

November 17, 2009

## Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey

### Press Release

#### Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey is now in the Champions League of World Cycling...

The Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey that is held by the Turkish Cycling Federation under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey and organized in compliance with the standards of the Cycling Tour of France since 2008 has become entitled to be upgraded to the 2.HC (Hors Category) that is considered as the Champions League of world cycling by the International Cycling Union (UCI) in its 46<sup>th</sup> year.

The Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey which was broadcasted live at Eurosport for a week, 2 hours a day last year and reached audiences in 123 countries in 24 different languages, has become a "trademark event" worldwide in which historical and touristic values of Turkey are given prominence as well as its sportive value.

In order to share this crucial development for the Turkish cycling and sport, the Turkish Cycling Federation organized a press conference on November 17, 2009, Tuesday at the Association of Turkish Sports Writers, Aydın Doğan Training Centre. President of the Turkish Cycling Federation and Chairman of the Organization Committee of the Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey Emin Müftüoğlu, Vice President of the Turkish Cycling Federation, Project Coordinator and Race Director Abdurrahman Açıkalın, Organization Director Aydın Ayhan Güney, Project Assistant Pınar Arpınar Avşar were among the participants of the conference. The Champion of the General Classification of the 45th Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey, South African cyclist Daryl Impey also participated in the conference and highlighted the importance attached by World Cycling to this Tour.

Faik Gürses who has become the Media Director of the organization as of 2010 and who has been following the Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey for 30 years and Murat Ağca who has become international Media Director of the Tour as of 2010 as well as TRT speaker Levent Özçelik who endeared cycling sport to many sports fan through his valuable comments supported the meeting with their participation...

"The Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey which is one of the oldest organizations of Turkish sport history has been organized in compliance with the standards of the Cycling Tour of France for the last two years with the proper management of our Federation. In April, for a week, 120 cyclists, 160 vehicles, 20 trucks, shooting crew consisting of 80 people, media army consisting of 70 foreign-local members, 1 aircraft, 2 helicopters and 8 motorcycled cameraman team, organization team consisting of 40 people and voluntary army consisting of 70 people vs. our convoy consisting of approximately 750 people are covering a distance of almost 1.300 kilometers. Thousands of audiences is coming to Start and Finish areas established in every stage and millions of people are able to watch this organization in front of their televisions live for two hours every day. For the first time in Turkey a



sport organization is broadcasted live at Eurosport for a week, 2 hours a day, total 14 hours in a week and is reaching audiences in 123 countries in 24 different languages. The Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey which we have been organized under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey since 2008 with the quality of our organization and its contribution to the promotion of Turkey, has become a 'trademark event' worldwide in which historical and touristic values of Turkey are given prominence as well as its sportive value. International Cycling Union (UCI) that has taken into consideration all these values, as a result of 2008 organization, has decided that the Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey to be included to 2.HC category that is considered as the Champions League of World Cycling. Our Tour was one of the 43 races worldwide in its category when it was under the category of 2.1. With its inclusion to the 2.HC, it has become one of the 17 races. This evaluation made by the World Cycling Union, will go down in history as the success of Turkish sport as well as Turkish cycling. I myself and my team mates here together will keep working continually for this organization, which we began by chasing a dream, to advance more. As our honourable President said in his speech that he made at the award ceremony of the 44th Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey in 2008: 'This is not just a sport, this activity is actually a very big event that promotes Turkey, this is a very exiting, huge work for Turkey. What can better promote Turkey than this!' And these remarks has become the best indication that every thing we can dream of can become real." said President of the Turkish Cycling Federation Emin Müftüoğlu in his speech.

#### **INFORMATION ABOUT 2010 STAGES AND THE TOUR**

The Tour which will be held on April 2010 in the category of 2.HC will be run in 1.252 km long track in 8 stages. 46<sup>th</sup> Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey where the most prestigious professional teams of the world and Turkish Cycling National Team will have a chance to race, will start on April 11, in Istanbul with Prolog stage and after the transference of the teams from Istanbul to Izmir via airline at the same day, will continue with the Kuşadası-Bodrum stage on April 12 and will end on April 18 with the completion of Bodrum-Marmaris, Marmaris-Pamukkale, Pamukkale-Fethiye, Fethiye-Finike, Finike-Antalya, Antalya-Alanya stages. For the first time in 2010, for the aim of increasing the degree of difficulty of the Tour, the roads which connect Pamukkale to Marmaris and Fethiye and where there are long climbings have been included to the Tour route.

While in the final stage, the sportsman who has the total best time will win the title and uniform (Turquoise Jersey) of the Leader of the General Classification, sportsmen who will score points by reaching first to the premium gates in every stage will win the titles and uniforms of the Best Climber (Red Jersey) and the Best Sprinter (Green Jersey). Sportsmen will also compete for the private award of Turkish Beauties according to their scores they gained at the premium gates placed on the course to emphasise our historical, cultural and natural heritage such as Ephesus, Aspendos, Demre, Ölüdeniz. Within the scope of the Tour, total 160.000 Euro prize money will also find its owners.

#### **RACE CATEGORIES IN ROAD CYCLING AND HC**

One day Road Cycling races will start with the code number "1." and tours with stages longer than one day will start with the code number "2." and the figure showing the race category is added next to this number. Because as the figure added to the right decreases, the race level is increasing; the scores won by rider will be higher in the score system. For example tours in the 2.1 category according to 2.2 means more scores for the rider. In addition, generally the competitive level and teams participated to the Tour, degree of difficulty of the track, distances covered are also

increasing. Race category is evaluated by the World Cycling Union (UCI) every year and can be increased to the upper categories parallel to the success of the organization.

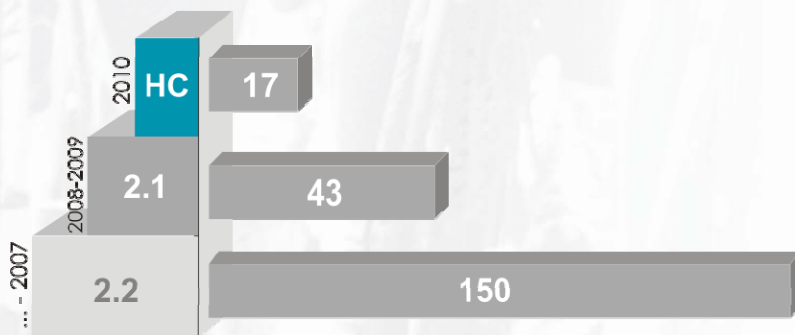
When analysed particularly for the Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey, the tour that was run in the category of 2.2 before 2008 being succeeded to take place among staged tours in the category of 2.1 for the last two years and finally being upgraded to 2.HC category, in other words to the Champions League of the World Cycling in 2010, is considered as the indication of the success of the organization.

Races in the class of 2.HC are defined as above categories and takes place in the subcategory of three big tours (Tour of France, Tour of Italy and Tour of Spain), known as Grand Tour. Tours in the category of 2.HC are described as tours which have long history, proved its organizational quality and prestigious.

46<sup>th</sup> Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey which has achieved to become one of the 17 tours in the 2.HC category in 2010 also has the characteristic of being the longest race in this category with its 8 stages.

#### ACCORDING TO CATEGORIES – TOTAL RACE NUMBERS (2009-2010 SEASON)

Race Category	Total Race Numbers Worldwide	Important Examples
ProTour	8	Tour de Romandie, Enoco Tour
Grand Tour	3	Tour de France, Giro de Italy, La Vuelta
Hors Category (2.HC)	17	Tour of California
2.1.	43	
2.2.	150	



Number of Races Worldwide According to Categories  
Category of the Presidential Tour of Turkey According to Years

**RACES IN 2.HC WORLDWIDE (2010 SEASON)**

Country	Name of the Race	Number of Stages	Start Date	Finish Date
MAS	Le Tour de Langkawi	7	01.03.2010	07.03.2010
FRA	Critérium International	2	27.03.2010	28.03.2010
BEL	KBC-Driedaagse De Panne-Koksijde	3	30.03.2010	01.04.2010
TUR	Presidential Cyling Tour of Turkey	8	11.04.2010	18.04.2010
USA	Tour de Georgia	6	20.04.2010	25.04.2010
FRA	4 Jours de Dunkerque/Tour du Nord-pas-de Calais	5	05.05.2010	09.05.2010
USA	Amgen Tour of California	8	16.05.2010	23.05.2010
GER	Bayern-Rundfahrt	5	26.05.2010	30.05.2010
BEL	Tour de Belgique	5	26.05.2010	30.05.2010
LUX	Skoda-Tour de Luxemburg	5	02.06.2010	06.06.2010
AUT	Int. Österreich-Rundfahrt-Tour of Austria	8	04.07.2010	11.07.2010
CHN	Tour of Qinghai Lake	10	16.07.2010	25.07.2010
BEL	Tour de Wallonie	5	24.07.2010	28.07.2010
ESP	Vuelta a Burgos	5	04.08.2010	08.08.2010
DEN	Post Denmark Rundt-Tour of Denmark	5	04.08.2010	08.08.2010
USA	Tour of Missouri	7	30.08.2010	05.09.2010
CHN	Tour of Hainan	9	11.11.2010	19.11.2010