



THINK ENVIRONMENT!

The activities of “Cycling for All” have developed considerably over the past ten years, and Cyclospor has become a truly international sporting discipline.

Nearly 400 events are organized each year in Europe, involving nearly 300,000 participants, and these activities directly generate a total budget of approximately 6-million euros.

These well-structured events, some involving over 10,000 participants, are held in abundant, fragile or protected natural areas.

Today we see a general awakening to the need to respect our surrounding environment, and cycling sports must set an example for the world’s cyclists and for future generations.

In this context, on the initiative of the AEC (Association Européenne de Cyclospor), a landmark coordinating meeting was held in Marseille on 4-5 April 2006, with the objective of developing a joint action that would make cycling sports actively involved in safeguarding the natural environment.

The initial goal of this meeting was to present the organization, Global Sports Alliance (GSA), a Japanese NPO behind the development of the environmental symbol for sport—the ECOFLAG. GSA works with partners such as UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), UNESCO and the IOC to increase environmental awareness and action through sport. The organizers of four major cycling events in the European calendar—the Ardéchoise, La Quebrantahuesos, l’Ariégeoise, and les Bosses du 13—as well as representatives of a fifth event in Italy, exchanged views and shared information on the feasibility and organizational responsibilities involved in developing coordinated projects in relation to the environment, under the directive of the AEC.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS :

- Tatsuo OKADA: Executive Director, NPO Global Sports Alliance (GSA)
- Patrick FRANCOIS: AEC President
- Gérard MISTLER: L'ARDECHOISE Event President
- Roberto IGLESIAS: QUEBRANTAHUESOS Event President
- Jean Claude EYCHENNE: L'ARIEGEOISE Event President
- Jean Pierre CARMINATI: BOSSES DU 13 Event President and Founder
- Enrico DE ANGELI: Journalist. AEC Correspondent in Italy
- Vanessa BALLERIO: Interpreter
- Guy EDINAT: Vélo Club La Pomme President
- Sébastien FRISON: Vélo Club la Pomme Director
- Xavier PIASECKI: Coordination AEC Coordinator/ Meeting Secretary

This initiative will have a significant and concrete effect on the events concerned, and will make a major contribution in associating European cycling with active and responsible environmental management at large scale sporting events.

In order to initiate actions immediately for the 2006 season the following initial actions were agreed upon, bearing in mind the time constraints involved:

1. To fly the Ecoflag at cycling events for the purpose of promoting environmental awareness among spectators and cyclists, under the slogan "Think Environment!"
2. Conducting environmental impact assessments in order to identify ways of reducing the environmental impact of the event or future events.
3. To promote an "eco-citizen" attitude and the ECOFLAG movement at events and among partners through official programs, pamphlets, websites and public announcements made at the event.
4. To promote respect for the environment and an "eco-citizen" attitude within the programs of the AEC, under the slogan "Think Environment!" by utilizing website and specialized media channels
5. To promote these actions at the Global Forum for Sport and Environment (G-ForSE), which is held every two years. The next Forum is scheduled to take place in November 2006 with the Head Office of the IOC in Lausanne (exact dates to be specified).

This cooperation will be formalized with the signing of a draft agreement between all the partners involved in this initiative, following the directives laid out in this statement.

Contact

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