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**REVISION OF THE CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION
ON ROAD SIGNS AND SIGNALS (RE.2)**

Signing for cycle routes

Note by the secretariat

Members of WP.1 will find below the text of a draft recommendation on signing for cycle routes entitled "EuroVelo routes" transmitted by the European Cyclists Federation (ECF) in partnership with the Cycling in Switzerland Foundation. This document has been submitted for discussion at the next session of WP.1.

Introduction

The past 20 years have seen immense growth in both national and international cycling tourism, which has developed into an economically important branch of tourism. At the same time, all the experts consider that European cycling tourist traffic has a high growth potential and provides promising opportunities for the future.

In order to take advantage of this sustainable potential, a growing number of international cycling routes, known as EuroVelo routes, are increasingly being signposted in several countries, notably within the framework of European Union InterReg projects. This effective driving force for the promotion of cycling tourism in Europe will further stimulate demand for such routes, which should be signposted in a manner that can be understood by national and international guests. This therefore requires a minimum of coordination of signposting throughout Europe.

Within the scope of the InterReg IIIB project “EuroVelo 6: Atlantic - Black Sea”, the Cycling in Switzerland Foundation, in partnership with the European Cyclists Federation (ECF), is responsible for drafting a proposal to signpost EuroVelo Route 6. The draft proposal for this project is potentially applicable to other planned EuroVelo routes.

The Cycling in Switzerland Foundation and ECF carried out a preliminary survey in December 2005 to verify whether the proposal for signposting the EuroVelo Route 6 could be extended to all EuroVelo routes. The questionnaire was thus sent to the relevant members of WP.1 and ECF.

The results were encouraging: the proposals were widely accepted by most members of WP.1 and ECF, and there was very clear endorsement for European harmonization of EuroVelo route signing.

Given this favourable opinion, ECF and the Cycling in Switzerland Foundation have prepared a draft recommendation on the signing of EuroVelo routes for the consideration of WP.1. The draft appears below.

Proposal

In order to identify EuroVelo routes, of which there are currently 12 as indicated on the map in Annex 3, it is proposed to introduce an easily recognizable information panel. This is based on a signing element already used in a number of European countries to signpost tourist cycling routes (see Annex 2). Countries without a similar route information panel for cyclists in their system should be able to integrate it easily into their existing cycling signalization. This route information panel, if formalized by WP.1, would thus become a “European element”. EuroVelo routes could thus be integrated into the cycling signing of European countries in a clear, economic and effective manner. The colour and shape of signposts specific to individual countries will naturally remain unchanged.

The route information panel (see Annex 1) contains three obligatory and two optional information elements addressed to the public that can easily be incorporated into legislation without the need to refer to a design office.

Obligatory elements:

- Council of Europe colours: Display a European aspect
- Council of Europe stars: Display a European aspect
- Route numbers: Essential quick route identification (signposts clearly legible from a distance)

Optional elements:

- Route names: Important basic information
- Address for initial information via Internet: Important basic information

Additionally, the proposed route information panel for EuroVelo routes can be easily combined with existing route information, as shown by the examples in Annex 2 for countries that have already introduced this information panel. For most of their length, the majority of EuroVelo routes follow routes already signposted for cyclists.

A solution that lacks the potential for combination with existing route information panels is unlikely to be viable as it will not be flexible and cost-efficient.

Annex 1

ROUTE INFORMATION PANEL

First priority, route information panel

Basic version



Version with route name



Version with route name
and Internet addresses



Second priority, combined route information panel

Basic version



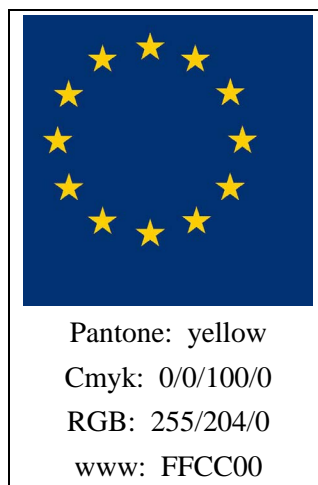
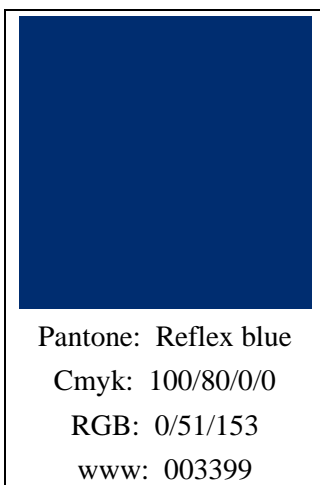
Version with route name



Version with route name and Internet address



Colours, lettering



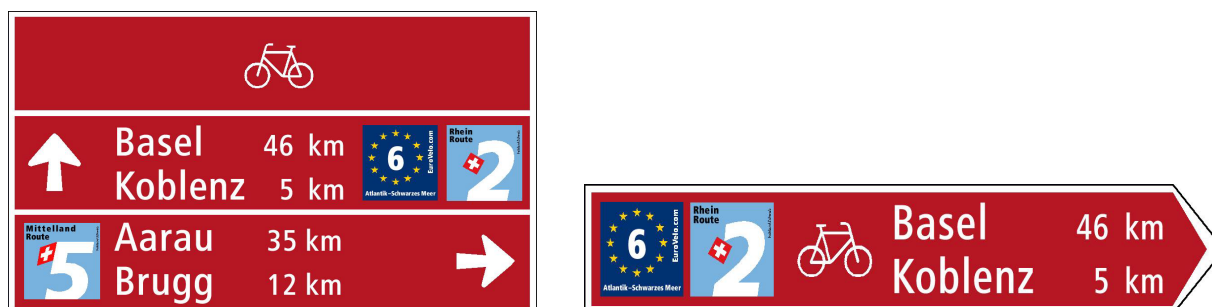
Annex 2

Examples illustrating the signposting of EuroVelo Route 6 in France, Switzerland and Germany

France



Switzerland



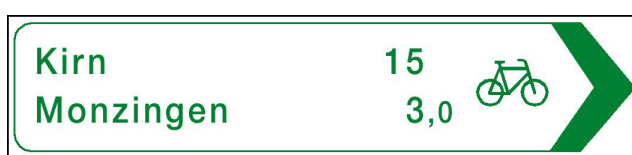
Germany



Examples of route information panels for cyclists currently used in Europe
(non-exhaustive)



Denmark



Germany



United Kingdom



Switzerland



Austria

Annex 3

Map showing the 12 EuroVelo routes

