



Media Release by the Motor Schools Association

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New President for European Driving Schools Association

The European Driving Schools Association (EFA) has elected MSA general manager, John Lepine MBE, as its new President.

At an EFA delegate meeting in Sopron, Hungary, John was voted to lead the driving instructors' group for a three-year term. During his period in office he will be supported by two vice Presidents: Cathy Bacon, Chair of the association for driver trainers in Ireland (IDI), who will be the first vice President and Manuel Picardi, CEO of the national union of driving schools in Italy (UNEASCA), becoming the second.

Speaking after his election John Lepine said: "I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Gerhard von Bressendorf (Germany), who has guided EFA so magnificently and to the retiring vice President, Lars Gunnarson (Sweden) who, together with Cathy, have done a fantastic job of leading EFA over the past ten years.

"Their work has ensured that EFA is not only a widely respected organisation throughout Europe, but that it is also widely consulted by the presidency, parliament and commission of the European Union on matters relating to driver testing, training and examining issues.

"With talk of a 4th EU transport directive to cover driver trainer qualifications, there is clearly much to be done to improve driving standards and road safety. In addition, there is the matter of economic viability of driving schools and instructors throughout Europe and I am hoping to build on the excellent work undertaken by my predecessors."

Concluding his remarks John said: "This is clearly a huge honour and responsibility that I have been given and I look forward to working on behalf of all European driving schools and driver trainers."

Notes about EFA

EFA represents the interest of its members with all European authorities, institutions and organisations, concerned with:

- driving instruction
- driving instructor training
- driver improvement
- further education of novice drivers
- environmentally friendly driving
- all questions concerning road safety

EFA has 25 member associations from 24 European countries:

Austria; Belgium; Bulgaria; Cyprus; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Great Britain; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Italy; Luxembourg; Moldova; Netherlands; Norway; Portugal; Slovakia; Spain; Sweden and Switzerland.

Associate members:

CIECA (the International Commission for Driver Testing); the Emirates Driving Company and the Hong Kong School of Motoring.

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Editors note:

The MSA was founded in 1935 as a representative body for driving instructors and driving school owners and is the voice for around 6,400 instructors.

The MSA has consultative status with the Driving Standards Agency (an executive agency of the Department for Transport)

MSA lobbies on behalf of its members for and campaigns for better road safety.