

**Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey
March 22nd 2010
Press Release**

Turkish Cycling Federation has met with the Turkish Sports Media in Bodrum before the 46th Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey!..

Turkish Cycling Federation realized its traditional Media Tour which it organizes every year before the Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey on March 22nd 2010 in Bodrum.

Hosted by the President of the Turkish Cycling Federation Mr. Emin Müftüoğlu, through the coordination of Mr. Faik Gürses, Deputy Chairman of the Turkish Sports Writers Association, with the attendance of 50 press members from Istanbul, around 30 press members from Bodrum, the Vice President of Turkish Cycling Federation and the Race and Project Coordinator of Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey Mr. Abdurrahman Açıkalın and Deputy Director General of the Directorate General of Youth and Sports Mr. Mehmet Kocatepe, The Traditional Media Tour of The Cycling Federation started with the press conference with lunch and continued with the "Cycling Race Special for the Media" in Turgutreis in the afternoon.

The delegation consisting of Mr. Emin Müftüoğlu President of the Turkish Cycling Federation, Mr. Abdurrahman Açıkalın Vice President of Turkish Cycling Federation, Mr. Mehmet Kocatepe Deputy Director General of the Directorate General of Youth and Sports, Mr. Faik Gürses, Deputy Chairman of the Turkish Sports Writers Association and the members of the press visited the District Governor of Bodrum Mr. Feridun Özdemir, before the press conference with lunch and had a pleasant conversation prior to the TOUR.

President of the Turkish Cycling Federation Mr. Emin Müftüoğlu, Deputy Director General of the Directorate General of Youth and Sports Mr. Mehmet Kocatepe and Vice President of Turkish Cycling Federation Mr. Abdurrahman Açıkalın made a speech.

President of the Turkish Cycling Federation Mr. Emin Müftüoğlu, making the opening speech at the press conference with lunch started at Salmakis Resort Hotel at Bardakçı Bay stated that: "We have left another year behind us. We have continued our efforts to make a better organization than the previous one with more enthusiasm and we shall continue to do so... As a result of these efforts we are now in the Champions League of the World Cycling. Now our job is harder. We will start the 46th Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey, which is realized under the auspices of Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of The Republic of Turkey, and which is presenting the unique beauties that most probably cannot be found together in anywhere else in the world, on April 11th 2010, in Istanbul. I hereby would like to thank you once again for your attendance to this roadshow we organize every year. I thank Mr. Faruk Nafiz Özak, our State Minister responsible for Sports, Mr. Yunus Akgül, Director General of the Directorate General of Youth and Sports, the representatives of the Physical Training, our federation and the members of press who make great contribution to this organization. This year again, many famous "pedals" shall come to Turkey along with the reputable Clubs of Europe and they will race in a merciless contestation for 8 days. Turkish riders are also showing the success

anticipated from them, accelerating year by year. Since our young athletes gaining experience from the master riders they race with and mastering their skills and qualifications, are about to carry Turkish Cycling to the level it deserves. I would like to state that we are now very close to the desired success with our German Technical Director...”

The Amazing Success of Turkish Track Team in the Test Race in Switzerland...

At the press conference, Abdurrahman Açıkalın, Vice President of Turkish Cycling Federation and the Race and Project Coordinator of Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey shared a very important and new development for the future of the Turkish sports and cycling with the members of press. He has stated that; “Our efforts regarding the Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey are continuing at the highest speed. We will share all the developments and statements regarding the TOUR at the press conference which shall be held on April 1st 2010, in İstanbul, with you. We as the Turkish Cycling Federation would like to share another great honour of us today with you; last week, on March 18th 2010 Thursday, trainer Mutlu Erçevik and our track athletes, preparing for the 2012 London Olympic Games, Recep Önalın (20), Ahmet Örken (17), Mustafa Çarşı (18) and Semra Yetiş (23), have completed the 4 km Team Pursuing race made in the test ride in Aigle/ Switzerland, centre of the International Cycling Union (UCI), in 4 minutes 30 seconds. Our team consisting of 3 male and 1 female athlete and one trainer, which has started its trainings on January 11th 2010 for the first time, has reached a great success on a track they had never set foot on, in a very short period. The head trainer of UCI Training camp, Andy Sparks (the trainer of USA Team in 2008 Beijing Olympic Games) and the co-trainer Thomas Aallier, stated that this success in such a short period is very exciting and that they believe that the Turkish Team would make a much better score in the European Championship which shall be made in the last week of July, the first a qualification race ahead for Turkey. Andy Sparks and Thomas Aallier, comparing this degree which has been achieved despite the disadvantage of the team’s forming of 3 persons instead of 4 and consequently the fact that the changes had been made for some of the athletes in 2 tours and for some 1 tour due to the imbalance in of power among the team, with the world average, stated that; “The degrees of the teams that are going to be targeting for the 8th, 9th and 10th ranks shall differ between 4 minutes 10 seconds and 15 seconds. In this respect, this degree achieved by the Turkish Team as of today, is quite exiting for reaching the above mentioned degrees.”. Additionally, they have stated that the Trainer of our National Team, Mutlu Erçevik had overcame the language problem through his earnest endeavours in a very short time and that he is successfully continuing his study at the advanced training course, and that he is very successful in UCI and also in the continuance of the moral motivation of the national team. The Qualification period for London 2012 for the Track Cycling is between the dates March 1st 2010 – March 31st 2012. Accordingly, 12 qualification races in total shall be made including the European and World Championships within two years time. The first one of them is the European Track Championship which shall be made in Netherlands, between July 28th and August 1st 2010.”

The Traditional Media Tour of the Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey ended with the “Cycling Race Special for the Media” made in Turgutreis at 16.00 following press conference with lunch. Bodrum where the Turkish Media has gathered before the 46th Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey has applauded a colourful and enjoying race.