

FIM Alternative Energy Newsletter

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Introductory words by Robert Rasor, FIM AEWG Chairman



The science and technology of alternative energy sources is changing and advancing at an ever increasing rate. Increasingly policy makers and the public will be looking to motorsport, and motorcycling specifically, as a testing ground for this technology. Motorcycles provide an easily adapted platform of modestly simple design that lends itself well to utilizing many different forms of alternative energy. The use of bio fuels, hybrids, electric and hydrogen is coming faster than most of us believe and it will come to motorcycling first! The FIM, its member federations, officials and volunteers must begin now to receive and accept these technologies in both sport and leisure.

With the support of Logos, LLC. the FIM, and its Alternative Energy Working Group, hope to use this newsletter to keep you informed on advances in Alternative Energies.

Report from the European Biofuels

The European Biofuel Technology Platform held on 22nd January its annual stakeholder conference in Brussels. The EBTP is the platform for a public-private partnership aiming at favoring the development a European biofuels industry and of the biofuel technology. It provides guidance on and promotion of relevant Research, Development and Demonstration. More than 200 participants joint the meeting, coming from the EU institutions, biofuels producing companies, university, research centers, NGOs or car manufacturers.



The focus of the meeting was on pilot and demonstration projects; the main issue there is the financing of expensive and risky industrial demonstrations of innovative biofuels (2nd Generation), for which more technological improvements is still needed. The demonstrations issues do not concern the use of biofuels by consumers but the production of biofuels in plants similar to what would be needed for commercial developments. Those projects thus are not of interest to FIM AEWG activities. This meeting was anyhow a good opportunity to meet with all the stakeholders involved in the field of biofuels and to see how the biofuel industry is facing to the rapidly evolving political context around sustainable biofuels.

For more information please go to http://www.biofuelstp.eu/spm2/spm2_prog.html or contact **Matthieu Bertrand** at LOGOS PA.

ACEM wants to shape a cleaner future for motorcycling

ACEM, representing the motorcycling industry in Brussels, held on 1st December 2008 its 5th Annual Conference entitled "Shaping the future". The motorcycling industry presented at this occasion its commitment in favor of a safer and cleaner future for motorcycling. ACEM propositions to reduce the level of CO2 emissions went further than the expected forthcoming Commission's proposal.



In parallel, ACEM wanted to stress the mobility benefits brought by motorcycling and scooters in urban areas, mainly by reducing congestion. Even if they were not particularly mentioned by the speakers, alternative fuelled vehicles were not forgotten in this promotion of a cleaner future of urban transports: several scooters and motorcycle running on alternative energy were presented to the audience. Among them, KTM presented its prototype of electric trial, Piaggio its electric hybrid MP3 scooter, and the Japanese brands brought several concept-motorcycles powered by fuel cells.

For more information please go to <http://www.acem.eu/cms/2008conference.php>

Conference on synthetic fuels

In the framework of the European Sustainable energy week, ASFE, the Alliance for Synthetic fuels in Europe promoted those fuels as the most efficient path for cleaner mobility. ASFE, founded by major energy firms like Shell and major car manufacturers like Daimler or Volkswagen presented those diesel-like fuels made from Coal, Natural Gas or Biomass through the Fischer-Tropsch Process. According to their promoters, those fuels can quickly contribute to a cleaner transport system since they produce less CO₂ than normal diesel and because they can be supplied via the existing fuel infrastructure and are fully compatible with existing engines, unlike the other type of alternative energy. Toyota presented some projects where vehicle fuelled with synthetic fuels had been involved.

Representatives from NGO and Academia challenged ASFE on the grounds that synthetic fuels made from Coal and Natural Gas were still fossil fuels; they made clear that in reality they are more polluting than current diesel when taking into account the whole production process. The following debate went on discussing electric vehicles, showing that the audience was not really convinced that synthetic fuels were the right fuels for a cleaner future.

For more information, please ask for the report of the conference made by LOGOS.

Meeting with Olivier Lenz from FIA Brussels

On 30 January LOGOS PA organized an informal meeting with Mr. Olivier Lenz from the FIA office in Brussels. Purpose of the meeting was for us to review with FIA their action and initiatives which could be relevant with the objectives of the FIM AEWG. The Brussels office of FIA only deals with the automobile users' organisations such as ADAC and does not look after the interest of the automobile sport (mainly Formula One) which is managed separately within FIA and together with other organisations (FOCA, FISA).

The European Bureau of FIA is very active and has published several positions on the question related to road transport, road safety, road infrastructure, consumer protection in relation to automobile. Mr. Lenz mentioned to us that in Germany only over 3 million motorcyclists are using ADAC services and therefore FIA can claim to represent also to a certain extent the interest of a significant part of the motorcycling community. FIA is not at this stage very active on the development on alternative energies for automotive vehicles. In 2008 the FIA Europe Bureau has sponsored the "Ecotour" which has showcased the most fuel-efficient cars both petrol and diesel, in six different categories currently on the European market in a tour from The Hague to Barcelona. The FIA is actually looking for external support or sponsors to organise the 2009 edition.

For more information please contact **Matthieu Bertrand** at LOGOS PA.



EU funding for sustainable transport projects

The European Commission organized a conference entitled “EU funding for sustainable transport projects” in the framework of the Sustainable energy week. The aim of this conference was to present the activities of the Intelligent Energy Europe network and its EU funded programmes; STEER is one of the latter and is the most likely to be of interest to the FIM. STEER is not about technology financing, but can finance “soft measures”, like information and awareness campaigns, education and training; its purpose is to promote less energy-intensive transport modes and to foster demand for alternative fuels and cleaner vehicles. Successful projects (6 out of 26 last year) are financed to up to 75% of the costs. The key characteristic of the successful projects is the strong involvement of local authorities or energy agencies, even if it is not a prerequisite. Among other requirements, the projects must involve at least 3 partners from 3 different countries. The next “Call for proposal” for new projects will be published late March 2009, with a total budget of about € 11 millions. To be monitored...

For more information please go to <http://www.managenergy.net/indexes/I354.htm> or contact **Matthieu Bertrand** at LOGOS PA.

