

FIM Alternative Energy Newsletter

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Introductory words by Robert Rasor, FIM AEWG Chairman



Not surprisingly, just as with traditional motorcycle activities, the emerging of spring in the northern climates brings an increase in activities in alternative energy vehicles. During its most recent meeting the FIM endorsed the inaugural TTXGP event for alternative energy vehicles that will be conducted 12 June on the Isle of Man. Anticipation for the event is high as it presents a true test of “carbon free” vehicles on a true road course. The competition will be over one lap of the 37 mile Mountain Course on the Isle of Man. At the close of entries 25 teams from 7 countries have signed up to contest the event. Silvio Manicardi will represent the AEWG at the event and join senior FIM Marketing Director, Olivier Godallier to observe the event. The AEWG will hold its second meeting of 2009 in Brussels on 8 May to further FIM visibility in the European capital and further coordinate work with its consultant, LOGOS Public Affairs.

Meeting with EABEV

LOGOS organized a meeting on 31st of March with EABEV, the European Association for Batteries Electric Vehicle, represented by the President and founder, Jacques de Selliers and its Development Manager.



EABEV is an association of businesses and business associations, environmental NGOs and individuals, promoting Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) in Europe as the most sustainable motorised road vehicles. On the contrary to AVERE, the other European association promoting electric vehicles, which is focusing on technical discussions, EABEV's main goal is to lobby the European Institutions.

The European institutions are barely mentioning electric vehicles in their “*Communications on the future of transport*” or in their pieces of legislations aiming at promoting cleaner means of transport. EABEV is regularly meeting at the highest level the European Commission in order to tackle this issue. EABEV claims that the EU should act on the bottlenecks that are preventing the electric vehicle market from boom-starting. First of all, the main issue is the price of those vehicles, the main reason for this being the fact that electric vehicles are produced in small series; the Commission should help creating the right financial incentive by subsidizing the purchase or more realistically by lowering the taxes on electric vehicles.



The second key point is infrastructure: all existing electric vehicle can be plugged-in on the network in place (220 V) and since the recharging of the batteries will be mainly done during the night when the general electric consumption is low, there is no need for major changes; however, a key psychological point for electric vehicle users is to be able to find a charging terminal when needed. The Commission should thus encourage local authorities to install charging terminal on major public roads, public buildings and parking places.

With regards to electric motorcycles, J. de Selliers explained that he believed in the rapid development of electric PTW; they are lighter vehicles and they require less battery. The price of the vehicle thus remains reasonable. Moreover, in the context of highly congested urban areas, the autonomy of electric motorcycles or scooter (*Picture: Vectrix electric scooter*) is by far sufficient for daily commuting purposes.

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

EU Green & Mobility Weeks

Between the 23rd and 26th June 2009, The European Commission will host the **Green Week** in Brussels. This event, organized by the Directorate-General Environment of the European Commission, is the occasion for the EU showcase its Environmental policies and to exchange “best practices”.



The Green Week 2009 will look at what the world must do to bring climate change under control from different angles: the need to achieve deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions by the middle of the century, the need to 'climate-proof' our economies against the impacts of climate change and the need to address climate change within the wider ecosystem challenge.

Transport issues are not forgotten but are far from being at the core of the event. Two sessions are planned on “Transport and spatial planning, Vision for 2050”. They will focus on the decarbonisation of Urban Transport exploring different visions of the future and how they will interact with our transport needs. Alternative energies for vehicles will surely be discussed during those sessions. Green Week consists also in a series of side events and of side activities.



From 16 to 22 September like every year, the **European Mobility Week** is an event, politically supported by the European Commission, DG Environment. This whole week of awareness raising events focuses on various aspects of sustainable transport in European cities. For example, the Car Free Day will take place on 22nd of September as part of the Mobility Week. The general objective of this event is to promote more sustainable means of transport for European cities: walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing with a view to reallocate public space for a better transport efficiency. Air pollution, noise, climate change, energy efficiency, safety, public health and quality of life are key issues for this campaign. There should be a place at least for silent and non-polluting motorcycles as they are just an upgrade of bicycles!

Source: EU Commission and LOGOS Public Affairs

World Biofuels Market

On 16 March 2009 in Brussels took place the yearly “World Biofuels Market“. With over 1300 participants from 78 countries, and over 100 exhibitors; the World Biofuels Markets congress is the largest biofuels event in Europe and is firmly established as the key meeting place for experts looking to understand the trends in the biofuel industry and to find partners. New technology innovations are showcased and this year biofuels processed from Algae were at the centre of attention. Although they are obviously very much pro biofuel the website from this event proposes interesting papers and background documents on the prospective and the impact of biofuels (Bio fuel benefits in the top menu). This recurrent event takes place every year in March in Brussels.



Source: LOGOS Public Affairs



FFM on the electric move



The FFM, Fédération Française de Motocyclisme, bought recently a Quantya electric motorcycle (see picture), Swiss-based company specialized in the production of all terrain electric motorcycles. The aim of the FFM is to test this vehicle in several disciplines in order to work with Quantya to help them develop their vehicle.

The motorcycle will be first tested in Motoball, where its reaction capacities should prove really useful. Its autonomy and power will face the challenges of Enduro. Gear box and ground clearance should be improved for trial runs. The FFM also intends to use this motorcycle for education activities with Children from 6 to 12.

On the 25th of March 2009, FFM organized a roundtable about electric motorcycles in motorcycling sport. Under the auspices of Mr Bolle, FFM President and Mr Mougou, FIM Deputy President, Academics, Manufacturers, race organizers and journalists discussed the state-of-play for electric motorcycling. Technological and marketing difficulties but also promising aspects were intensively discussed; electric motorcycling was notably seen as an excellent solution to the noise issue. Participants concluded the meeting by agreeing that electric motorcycling racing was not any more a utopia but a promising evolution for the medium term.



Source: FFM & LOGOS Public Affairs

FIM AEWG on the web!

“Googling” key words is always a good way to find out if you are efficiently communicating. FIM AEWG is already present out there. On the blogs dedicated to green cars and motorcycles (www.autobloggreen.com and www.mygreencar.eu) two articles are dedicated to FIM AEWG activities. One relates the exhibition organized on the occasion of the meeting in Geneva in February and the other one mentions the support of the TTXGP. Even the FIM AEWG newsletter can be found on the web; the South African federation publishes it on its website!

24 Hours of Electriccross

Zero Motorcycles the Californian manufacturer of electric bikes is organizing in San Diego the world's very first 24 hour off-road endurance event for battery- powered vehicles. *“This event is pulling together an incredibly diverse group of people from around the world. Everyone from lifelong motorcyclists to environmentally-conscience trend setters is fielding teams. Some are travelling thousands of miles at their own expense for this opportunity to make motorcycle history,”* declared Neal Saiki, inventor and founder of Zero Motorcycles. This event will set a world record by completing the first electric off road 24-hour endurance event.



Source: LOGOS Public affairs & Zero Motorcycles (www.zeromotorcycles.com/electricross).



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FIM supports TTXGP – the world’s first clean emissions motorcycle race

In a landmark move, the world governing body for motorcycle sport, the FIM, is supporting the upcoming TTXGP, the world’s first clean emissions motorcycle race which will be held on the Isle of Man on 12th June 2009. In making the announcement, FIM President, Vito Ippolito, said, “*FIM recognizes the importance of this area that is evolving very quickly. The future of the sport depends on our capacity as well as that of the manufacturers to innovate quickly. We are convinced that very shortly the motorcycle World Championships will be accessible to non-polluting engines.*” For motorcycle manufacturers wishing for a place in history, this is now IT!

Source: LOGOS Public Affairs

Honda launches 1st flex fuel motorbike



On 12 March 2009 Honda has announced that it will start marketing in Brazil the first flex fuel motorbike: the CG150 Titan Mix. As its name suggests, the ethanol-capable bike features a 150cc single cylinder engine that's equipped with Honda's proprietary Mix Fuel Injection System which is capable of detecting the presence and concentration of ethanol and gasoline and tailoring its operation based on what type of fuel mix has been tanked. It's not surprising that this new model would debut first in Brazil. That country has managed to produce enough ethanol, mostly from sugarcane, to nearly displace fossil fuels from its transportation sector. Honda's Brazilian subsidiary hopes to sell 200,000 CG150 Titan Mix models per year.

Source: LOGOS Public affairs & www.autobloggreen.com

FIM AEWG’s database on Alternative Energy Motorcycling initiatives

FIM AEWG is developing a database of industry and members’ Federations initiatives in the field of Alternative Energy Motorcycling. This list of initiatives will include among many others projects such as the KTM prototype enduro bike, the FFM roundtable on the future of electric motorcycling, the Piaggio Hybrid MP3, the Vectrix scooter or the Honda Brazil CG150 Titan Mix motorcycle powered by an eco-friendly fuel mixed with bio-ethanol and gasoline, which will be put on sale in Brazil from mid-March.

With the increasing number of announcements of alternatively-powered vehicle projects in the last months, this database is likely to expand dramatically and should provide an up-to-date overview of the activity in the sector. This database will be soon available from FIM AEWG Secretariat.

Source: LOGOS Public Affairs

Selected calendar of Alternative Energy or related events

- 4th April 2009, **the Zero Motorcycles’ 24 Hours of Electricross**, San José, California
- 8th May 2009, FIM AEWG Meeting, Brussels
- 12th June 2009, **TTxGP**, Isle of Man
- 23rd to 26th May 2009, Stavanger, Norway: **The 24th International Battery, Hybrid and Fuel cell Electric Vehicle Symposium & Exhibition (EVS-24)**
- 23rd to 26th June 2009, **European Green Week**
- 16th to 22nd September 2009, **European Mobility Week**



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