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**Changes Olympic Track program**

***Royal Belgian Cycling Federation (RLVB) requests UCI for time to reconsider the drastic changes in the Olympic track program***

As a result of the changes which are foreseen in the Olympic Track program, Laurent De Backer, president of the RLVB, has written a letter to Pat McQuaid, UCI president, in order to transmit his anxiety regarding the future of track cycling.

The RLVB certainly agrees that one must remain open minded for renewing, however, she does not agree with the unilateral changes proposed neither the method which has been used.

Concerning the method which has been used, it is remarkable that:

- the track commission hasn't been involved in this project, neither been requested for its advise;
- apparently such a fundamental change isn't considered important enough to be presented to the congress, held the 25<sup>th</sup> of September in Lugano;
- in contrast to the previous change, the national federations weren't asked for their opinion;

Concerning the changes themselves (the dropping of the Madison, the individual pursuit and the points race, and their replacement by an Omnium), these are generating probably the death of track cycling actions in many countries and go against the nature from our sport and the Olympic principals:

- Precisely the disciplines where individual talent and less developed cycling nations have the possibility to qualify and make results, are canceled;
- The number of countries that thus could qualify and have opportunities for winning a place of honour is decimated;
- Furthermore they are the most democratic disciplines which don't require the investment in terms of technology and frame work who perish;
- One stick on the contrary to high technological events such as the Olympic sprint, where only a handful of countries have the resources for;
- The democratic character of track cycling is here finally set aside;
- One is choosing for these disciplines for which only a limited circle of rich countries have sufficient resources and riders;
- The 'Madison' has been named after the Madison Square Garden, one of the first velodromes in the world, by which the sport of cycling deliberately rejects a part of its legacy;

- With the Omnium, a for the audience boring discipline comes in place. Therefore it's perhaps already the ideal event to be replaced in 2016 for Freestyle BMX;
- The track program becomes then a sprint program, just as if in the athletics one would reject all the events above 800 meter. It's hardly possible to reject more the history and legacy from its own sport. The dropped disciplines as the Madison, the individual pursuit and the points race have no future anymore. Not one NF neither NOC will still wish to invest herein ;
- Only a specific sprint program can look more interesting to some TV companies then the current World Cup formula, but it goes against the nature, history and wealth of the sport.

However there are alternatives. The RLVB took the liberty to check if there are possible alternatives that will keep accessible track cycling for all countries and individual talents. You can find these in annex.

The RLVB doesn't want to unload unfounded criticism, but it makes a sincere call to study the change with more detail before making it final, it wants also to bring up the possibility to study alternatives and to work in phases (both in 2012 and 2016) instead of making decisions with rush and without any consultation.

For further informations, please contact:

**Jos Smets**  
Director of Sports  
☎ 0475/64.09.08

**Tom Van Damme**  
Secretary KBWB  
☎ 0497/58.46.70