



Pau, 03 March 2022

Launch of the first International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees

Organised by the Association Française des Coureuses Cyclistes (AFCC) and the Communauté d'Agglomération Pau Béarn Pyrénées, the International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees is destined to shine a spotlight on women's professional cycling. Scheduled to run over three days, it comprises four stages between the 5 and 7 August 2022.



CIC, a bank supporting business and the regions, is the main partner for the first International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees.

"This commitment is completely in line with our partnership with the French Cycling Federation. We're proud to lend our support to this highly symbolic event. As a socially engaged business, CIC works particularly to encourage inclusion and equality, and it is essential for women's professional cycling to receive all the recognition it deserves. Moreover, this tour of the Pyrenees will be a great boost to the profile of a territory we support closely," says **Patrice Cauvet, CEO of CIC Sud Ouest**.

"This event marks the recognition of sporting women, real champions who until now have been competing in the shadows. Through this race, Marion Clignet and Elisabeth Chevanne-Brachet have gone out of their way to give all these female cyclists the chance to shine. I'm proud to have supported them on this journey and they, by their sheer determination, have managed to convince their local partners, getting them to saddle up with them and cycle into the future," adds **Josy Poueyto, female member of the French National Assembly for the first Pyrénées-Atlantiques constituency**.

Recognition at last for professional women's cycling

Over many decades, women's cycling has had no real representation to speak of, and women involved in the sport as professionals have enjoyed no official status. Today, thanks to the work of the AFCC, supported by its partners in the world of cycling and professional sport, women for whom cycle racing is a career are now fully recognised and have official status as professional racing cyclists.

Since its creation in 2019, the AFCC has succeeded – in just two years – in bringing women's cycling to everyone's attention and adding a feminine and cultural approach to the sport.

"This first International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees marks a decisive turning point for professional women's cycling. The participants now have the same status as male riders and are fully recognised by the world of professional cycling. The stages that make up the tour will give them a great opportunity to show the public that their discipline has left amateurism behind," say **Marion Clignet and Elisabeth Chevanne-Brachet, joint Presidents of the AFCC and former professional cyclists**.

Sponsors and partners

Many actors across the Pyrenean territory are supporting the event (*some partners are still in the process of being confirmed*)

Mapei, TotalEnergies, Eden Autos, Leclerc Pau and Tarbes, Euralis, Sport R, the Communauté d'agglomération de Pau Béarn Pyrénées, the town of Lacq, the Communauté de Communes du Pays de Nay, the Communauté de communes Pyrénées Vallée des gaves, the town of Pierrefitte-Nestalas, the town of Arrens-Marsous, the town of Lourdes, the Pyrénées Atlantiques department, the Hautes Pyrénées department, and the regions of Nouvelle Aquitaine and Occitanie, along with Teréga, the gas transport and storage operator based in the Grand Sud-Ouest region.

"Teréga is proud to be able to support this race, which puts professional women's cycle racing centre stage. Our beautiful country in the Pyrenees will offer the cyclists the perfect arena to show off their talent," adds Dominique Mockly, Chairman and CEO of Teréga.

On the programme for the International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees 2022:

For its first year, the International Women's Tour of the Pyrenees will run in four stages across three days:

- On 5 August, the day will be split into two stages:
 - A team time trial between Artiguelouve and Lacq (Pyrénées-Atlantiques).
 - Then a sprint race following a circuit through the heart of the city of Pau (Pyrénées-Atlantiques).
- On 6 August, participants will go head-to-head in a sprint setting out from Pierrefitte-Nestalas (Hautes-Pyrénées), finishing at the Col de Soulor.
- Lastly, on 7 August, the final medium-altitude sprint stage will take place around Lourdes (Hautes-Pyrénées).

About CIC

A leading bank in France and internationally, the chosen bank for one in every three French businesses, CIC provides nearly 5.5 million customers with a French network of nearly 1800 branches and 20,000 employees, along with international offices in 37 countries. To meet the needs of economic actors, and to offer the best possible service every day, it combines work in finance, insurance, telephony and cutting edge technology services with solid financial foundations underpinned by those of its parent company, Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale.

Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale is the umbrella organisation for Crédit Mutuel banking federations in Centre Est Europe (Strasbourg), Sud-Est (Lyon), Ile-de-France (Paris), Savoie-Mont Blanc (Annecy), Midi-Atlantique (Toulouse), Loire-Atlantique et Centre Ouest (Nantes), Centre (Orléans), Normandie (Caen), Dauphiné-Vivarais (Valence), Méditerranéen (Marseille), Anjou (Angers), Massif Central (Clermont-Ferrand), Antilles-Guyane (Fort-de-France) and Nord Europe (Lille).

Further information at cic.fr

About AFCC

The Association Française des Coureuses Cyclistes, with its joint presidents Elisabeth Chevanne-Brachet and Marion Clignet, was created on 27 June 2019 at La Haye Fouassière on the occasion of the French road cycling championships.

The idea of creating this association emerged at the French road cycling championships 2018, at a meeting with the UNCP, the union that represents male professional competitive cyclists, where the lack of recognition of women's cycling was noted, there being no true professional status for female riders.

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

The AFCC's aims

- To obtain just recognition of professional racing cyclist status for women
- To organise a number of international women's events in France, broadcast on television to reach the largest possible audience.
- To defend the rights associated with that recognition.
- To promote women's cycling, ensuring just representation for its members and developing solidarity and cohesion between them.
- To support all its members through any problems associated with their professional activities.

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 26% of national storage capacities. In 2020, the company generated revenues of €476 million and it has more than 660 employees.

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