

Issy-les-Moulineaux, Tuesday 20th of February 2007

## **Paris-Nice: A.S.O. stands by its position**

With three weeks to go before "Paris-Nice", Patrice Clerc, President of A.S.O. and Pat McQuaid, President of the UCI have seen each other.

During this meeting that took place yesterday, the President of the UCI confirmed that the race would take place outside of the sporting frame of the UCI if A.S.O. refused to join the "UCI Pro-Tour" circuit, insisting on his will to impose this closed circuit with an economical vocation that A.S.O., as well as the organisers of the Giro and the Vuelta legitimately refuse to take part in since its creation.

Taking the position of the UCI into consideration and seeing the threat that is weighing on the organisation of the race, A.S.O. finds itself in the obligation of taking all the necessary measures allowing to safeguard an event that has a leading role in international cycling's heritage, and confirms that "Paris-Nice" will take place as planned from the 11th to the 18th of March 2007

In these exceptional circumstances, and wanting to guarantee the integrity and credibility of the event, A.S.O. will organise the race according to the French law and has therefore solicited the French Cycling Federation (FFC) in order to establish an agreement insuring in particular the respect of the technical regulation.

During these discussions, the President of A.S.O. once again asked for a meeting to be organised with all the main actors of professional cycling. It is indeed, according to him, the only way to consider a solution to this serious crisis born from a bad reform that the UCI has wanted to assess despite a necessary consensus.

A.S.O. deeply regrets that its demand has been turned down by the President of the UCI who intends to make of A.S.O. the only responsible of this crisis, while already in June 2006, the UCI had reduced to nothing the efforts of a work group that had yet found a common agreement in which it had contributed.