



# News Release

**EMBARGO:** 11.15am, WEDNESDAY February 16 2011

## **AA CALLS ON ELECTION CANDIDATES & INCOMING GOVERNMENT:**

### **DO NOT NEGLECT ROAD SAFETY, IT IS THE NUMBER 1 CONCERN OF IRISH MOTORISTS**

The AA is issuing a key message to election candidates and to the incoming government: Do not let Road Safety slip down the public agenda. Despite the relative success of recent years, Irish motorists still rank road safety as the most important issue they face on the roads.

The AA has conducted a major opinion survey among Irish motorists in which over 22,000 drivers took part. When asked to rank the importance of various motoring issues, road safety was rated as the number one concern – ahead of fuel costs, insurance costs, road conditions, tolls and the environment.

### **AA Director of Policy Conor Faughnan spoke as he welcomed FIA President Jean Todt on his visit to Dublin today (16<sup>th</sup>).**

“I am delighted to welcome President Todt to Dublin for an important series of meetings and discussions with Irish organizations involved in road safety. The FIA has enormous global reach and is playing a lead role internationally in pushing the road safety agenda, and I am particularly pleased that President Todt is placing that issue front and centre on his visit here today.”

“Ireland has enjoyed some major successes in road safety, and in fact the rate of death and injury has dropped by some 40% in the last ten years. This is due in huge part to the very positive response from Irish motorists, who have strongly supported road safety measures.”

“But even if 212 deaths compares better with previous years, it is still a national disaster. The effect of road crashes on Irish life is devastating, and it must remain a major policy priority for the incoming government. There are still many areas that need reform and there is still a massive amount to be done.

“40% of the people who die on Irish roads are under 25. What can we do to reach that audience and save those lives? That is a huge challenge globally, not just in Ireland. President Todt can give us that global perspective. FIA has huge experience of promoting road safety in countries around the world through its involvement not just in motorsport but in initiatives like EuroNCAP, the European New Car Assessment Programme which it helped to establish.”

#### **Note to editors:**

The FIA is the world governing body for motorsport, including the Formula 1 and World Rally championships. As President Jean Todt is a highly influential figure in world sport. The FIA is also the federation of the world's motoring organisations. It brings together 227 national motoring and sporting organisations from 132 countries collectively representing millions of motorists worldwide. The two Irish members are AA Ireland and Motorsport Ireland/RIAC.

ENDS

**16<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

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