



Pau, 27 April 2023

9 June to 11 June 2023: 2nd edition of the CIC International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees

The Association Française des Coureures Cyclistes (AFCC) and the Communauté d'Agglomération Pau Béarn Pyrénées are organising the CIC International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees for the second year running, which highlights women's professional cycling. This 3-day Tour takes place between 9 and 11 June 2023 and includes 3 stages.

Recognition of women's cycling

The first edition of the CIC International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees was a turning point for professional women's cycling.

*"Female participants now have the same status as male cyclists and are fully recognised by the professional cycling world, appreciate **Marion Clignet** and **Elisabeth Chevanne-Brunel**, co-presidents of the AFCC and former professional cyclists. The stages that make up the tour will give them another opportunity to show the public that there is no longer any question of amateurism in their discipline."*

Indeed, for many decades, women's cycling was very poorly represented and women who practised the sport professionally had no official status. Created in 2019, the AFCC has succeeded in bringing women's cycling to the attention of all and adding a feminine and cultural approach to the sport.

With the support of its partners in the world of cycling and professional sport, the AFCC has succeeded in ensuring that women for whom cycle racing is a profession are now fully recognised and have official status as professional female cyclists.

Programme for the CIC International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees 2023

- 8 June 2023 at 6 p.m.: presentation of the teams on the square behind the church in Argelès-Gazost

For its 2nd edition, the CIC International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees will take place in 3 stages over 3 days:

- 9 June 2023: Argelès-Gazost-Lourdes / 125 km
- 10 June 2023: Pierrefitte-Nestalas-Station de Hautacam / 94 km
- 11 June 2023: Nay-Bosdarros / 128 km

Teams racing

- 6 World Tour teams: FDJ, HPH, JUMBO VISMA, ISRAEL NATION COGEAS, CANYON SRAM, UAE.
- 17 UCI CONTI teams: COFIDIS, CMC, CYNISCA, GRAND EST, ARKEA, FONDATION EUSKADI, NXTG, BE PIN, BIZKAIA, ST MICHEL, AWOL OSHEA, Stade Rochelais, FARTO BTC, MENDELSPECK, Ceratizit, Massi Tactic, Groupe Abadie Team

The reigning French champion, Audrey Cordon-Ragot, will also be present in her new Human Powered Health team.

Sponsors and partners

CIC Main partner

As a bank for entrepreneurship and territories, the CIC has been the main partner of the International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees since its first edition.

CIC has been involved in cycling for several years and also supports the FFC (French Championships and French teams) as well as many regional races such as the 4 Jours de Dunkerque, the CIC-Mont Ventoux Dénivelé Challenges or the 4 Jours CIC de Plouay through the commitment of its regional banks. The CIC branches in the area (Billère, Lescar, Lourdes, Nay, Orthez, Pau and Tarbes) are getting involved and supporting the CIC International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees.

"This commitment is in line with our partnership with the French Cycling Federation. We are proud to support this highly symbolic event. As a company with a mission, the CIC particularly works for inclusion and parity, and it is important that women's professional cycling gets the recognition it deserves. Moreover, this tour of the Pyrenees is a great way to showcase a region that we support in close proximity," says **Patrice Cauvet**, General Manager of CIC Sud Ouest.

Many stakeholders are supporting the event, including:

TotalEnergies, Eden Autos, Leclerc Pau, Jelenew, Barracou establishments, Vinales hotels, Pau Béarn Pyrenees Metropolitan Authority, Pays de Nay federation of municipalities, Pyrénées Vallée des gaves federation of municipalities, the town of Argelès-Gazost, the town of Lourdes, the town of Pierrefitte-Nestalas, the station of Hautacam, the town of Nay, the Pyrénées Atlantiques department, the Hautes Pyrénées department, the Nouvelle Aquitaine and Occitanie regions and Teréga, the gas transport and storage operator based in the far South-West of France.

"Teréga is proud to be able to support this race, which puts professional women's cycling at the forefront of the sporting scene. Our beautiful Pyrenean region will offer the ideal terrain for the cyclists to show their talent," adds **Dominique Mockly**, Chairman and CEO of Teréga.

About CIC

A leading bank in France and abroad, CIC provides nearly 5.6 million customers with a French network of nearly 1,800 branches and 20,000 employees, as well as international branches in 36 countries. In order to meet the needs of all economic players and build up a constantly efficient offering on a daily basis, it combines finance, insurance, telephony and cutting-edge technological services with a high level of financial solidity backed by that of its parent company, Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale.

Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale groups together the Crédit Mutuel branches of the Centre East Europe (Strasbourg), South-East (Lyon), Ile-de-France (Paris), Savoie-Mont Blanc (Annecy), Midi-Atlantique (Toulouse), Loire-Atlantique and Centre West (Nantes), Centre (Orléans), Normandy (Caen), Dauphiné-Vivaraïs (Valence), Mediterranean (Marseille), Anjou (Angers), Massif Central (Clermont-Ferrand), Antilles-Guyana (Fort-de-France) and North Europe (Lille) federations. Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale also includes Caisse Fédérale de Crédit Mutuel, Banque Fédérative du Crédit Mutuel (BFCM) and all its subsidiaries, notably CIC, Euro-Information, Assurances du Crédit Mutuel (ACM), TARGOBANK in Germany, Beobank in Belgium, Cofidis, Banque Européenne du Crédit Mutuel (BECM), Banque Transatlantique and Homiris.

For more information, go to cic.fr

About AFCC

The Association Française des Coureuses Cyclistes, co-chaired by Elisabeth Chevanne-Brunel and Marion Clignet, was created on 27 June 2019 in La Haye Fouassière during the French Road Cycling Championships.

The idea of creating this association emerged during the 2018 French Road Cycling Championships at a meeting with the UNCP, the union for men's professional cyclists, where it was noted that there was a lack of recognition of women's cycling with no real professional status for our French athletes.

The decision was therefore taken to create an association to promote the interests of women's cycling in France.

The AFCC's aims:

- Obtain legitimate recognition as a professional cyclist
- Organise several international women's events in France, broadcast on television to reach as many people as possible.
- Defend all the rights attached to this recognition.
- Promote women's cycling by ensuring the legitimate representation of its members and developing solidarity and cohesion between them.
- Support all its members in issues related to the practice of their profession.

About Teréga

Established in South-West France, at the crossroads between major European gas flows, Teréga has exercised exceptional expertise for over 75 years in the development of gas transport and storage infrastructures. Today, it continues to develop innovative solutions to overcome the major energy challenges facing France and Europe. A true accelerator of the energy transition, Teréga operates over 5,000 km of pipelines and 2 underground storage reservoirs representing 16% of the French gas transport network and 25% of national storage capacity. The company had a turnover of €488 million in 2021, and has about 650 employees.

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