



A.S.O. RELEASE

On several occasions, ARD has asked the organisers of the Tour de France to take all the appropriate measures to fight against doping.

For several years, the organisers of the Tour de France have focused on conducting a merciless battle against doping. The last edition of the Tour was controlled by the Agence Française de Lutte contre le Dopage (AFLD, French Anti Doping Agency), an independant organisation.

7 riders were convinced of doping and were excluded from the cycling packs. Pierre Bordry, President of the AFLD declared to the AFP on the 14th of October : “the big majority was not doped”.

ARD asks us to fight against doping but is offended when we find guilty riders. We should look and not find. We regret the withdrawal of ARD, thinking of the hundreds of thousands of Germans that welcome the Tour each time it crosses the Rhine River.

By its decision, ARD could unfortunately urge those who fight against doping to stop the battle just to insure a broadcast. Whatever happens, the 2009 Tour will be broadcasted in Germany: ZDF that hasn't taken a decision is currently studying the consequences of ARD's withdrawal and the German viewers will be able to follow the Tour on Eurosport.