

AIRC-Meeting 2019



Ten Members of AIRC held conference in Zagreb/ Croatia



Upon invitation of the Croatian Car Body Association, the AIRC General Meeting took place in Zagreb at the beginning of April 2019.

The agenda for the meeting in the Croatian capital included exchange of experiences, financial regulations and a visit of three specialist companies from the K&L sector.

The President of AIRC (Association Internationale des Réparateurs en Carrosserie), Erik Paul Papinski (Austria), opened the annual meeting of the global association and welcomed representatives from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, Ice-

land, Luxembourg and South Tyrol. AIRC Vice President Peter Börner (Germany) then summarised the activities and board meetings. This routine was followed by the other national associations. The representatives of the respective countries pointed out factors that particularly influence the country-specific K&L industry: Insurance and claims management, shortage of skilled workers and level of training as well as the equipment level of the specialist companies.

The Italian association "Feder-carrozzeri", aiming to join the AIRC, introduced itself as a new member. About 500 specialist companies are

registered in this national association, which are involved in car body, painting and/or mechanical work. AIRC Managing Director Thomas Aukamm explained the financial situation of the global association. Subsequently, the budgets for 2018 and 2019 were approved and the actions of the executive board were approved.

"Rule Book" for Croatia

Ivica Ivicsek from the Croatian Association reported on the situation in his country. Approximately 700 K&L companies (about 50 in the Zagreb area alone) are predominantly small companies with up to ten employees. » last page

Association Internationale des Réparateurs en Carrosserie



1- The members of AIRC discuss international and national conditions and projects in the body- and paintshop business. 2- Ivica Ivicsek from Croatia reports about national repair market. 3- Ivica Ivicsek, Erik-Paul Papinski (President) and Bodyshop owner of Bodyshop Auto Kantoci. 4- Entrance to Auto Kantoci who work together with different insurance companies. 5- Look into the bodyshop of Auto Kantoci in Zagreb. 6- Bodyshop specialists exchange opinions. 7-8 Visit Mercedes-Benz bodyshop of Emil Frey Mercedes in Zagreb. 9- Happy come together at dinner. 10-11- Visit the independent paint shop of Zagi-Kurpes. 12- Perfect host Ivica Ivicsek showed the AIRC-Members also the historical old city of Zagreb.



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- ADPA
- AIRC
- CECRA
- EGEEA
- European Independent Data Publishers Association
- Association Internationale des Réparateurs en Carrosserie
- European Council for Motor Trades and Repairs
- European Garage Equipment Association
- FIA
- FIGIEFA
- LEASEUROPE
- UEIL
- Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, Region I
- European Federation of Automotive Aftermarket Distributors
- European Leasing and Rentals Industry
- Union of the European Lubricants Industry

In order to be able to repair the existing modern vehicles according to the manufacturer's specifications and calibrate the electronic systems, the equipment of these companies as well as the qualifications of the employees still have to be adapted.

Even the settlement of claims or the reimbursement of repair costs by insurance companies does not follow uniform regulations as yet. Ivica Ivceek has therefore designed a "rule book" with support from Germany. It will contain technical and commercial rules to standardise the repair process in Croatia, as is already common practice in many European countries.

Entry into AFCAR?

Current AIRC projects include the calibration of electronic driver assistance systems and access to vehicle telematics and diagnostic data. The AIRC's re-entry into the AFCAR association could be helpful in this regard. AIRC Vice President Peter Börner explained:

"The AIRC and the individual national associations must try to get all information from Europe from the legislator in the commissions in order to be able to process it. This is not only very important for our German member companies, but also for our policy-related work. In addition, the AFCAR would give us the opportunity to bring in our interests, for example in the use of telematics data. The AFCAR should

represent and implement our interests in the commissions. This not only includes membership of the AFCAR, but also a close dialogue with the members and those responsible for the AFCAR".

Two interesting presentations

by Autel and BASF Coatings on vehicle data and the future of painting were also on the agenda. Mike Richter from Autel explained the possibilities of his company's brand-independent calibration system to the international association representatives. Norbert Grimmeisen, Sales Manager of Glasurit Central Europe, gave an insight into future paint repair processing and explained which colour shades are preferred for which vehicle models.

In 2020, the AIRC will meet in Iceland by honouring its invitation.

