



▶ 13<sup>TH</sup> UEM CONGRESS



▶ NEW ACTIVITIES



▶ NEW CHALLENGES

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# UEM MAG

## focus

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## REPORT FROM UEM CONGRESS IN RIGA

*The 13th UEM Congress, perfectly organised by the Latvian Motorcycle Federation (LaMSF), was held in Riga from the 10th to the 13th of July 2008 reaching its highest moment of interest during the General Assembly, in which participated delegates from 40 national motorcycling federations (best turnout ever considering that 43 federations are affiliated to UEM).*

*The congressmen were welcomed by the Latvian Motorcycle Federation President, Mr. Andris Agarskis, by Mrs. Tatjana Kokje, director of Sport Department of the Ministry of Education, and by Mr. Almers Ludviks, vice-Major of Riga.*

*The FIM President, Mr. Vito Ippolito, greeted the Assembly and confirmed the great interest by FIM for all European happenings and for the work carried out by UEM.*



### President Report

UEM President, Mr. Vincenzo Mazzi, in his report to the General Assembly managed to briefly summarize what was achieved by UEM in the past year, concluding that a lot more could have been done with more resources both on the financial and on the human side.

Among the most significant achievements of this year, he wanted to remember that a big effort has been dedicated towards improving UEM image, still unknown to many, by publicizing its activities, capturing the attention of the media and involving the industry, the users and a lot of fans of motorcycle sport in various initiatives. In this praiseworthy effort

the Marketing, Promotion & Industry Commission played a decisive role which, in synergy with other commissions – sporting and non-sporting – has produced brilliant ideas and shown notable dedication.

Regarding UEM marketing communication, the idea of a monthly online UEM MAG was greatly appreciated, as much as the completeness and rapidity of the press releases and the improvement of the website. The FMNs have been invited through the Monthly Questions to provide important information on how certain questions are handled in their own countries. Not all were diligent in their replies, but they did however give us a fairly

complete picture of what is happening in Europe, which will help us to plan eventual operations and new initiatives to give added thrust to the motorcycle world. The results of the enquiries can be accessed on internet.

Another contribution towards a better knowledge of UEM was made by the production of a special DVD. It aims to improve knowledge of UEM, its activities and organization.

All the sporting regulations and the Sporting Code have been completely reviewed with the chairmen of the various Commissions. This has been a long, difficult and complex task but the Sports Office has handled it brilliantly under the capable

The new format of the European Road Racing Championship merits a separate comment. In recent years this championship has lost much of its appeal due to the lack of coordination with the world championships organized by Dorna and FGSport.

In agreement with these two important partners and thanks to the collaboration of RFME, the Consortium of the Albacete circuit and several important FMNs and regional Associations, it has now been possible to put forward an original proposal which should certainly be successful.

This envisages a selection phase embracing the most important national and regional championships, giving the best riders in the 125 cc., Supersport 600 cc. and Stocksport 1000 cc. classes the chance to take part in a sole final race, planned for 12 October at Albacete, where there will be cash prizes and TV cover. The age limits for the finalists have been revised so as facilitate the involvement of the largest number possible of riders, and a new move has been to assign the title of Junior Champion of Europe to encourage young talents, the future champions of tomorrow. The important date has been set for 12 October in Spain, and all FMNs are invited.

A new class will also probably be presented at Albacete, called for the moment "250 – 4 Stroke", for motorbikes with one-cylinder/4-stroke 250 cc. engines mounted on the frame similar to 125 cc GP bikes. This will be a promotional class that could have a great future bringing together youngsters without big financial resources and to involve the European industry too in the production of motors and chassis.

In the non-sporting field, many admirable actions were taken by the Environment, Road Safety and Marketing, Promotion & Industry Commissions under the watchful coordination of Vice-President Mr. Daniel Barthélemy.

The Tourism Commission, on the other hand, took a break to clarify its ideas and consider how to boost tourist activity in Europe. Surely in the next few months it will propose a very interesting programme for the millions of fans who only await a signal to jump onto the saddle of a motorbike and take off in the direction of ever more attractive places.

Rather, the FMNs must thank the Treasurer and the Secretariat for being very careful to keep the expenses down, avoiding those not really necessary so as not to take funds away from the sporting and non-sporting activities and keeping the red tape down to a minimum, and thus shortening reaction times to the very many requests received in headquarters.



expenses down, avoiding those not really necessary so as not to take funds away from the sporting and non-sporting activities and keeping the red tape down to a minimum, and thus shortening reaction times to the very many requests received in headquarters.

UEM President, then, focused on what, for several reasons, was not possible to achieve. In particular, he was disappointed for not being able to launch the Academy project, even in a different form as it was initially conceived, and the European Historical Registrar of motorbikes. This was, in his opinion, not a stop, but only a pause to understand how better overcome some hurdles. He wished to be able to announce already from the next Congress the beginning of these activities.

The third part of his presentation described all efforts that UEM and him, as a member of FIM Management Council, are doing to make FIM a more efficient and transparent organisation and to get it closer to FMNs, which are the true player of the motorcycling movement. On this occasion, he

wished that FMNs will be able to offer their maximum support at the next FIM Congress in Durban to Vice-Presidency candidates who are really keen to put efforts on the above mentioned target.

The Strategic Plan, which was presented at the end of the Assembly by Mr. Vito Ippolito and by Mrs. Joan Duncan, could help in solving many FIM problems, but need time to be completed, while there are some problems that need to be solved as soon as possible. Only one intervention followed the President presentation from the Norwegian delegate, who wanted to highlight the fact that his federation believed a lot in this project.

The relation was approved by unanimity, a clear sign of a renewed harmony among European FMNs, increasingly aware of their political weight and of their great importance for FIM.

#### **General Assembly Decisions**

The General Assembly then approved the 2007 balance sheet and the 2008 budget, presented by the Treasurer, Mr. Andrzej Witkowski, and elected Mr.



**Mr. Vito Ippolito, FIM President, greets the UEM General Assembly.**



Michel Leroy as the new auditor, substituting Mr. William R. Smith, resigning for health issues, to whom was given the title of UEM honorary auditor. Moreover, the Assembly accepted the affiliation request of the national federations of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Malta and Israel, which are now fully members of UEM increasing the number of affiliated FMNs to 47.

Great interest was towards the presentation by Mr. Silvio Manicardi and Mr. Ap Ruitenbeek of the new promotional Road Racing “250 cc.- 4 stroke” class, as such as some FMNs, first of all the Italian, announced the institution in their country of a national championship dedicated to this class, as happens already in Japan and very soon in the USA and Australia. If other FMNs will follow the Italian example, there could be soon an experimental European Cup.

Strongly supported by the Assembly also the 2009 Eurotour presentation by Mr. Michel Turk and the MX Rookie, large youth event scheduled in Lommel (Belgium) from the 29th of July to the 3rd of August, by the UEM Vice-President, Mr. Thuur Coen.

highlighted:

*Sporting decisions:*

- Considering the interest showed towards the new 250 / 4 strokes class and the availability of some FMNs to promote a national championship in their country, already from next year, it was considered the possibility to institute from 2009 a new European Cup of this new class;
- The current Snowcross European Cup from 2009 will be promoted into an European Championship;
- The adoption of a new qualifying system was considered, already from this year, for Supermoto riders in the open class, as per Youthstream proposal;
- From 2009 the Junior 85 cc. class will be adopted in the Supermoto UEM Cup;
- The Trial Youth UEM Cup will become in 2009 an European Championship;
- Interesting news are expected in the next year with the Enduro European Championship, with the last event that will be held again in three days and with the assignment of the Nations Trophy;
- On invitation of the Bulgarian Motorcycle

Federation , next December in Sofia will be held the 2008 Award Ceremony of European Champions and of the best organizers of Motocross and Supermoto events;

On Friday the 11th of July, the Congress hold several meeting of all Commissions and Panels in order to discuss issues of their competencies and to propose new solutions, which were all accepted by the Management Council and afterwards by the General Assembly. Among the most important decisions that deserve to be

Federation , next December in Sofia will be held the 2008 Award Ceremony of European Champions and of the best organizers of Motocross and Supermoto events;

- The new edition of the Sporting Code was approved.

*Non-sporting decisions:*

- The tourism activity will be invigorated with the “UEM Fun Challenge”, which will be held on September 2009;
- The intention to promote the “Trans European from Norway to Portugal” was confirmed;
- It was acknowledged the agreement made with 145 hotels in 10 countries;
- The big interest towards UEM road maps and other tourism activities was confirmed with the interest of 2,3 million visitors to the UEM website;
- A link with the FIM Energy Working Group will be established;
- Particular efforts will be made to strengthen UEM communication;
- By the end of the year will be created a brochure on environment protection;
- Particular recommendations were addressed to national motorcycling federations for a greater respect of the environment during motorcycling events (noise and air pollution, paddock cleaning, etc.).

UEM Congress ended with the usual meeting of general secretaries and with the Road Safety Conference, which was successful for the covered issues and for the high profile of the presenters. We will discuss in depth on this Conference in September on the next UEM MAG issue.

The next Congress will be held in Crete (Greece) from the 3rd to the 5th of July 2009, while the 2010 Congress is scheduled on the historical Portuguese city of Porto.



**Mr. William Robert Smith appointed with the title of UEM Honorary Auditor.**



**The UEM President, thanks the President and the Secretary General of LaMSF for the perfect organisation of the 2008 UEM Congress.**