

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER APRIL 2017

## Dear President, Jean Friend

Last month was undoubtedly an especially busy one, both for the FIA and for me.

The launch of the FIA-JCDecaux #3500LIVES campaign in Paris on 10 March, in the presence of Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Transport, Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris and Chair of C40, Jean-Charles Decaux, Chairman of the Executive Board and Co-Chief Executive Officer of JCDecaux – all members of the FIA High Level Panel for Road Safety – and Vanessa Low, Long Jump Paralympic Gold Medal, will remain the highlight of the month. You have already received a detailed presentation of this initiative, which is led by 13 world-renowned ambassadors. Thanks to JCDecaux's international network, these messages are visible in roughly 100 cities and in 70 countries around the world, as some of you will have seen. The FIA teams (mobility@fia.com) are at your disposal to provide you with the tools of this campaign to enable you to promote it in your respective countries.

A succession of international conferences then took me to South America, Asia and Europe.

First, to Buenos Aires, where I and my United Nations teams organised a UN regional road safety workshop, in the presence of Jorge Rosales, President of the ACA, and Jorge Tomasi Crisci, President of FIA Region IV. Then to Bangkok, where I spoke at the 24th meeting of the UNRSC, the United Nations group for cooperation on road safety, coordinated by the WHO. I took advantage of this opportunity to meet with the representatives of RAAT, our Thai Club.

On to Malta, where, at the initiative of Violeta Bulc, I took part in the European Ministerial Conference on Road Safety. This was the ideal opportunity to urge governments to adapt their legislation in order to fight more effectively against road crashes, and to present all the initiatives undertaken by the FIA and its Clubs to contribute to this movement. I witnessed the dynamism of our Maltese teams and was able to discuss the prospects for the development of motor sport on the island with the Prime Minister of Malta, Joseph Muscat.

My trip to Asia also enabled me to take part in the Asia-Pacific FIA Sport Regional Congress in Seoul on 18–19 March. I thanked our Korean ASN (KARA) and in particular its President, Kwan Soo Shon, for his hospitality and for welcoming in the best conditions the delegations of the 18 Clubs represented. Alongside this event, I signed an MoU on road safety with the Korean Club and visited the Speedway circuit at the Everland resort. During this visit I also had the pleasure of joining my friend, Ban Ki-moon, for lunch. Lastly, I met with Thomas Bach, President of the IOC, and Lee Hee-beom, President of the Organising Committee for the upcoming Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, to discuss our respective organisations.

I was also able to see some of you again at this Congress and to witness the enthusiasm of all our Clubs to pursue the development of motor sport in this region.

Such matters, as well as those of mobility, were also on the table in Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia, during the successive meetings I had with the President of the Republic, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, and his Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Transport and Construction. I found a desire in this country to invest in these issues and, in time, to enable the rebirth of a club which would join our organisation once again.

But March is above all the time for all fans of motorised sports to tune in once more to the Formula One World Championship as the first Grand Prix kicks off in Melbourne. This year, I was in Australia for the start of this 2017 season, which is marked by significant transformations, both in the management of FOM and in the new, higher performance single-seaters. These technical innovations suggest a redistribution of strength among the teams. The tight competition reflected in the provisional general classification gives us hope that this is the case, with the first race being won by Sebastian Vettel in the new Ferrari SF7OH, followed by victory for Lewis Hamilton in the Chinese Grand Prix.



Launch of the FIA-JCDecaux #3500LIVES campaign in Paris



Attending the Asia-Pacific FIA Sport Regional Congress, hosted by KARA in Seoul



Meeting with the President of Mongolia Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj in Ulaanbaatar



Attending the start of the F1 2017 season in Melbourne These developments show that the various stakeholders in Formula One took the right decisions, making this competition even more attractive.

Also in Melbourne, I was able to attend the fantastic gala evening of the Australian Motor Sport Hall of Fame, hosted by Garry Connelly. I met Andrew Papadopoulos of CAMS, Nigel Alexander of the AAA and many friends in the region.

I returned to Asia at the start of April. In Yangon, I attended the launch of the "Start with me" road safety campaign, under the supervision of the Yangon Region government, with the aim of raising citizens' awareness to act together to improve road safety, which is a major problem in this region of Myanmar. I had the opportunity to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to present the results of the recent mission carried out in her country by experts of the FIA High Level Panel for Road Safety.

I then travelled to Malaysia to speak at the Fifth Global Meeting of Nongovernmental Organizations Advocating for Road Safety and Road Victims. While there, with Liow Tiong Lai, Malaysian Minister of Transport, and Professor Wong Shaw Voon, Director General of the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS) - the first a member of and the second an expert from the FIA High Level Panel for Road Safety – I discussed our joint desire to create a regional road safety observatory. My visit to Kuala Lumpur ended with the organisation by my UNECE teams of a regional road safety workshop on the non-use of helmets in this region, a major cause of deaths on the road, in order to reflect on concrete solutions to fight against this scourge.

Lastly, in Vietnam, in collaboration with our affiliated organisation, the AIP Foundation, Michelle and I attended the launch of the Safe Steps for Road Safety campaign, for which she is the ambassador. We stressed to the young people present at this event the vital importance of actions which, while simple, can save lives, such as wearing a helmet or a safety belt.

Other FIA world championship seasons got under way this month, with Rallycross seeing the triumph of Mattias Ekström in Barcelona, and the Moroccan round of the Touring Car Championship with victories from Esteban Guerrieri and Tiago Monteiro. I am now looking forward to the start of the WEC season on 16 April at Silverstone, where I will attend this first round and witness the launch of the new LMGTE Pro World Championship, bringing the GT category to the fore alongside the LMP1 prototypes.

After these last four very busy weeks, we have now arrived at the Easter period, and I wish all those who celebrate it a very Happy Easter.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



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Nick Craw President of the FIA Senate

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## THIS MONTH: APRIL 2017



Bahrain Grand Prix, 16 April Russian Grand Prix, 30 April



6 Hours of Silverstone, 16 April



CONFERENCE

Discussing road safety at the Transport Ministerial Conference in Malta with Violeta Bulc



Presenting results of the FIA HLP for road safety mission in Myanmar to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



World RX of Portugal, 21 - 23 April



Rally Argentina, 28 - 30 April



Race of Italy, 30 April