

Inaugural Congress for ICA



The FIA International Court of Appeal.

The FIA International Court of Appeal (ICA) held its inaugural Congress in Monaco on December 9, 2005. It was the first time that all of the Titular Members of the ICA have met to discuss the rules of the court.

The creation of the Congress, which will meet at least once a year, is one of the innovations included in the new 'Rules of the FIA International Court of Appeal' agreed by the FIA General Assembly in Rome on October 28. The Rules include provisions concerning the missions, composition, administration and procedures of the ICA.

David Ward, ICA Secretary General, said: "The first meeting of the Congress is a major step forward. For the first time all the members of the court will meet together to discuss the work of the ICA."

Each year the Congress will review the functioning of the Court, and consider any proposed amendments to the Rules. Ward added: "From now on it will be the Judges that will decide on any proposals to change the rules of the ICA. They will be the guardians of the

Court's independence and its procedures."

The adoption of the new Rules completes a major review and renewal of the proceedings of the ICA. In recent years, the ICA hearings (for sporting cases) have been made open to the media; any barriers to challenging decisions of the ICA in the civil courts have been removed; the number of judges elected to the Court has been increased from 15 to 18; and the position of Secretary General has been made subject to election and not part of the internal management of the FIA.

Ward said: "The Congress, together with the new Rules, ensures that the ICA will remain an example of best practice in sports governance, with an appeal process that is independent, efficient, fair, and transparent."