



www.ecf.com

ECF Cycling in Europe



European Cyclists' Federation



Supported by the European Commission

Dear friends of the cyclists

Millions of citizens in Europe happily promote their daily health, promote jobs in regions of cycle tourism, promote the bicycle industry and business, promote and preserve the environment and resources and offer solutions to improve the quality of life in towns, by the simple fact that they ride a bike.

Therefore the European citizens have **rights!**

In ECF the 450,000 members of national cyclist organisations and bicycle initiatives have united to enforce this at the European level.

Our success is in the interest of all people in Europe.

Horst Hahn-Klößner

President European Cyclists' Federation



The ECF Annual General Meeting 2003, Cecilienhof, Potsdam, Germany

- The right to be able to ride a bike safely and without danger to health or life.
- The right to have sufficient room and good facilities for cycling in the road space available.
- The right to regional, national and trans-European cycle touring routes.
- The right to be able to cross European borders unhindered with the help of the European railways.
- The right to sufficient parking facilities for bicycles and protection from bicycle theft.
- The right to bicycles that are safe and reliable in operation.
- The right to be taken seriously in politics, by the administration and by the public.



Supporting member groups

The **ECF** continually supports its member groups through the common internet forum www.ecf.com, the activities of the management office@ecf.com the exchange of experiences and know-how, through correspondence, the distribution of printed and electronic information and through periodical meetings. The **ECF** focuses on cyclist activities without borders in Europe.

Mentor programme

In the mentor programme the established cycling clubs with more experience and larger membership help the new organisations with know-how, information and other forms of assistance.



Bike festival in
Belgrade.
April 2003

Road safety

Blind spot mirrors campaign. Stop dangerous lorries!

Every year in Europe several hundred cyclists are killed under the wheels of heavy lorries. Even more cyclists are seriously injured, all by the so-called 'blind angle' of heavy lorries. The European Cyclists' Federation (**ECF**) working together with the Dutch cyclist organisation and its sister organisations, are asking the European Union to use its power to improve the safety of lorries.

General speed limit of 30 km/h in built-up areas

A lower general speed encourages walking and cycling, and thus supports an active and healthy lifestyle. The **ECF** strongly recommends the introduction of 30 km/h as a general speed limit for all built-up areas.

Compulsory helmets – ECF is strongly opposed to mandatory helmet laws.

The **ECF** is not opposed to the wearing of cycle helmets but firmly believes that this should be the individual decision of each cyclist. Countries which have the highest bicycle usage and the lowest accidents per kilometre cycled have invariably chosen to promote active road safety, rather than passive protection of the individual cyclist through the use of helmets.



Health

Cycling has, thanks to the physical exercise, huge positive health effects on the user. These effects far outweigh the safety hazards. The World Health Organization WHO for this reason supports the promotion of cycling and walking. ECF has pushed hard on the European Commission and is happy to see that the European Commission considers the promotion of a healthy lifestyle via physical activity as an objective taken up at European level, even if the concrete actions will be taken at national level.

Cycling to work, Cycling to school

Cycling to work is considered in its economic and political context. Companies encouraging their workforce to commute by bicycle will benefit from reduced parking space requirements, improved image and reduced sick leave among cycling employees.

Cycling is an ideal transport form for young people. The European Cyclists' Federation strongly supports the campaigns and projects like: "Safe ways to school", "Sykle til jobben – on the bike to the job", "Vi sykler til arbejdet – We cycle to the work" and "ABC – All Children cycle", among others.

EuroVelo® Bike Routes

EuroVelo® is a project to develop 12 long-distance international cycle routes spanning Europe. The network will be used for cycling holidays as well as local journeys and will provide a safe, healthy and environmentally friendly alternative to the motor car. EuroVelo® was initiated by the European Cyclists' Federation in 1995 and is being developed by a partnership of its organisations representing most countries in Europe, coordinated by the ECF and its member organizations. EuroVelo® is already happening. Many sections are in place and the project is riding on a pro-cycling momentum across the whole continent. The ECF member groups already do the signposting, connected with inaugural festivities in several countries.

www.eurovelo.org

EuroVelo®, Route
No 11. Signposting
festival in Hungary



Bike and train

Bicycle transport in high-speed trains

Transportation of bicycles around Europe is increasingly hampered. Bicycles are now banned from most high-speed trains. The **ECF** calls for a bicycle transport service as part of the minimum railway service package. This paper examines the objections to setting up such a service and places bicycle transport on international trains in a wider, sustainable as well as an economic perspective. **ECF** compares the bike-and-train opportunities in the European countries and lobbies for an equal standard on a high level.

www.ecf.com/publications/index.htm

Events

Green Week

Green Week is about bringing people together to debate, as a follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the key environmental issues of sustainable consumption and production, renewable energy & climate change and water.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/greenweek/index_en.htm

Mobility Week

The European Mobility Week will consist of a whole week of awareness raising events all over Europe that will focus on various aspects of sustainable mobility. Its aim is to make European citizens aware of the damage that current mobility trends inflict on their local environment and of the possible alternatives to individual car use.

www.mobilityweek-europe.org/

Bypad

BYPAD combines knowledge about cycling strategies with the existing knowledge in the field of auditing. The local cycling policy is screened by an audit scheme which is derived from a quality management model applied in the business sector.

www.bypad.org



Europe by Bike

With this publication including illustrations and contact addresses the European Cyclists' Federation would like to give cyclists some appetizers about different countries, regions and cross-border long-distance cycle routes on the continent.

www.ecf.com/activities/index.htm



www.ecf.com

Our home page is your home page. Daily news and exchange of information on bicycle topics all over Europe and the world. A platform for member groups and activists. A collection of publications on cycling.

www.ecf.com

Velo-city Conferences®

Velo-city and Velo-regio conferences are ECF products developed in partnership with host cities and organisations. Since the mid-1980s the Velo-city Conference® has moved from city to city around the world. If you want to get the best information on how to promote cycling, or if you want to improve your network of bicycle advocacy friends these conferences are the ones to attend.

www.ecf.com/networks/index.htm

Cities for Cyclists

The European Cyclists' Federation has formed a network of bicycle friendly cities. The aim is to exchange information and encourage each other to improve conditions for cyclists.

www.cities-for-cyclists.org/

Facts about cycling in Europe • Facts about cycling in Europe

- The bicycle is used for more than 100 million journeys each day in Europe (EU: 80 million journeys).
- Each year 100 billion kilometres (100,000,000,000) are cycled in Europe (EU: 75 billion).
- Around 300 million bicycles – more than the number of cars – are to be found in Europe (EU: 200 million bicycles).
- On average each citizen in Europe makes 50 cycle journeys and cycles 125 km per year (EU: 75 journeys and 200 km).
- The figure of bicycle ownership in Europe is 350 per 1,000 inhabitants (EU 500 per 1,000). 15 million bicycles are sold in the EU each year.
- The major part of bicycle trips are for utilitarian purposes: work, school, shopping, visits, services. On average a bicycle journey is 2.5 km. In areas with high levels of cycling 50% of the commuting journeys between home and work are at least 5 km.
- The bicycle is also popular as a means for recreation. In Germany two million people went on bicycle holidays in 2002, using amongst other premises 3,300 "Bed and Bike" certified accommodations. With equally good conditions all over Europe this would correspond to 19 million people on bicycle holidays each year – and 30,000 places offering special services for cycling tourists.



Our members • Our members • Our members • Our members •

- 1 Austria — Argus | VCÖ
 - 2 Belgium — AEVV - EGWA | GRACQ_asbl
Fietsersbond vzw
Pro Velo | T & E
 - 3 Croatia — Udruga BICIKL
 - 4 Czech Republic — Czech and Slovak
Traffic Club
 - 5 Denmark — DCF | De Frie Fugle
 - 6 Finland — HePo
 - 7 France — AF3V | FUBicy | MDB
 - 8 Germany — ADFC
 - 9 Greece — Filoi tou podèlatou
 - 10 Hungary — KEROSZ
 - 11 Ireland — Dublin Cycling Campaign
 - 12 Italy — FIAB
 - 13 Luxembourg — LVI
 - 14 Malta — Cycling Touring Club Malta
 - 15 The Netherlands — I-ce | Fietsersbond | FIS
 - 16 Norway — SLF
 - 17 Portugal — FPCUB
 - 18 Romania — CCN
 - 19 Serbia and Montenegro — YCC
 - 20 Slovakia — Slovensky Cykloklub
 - 21 Slovenia — SKM
 - 22 Spain — A Contramano | CCUB
PEDALIBRE
 - 23 Sweden — Cykelfrämjandet
 - 24 Switzerland — Ig Velo | VCS / ATE
 - 25 United Kingdom — CCN | CTC | SUSTRANS
-
- 26 Australia — Bicycle Federation of Australia
 - 27 Canada — Velo Québec
 - 28 Japan — Japan Bicycle Promotion Institute

