

## FROM THE DESK OF SAVVA - 10



### **Electrification of Historic Vehicles: Statement from FIVA**

An increasing number of commercial outfits are offering to convert historic vehicles to run on electric power, replacing the entire drivetrain with an electric unit and batteries.

In this way, they claim, it's possible to retain the classic appearance of the vehicle while meeting modern environmental standards. As an additional benefit, the conversion might also increase power and performance. Some conversion companies have even obtained permission from the type approval/certification authorities to retain the original Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the donor vehicle, despite more or less replacing the entire drivetrain.

### **FIVA's view on electrification**

FIVA (the Fédération Internationale des Véhicules Anciens or international federation of historic vehicles) understands the motivation of some owners to electrify their vehicles – and acknowledges that, subject to legislation and regulation, all modifications are a matter of personal choice.

However, FIVA – as an organisation dedicated to the preservation, protection and promotion of historic vehicles – cannot promote, to owners or regulators, the use of modern EV components (motors and batteries) to replace a historic vehicle's powertrain.

Conversion of historic vehicles from their original internal combustion engines to electric power doesn't comply with the FIVA definition of a historic vehicle, nor does it support the goal of preserving historic vehicles and their related culture. In FIVA's view,

vehicles so converted cease to be historic vehicles, unless they are subject only to 'in period' changes.

According to FIVA, a historic vehicle is 'a mechanically propelled road vehicle' that is:

- at least 30 years old
- preserved and maintained in a historically correct condition
- not used as a means of daily transport
- part of our technical and cultural heritage

Concludes Tiddo Bresters, FIVA's Vice President, Legislation, "It is not, in our opinion, the shape or body style of a vehicle that makes it 'historic', but the way in which the entire vehicle has been constructed and manufactured in its original form.

"Hence if any owner, motor engineer or manufacturer chooses to make such conversions to a historic vehicle, FIVA would strongly recommend that any changes are reversible, with all the original components marked and safely stored. In this way, the vehicle may – if so desired in the future – be returned to its original state and may once again become a historic vehicle."

#### **SAVVA'S View on Electrification**

**As fully fledged members of FIVA, SAVVA concurs with the above information.**