guarantee the success of the event. Some FMNs and many riders expressed their approval and the media reaction was extremely positive. This agreement has also been accepted by the UEM Management Council and the Road Racing

Commission will remain the key reference point inside UEM for any activities of this discipline. It will be in charge to complete sporting rules and coordinate results of the different national and regional Open Championships.

Last but not least, on a lighter note, the final in Albacete will guest also the last event of the Road Racing Women European Championship, therefore on the Spanish podium there will be next October the best male and female riders of the Continent.

*Vincenzo Mazzi – UEM President*



*2007 European Road Racing Champions from left to right: Guglielmo Tarrizzo (Supersport 600 cc), Fabrizio Pellizzon (Stocksport 1000 cc), Alvaro Molina (250 cc), Alen Gyorfí (125 cc) and Helge Spjeldnes (Stocksport 600 cc) together with Thuur Coen, UEM Vice President, and Ap Ruitenbeek, Road Racing Commission Chairman.*