



## **Gilberto Simoni will participate in the Mountain Bike UCI World Cup Gran Canaria**

*Saunier Duval-Prodir's biker, winner of the Giro (in 2001 and 2003), contemplates a move to the discipline of Mountain Bike after the Italian event.*

The Italian cyclist Gilberto Simoni twice winner in the Giro of Italy (2001 and 2003), which is one of the three big tours of the international cycling calendar, has confirmed his participation in the Mountain Bike World Cup, which will take place in Maspalomas (Gran Canaria) on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Simoni's intention is to participate in all the events of the World Cup, including Gran Canaria. "The mountain bike motivates me a lot, and taking part in the Marathon World Cup is a challenge", Simoni has stated in the media. In fact, it seems probably that the 35year old Italian will make the move over to mountain biking after the 2007 Giro.

Simoni is training hard to win this year's Giro de Italia. So indeed his presence in Gran Canaria reinforces the cast of international top level athletes, which will compete in this hard 90 km Marathon event on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

As well as the immense sports value of this event promoted by the UCI, the World Cup race also has benefit of illustrating the island of Gran Canaria as a more complete and important destination than only as a traditional sun and beach location.

Both the autonomous council of Gran Canaria and the promoting companies of the event, DG Eventos and Last Lap, with the inestimable collaboration of the UCI, which has contributed its organizational structure, will ensure the event has all the available means to achieve the sports, organizing and participative goals.

For that, they have prepared a complete activities week to support the Mountain Bike World Cup so that everybody can enjoy the sport of cycling.