



Press Release COLIBI

For immediate release
Brussels, 31 October 2006

COLIBI welcomes Bulgarian member

At their General Assembly of 24 October 2006, the COLIBI members unanimously accepted the Association of the Bicycle Producers in Bulgaria (ABPB) as new member.

ABPB is a non-profit, non governmental association, established in compliance with the Bulgarian law in 2004. The Bulgarian association unites and represents the interests of six bicycle producers in Bulgaria: Balkan Velo Ad (Lovech), Cross Ltd (Montana), Leader-96 Ltd (Plovdiv), Maxcom Ltd (Plovdiv), Robifir Bike Ltd (Blagoevgrad) and Velomania Ltd (Sofia). These are entirely Bulgarian legal entities. There are no Asian, American, European, etc. shares and/or foreign investments in this Bulgarian sector of industry so far.

In 2005, the members of the ABPB exported about 340,000 bicycles. Bulgarian bicycle production was set at 435,180 units.

Mr Dragomir Kouzov, President of the ABPB: *“thanks to the active co-operation and transparent dialogue with COLIBI and the COLIBI members, we applied for full COLIBI membership in view of the increased importance of cycling in Europe and the forthcoming Bulgarian membership to the EU (1st of January 2007). The ABPB is supported in this process by the Bulgarian Ministry of Economy and Energy and the Bulgarian Customs Agency”*.

Enclosure: Photo of Mr Dragomir Kouzov – President of the ABPB

COLIBI (°1973) represents the European bicycle industry. Its members are the national bicycle associations in 11 European countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.