

Comment: Outlook 2019



“Ja zum Nürburgring” wishes all fans of the Nürburgring a good start into the new year 2019. We would like to seize the opportunity for a quick review and an outlook:

Where are we at the end of the outgoing year, and what might 2019 have in store for us?

All in all, the events at the Nürburgring took place as usual in 2018. The operating company makes every endeavor to grow the operative business, always of course to their own benefit as well. There were several exciting races under surprisingly good weather conditions. However, we pay close attention to the many small changes that make us recognize with concern the pressure that is applied to the true grassroots motorsport. If a big racing series stops justifying entry fee raises with cost coverage but rather hints to the anyway much higher participation cost for a team, then we recognize how times have changed. Economic pressure, triggered by the intervention of the current owner into a race series, is the direct consequence of the unspeakable sale of the Nürburgring.

Regarding the ownership question, we continue to wait for rulings of the European General Court (EGC) in Luxemburg. January 30 will be the anniversary of the oral hearing of the action brought forward by NeXovation, and more than eight months have passed since the hearing of the case of “Ja zum Nürburgring” on April 25, 2018. Both parties have entered their actions because they believe that the sale of the Nürburgring has not been performed in compliance with European law. There has not yet been a ruling in our case, and as far as we know, this has not happened either in the NeXovation case.

The exact reasons for this long waiting period to the announcement of the rulings are unknown. Based on the course of the legal proceedings thus far, however, we are convinced that this is one more proof for the very diligent approach the EGC has demonstrated so far. Beyond that, it should have taken a much shorter time span to simply dismiss an allegedly inadmissible action, as this has been expected by some parties.

As mentioned at our last member’s assembly, we are working in the background to prepare a foundation concept. Legal and tax questions will be clarified upfront to be ready to act if necessity arises.

“We are ready to accept responsibility as soon as developments will open opportunities”, says Otto Flimm, President of JzN, who wants to celebrate his 90th birthday in May 2019. “By preparing the foundation concept we want to provide a basis for establishing a foundation in case the current purchase contract will be declared invalid.”

“Ja zum Nürburgring” continues to pursue its immediate objective to provide the Nürburgring with a long-lasting good perspective, based on the needs of grassroots motorsport, the region, and the industry. The long-term pursuit of this objective is emphasized especially by the fact announced at the member’s assembly 2018 that Mr Peter Meyer (President ADAC Nordrhein e.V.) stands ready to continue the work of Otto Flimm, should he be no longer able to do it himself.

Of course, we can’t predict the result of the actions, nor the date. Measured by the average time span that EGC usually allows to pass between an oral hearing and the announcement of a ruling, time is ripe for a decision. We are convinced that 2019 will be the year of the decision. “Ja zum Nürburgring” prepares for all conceivable outcomes and is ready for action and reaction to all arising situations.

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