

National Cycling Federations of Belgium, Austria, Spain, Italy and Luxemburg

Mr. Pat McQuaid
President
International Cycling Union
CH 1860 AIGLE
SWITZERLAND

14th March 2008

Dear President,

The situation we are currently going through is the most critical and severe one for our institution. And it is the consequence of your will to impose the ProTour. At the meeting of the road cycling working group during the weekend of the European Congress, it was confirmed once again that all the countries consider the ProTour as the worst among all the evils of cycling, even worse than doping.

You know how much effort the federations have put into it. This good will was proven on several occasions – first of all on a request from the Confederations, and we have accepted their invitation by arranging the meeting in Treviso.

In the Press Release issued in Treviso, it was clear that the Tour de France was among the “historical or monumental” competitions with no participation constraint. During that meeting, and you were attending it with the other Management Board members, the conclusions were as follows:

- The national federations would be committed to register their competitions on the historical calendar and to support the ProTour in the future
- The UCI would commit to change the ProTour regulations, that is to say to remove the obligation constraint of the teams’ participation in all the races, including the Tour de France.

Everybody knows that after the dissemination of that Communiqué, the UCI President stated that he was satisfied with the agreement and that the Tour “was to invite” the 18 teams.

Thus, it is the UCI President who has not respected the agreement and our commitment in the mediation.

During the weekend in Greece the Road working group emphasized how all the countries were concerned and were against the ProTour in its current configuration. Conclusions were drawn and their wording was put to the vote. The UCI President issued a Press Communiqué, instead of the UEC, to highlight only one single point of the resolutions: “the UEC supports the

ProTour”, thus forgetting, on purpose and for the second time, the content of the mediation, i.e. “that the UCI is committed to change the regulations.” The most serious aspect though is that, as the UCI President was attending the Congress, the co-opted Vice President was already announcing, on a Belgian television network, what UCI would do!

Last point: the vote of the Sport Groups to participate in the Paris-Nice – 15 for it and 8 abstentions. At any rate, the final result is that all the 23 groups are against the ProTour regulations. Hence, we hope that the ProTour, in its current form, is withdrawn in 2008. And, off course, we also ask for an immediate suspension of the disciplinary proceedings that have been initiated against the French National Federation, its President, Mr. Eric BOYER (the AIGCP President), the athletes and the sport groups.

The UCI Press Release, announcing the initiation of disciplinary proceedings against the French Federation is the umpteenth act of arrogance and disrespect of the rules displayed by the UCI, an aspect that the undersigned federations have always emphasized and fought. And we are ready to continue to do it, particularly now, by assuring jointly our unreserved support to the FFC.

In this context, since you have taken part in all the stages and steps that we have just described, we ask you – in order to avoid other damages to the cycling worldwide and not only in Europe – to be the spokesperson at the UCI, so that they will drop the proceedings against the FFC . At the same time, we announce our availability to design the Pro Tour 2009 together, with rules accepted by all the members of the cycling family.

We trust your will to contribute to overcome such a dramatic crisis by drawing on your charisma and your competence, just like the UEC President.

Best regards.

The National Federations of Austria, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Luxemburg

R. MASSAK
ORV General Secretary

L. DE BACKER
RLVB President

E. BERMUDEZ
RFEC General Secretary

R. DI ROCCO
FCI President

E. BUCHETTE
FSLC General Secretary

CC:

- UEC President
- UCI Management Board Members