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PRESS RELEASE

Contrary to what its President recently stated, the International Cycling Union has not answered the ASO's legitimate expectations, for the future of the Tour de France and other events it organises.

These proposals would notably create a 'European' schedule for such well known and long standing events, which are Paris-Roubaix, Liège-Bastogne-Liège, Paris-Nice, Paris-Tours and La Flèche Wallonne, which have always been included on the world calendar

Additionally, the Tour de France would be forced to follow the participation rules of the "Pro Tour" and would be forced to use this closed system the A.S.O. is not in agreement with.

The A.S.O. deems these proposals to be harmful and unacceptable for the concerned events and more in general for the interest of cycling.

Noting the failure of negotiations and, once again, the refusal of the UCI to listen to the legitimate demands of the major events and preoccupied by the situation this has created, A.S.O. has turned to the French Cycling Federation and the Royal Belgian Cycling Federation in asking them to help preserve the future of these cycling 'Classics'.

In addition, A.S.O. hopes that the meeting to be held in Paris next October 22 and 23, organised by the French Minister of Health and Sport, will make it possible to develop an efficient action plan, along with all those involved in professional cycling and in a framework assuring the largest objectivity and impartialness required, to end the practice, that until recently has tarnished the image of this magnificent sport and its champions.