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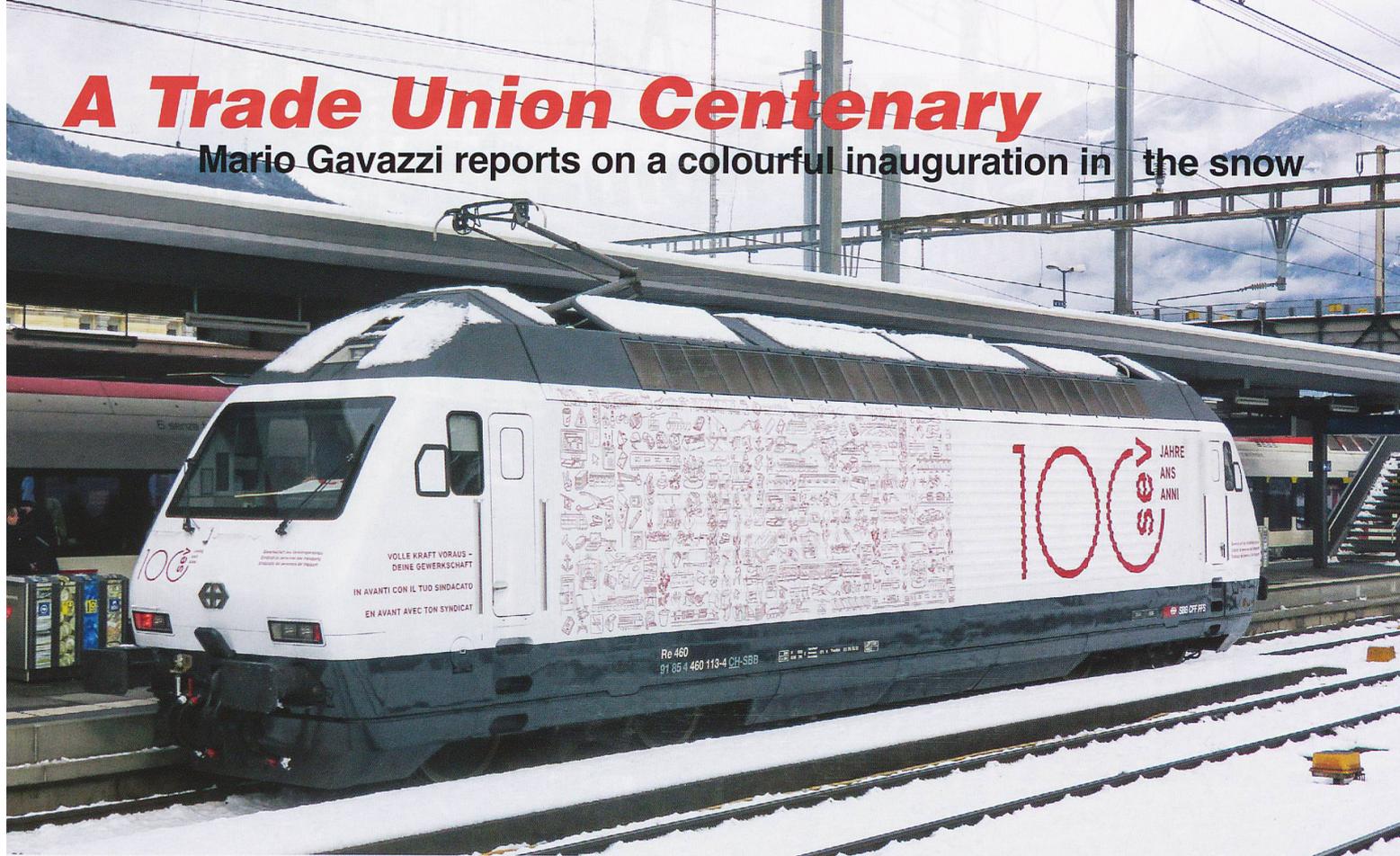
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# A Trade Union Centenary

Mario Gavazzi reports on a colourful inauguration in the snow



The Re460 with its new logo and livery depicting working life.

PHOTOS: Mario Gavazzi

Canton Ticino is called the “*Sonnenstube*” (sunroom) of Switzerland but snow does fall there and it had certainly fallen in Bellinzona before my visit on Saturday 2nd February to witness the inauguration of Re 460 No.113-4 as an ambassador for the SEV (the Swiss Railway and Transport Workers Union).

The union celebrates its centenary this year. It was formed in 1919 when many small organisations merged into one

union representing workers from all the different language areas of Switzerland. The previous autumn had seen the “*Landesstreik*”, a general strike at a time of crisis in Switzerland, following World War I.

Today the union represents some 40,000 members working in all types of public transport organisations, from railways to buses, boats, airlines and tourist mountain lines. Its chairman is Giorgio Tuti who welcomed the guests to Bellinzona. After the ceremony the locomotive was driven (by an SEV member, of course) to Zürich, where a further ceremony was held in the evening.

460 No.113-4 will carry this livery for a year. The designs reflect the working lives of the union’s members. 



ABOVE: Giorgio Tuti, SEV chairman, addresses the audience.

LEFT: SEV is the most important transport trade union in Switzerland.

RIGHT: The SEV is 100 years old.

