

## A tandem for the union

# 15 700 miles



# with all their heart

A couple from Annecy-le-vieux (near the Mont-Blanc mountain in France) is about to ride their tandem across the European Union, including its most recent members.



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### A year of adventure.

A year full of adventure to cover 25000 km (17500 miles) in 25 different countries and share the experience with junior-high and high-school students from the Rhône-Alpes region.

“We realize how hard it’s going to be; but it’s been our dream for 30 years!” say Nelly and Francis Arbogast clear-mindedly.

This couple from Annecy, close to their fifties, is about to take up an amazing challenge: they have a year to ride their tandem across the 25 countries of the European union. A 25000 km trip with one goal: spread the European motto: “Unity within diversity”.

“we don’t see it as a physical achievement but as a humane adventure” they explain a few months away from their departure. Indeed, they are not doing it just for fun. Nelly and Francis want to share their adventure with junior high and high school students from Rhône-Alpes.

“We’ll serve as a link between the students and the countries we’ll ride across. We’ll make them discover the neighboring countries”.

They leave on September 12<sup>th</sup>, the day of the fair and bicycle race in Annecy-le-vieux. They will go east and will cross the southern countries of Europe in Winter. They will go northward as summer comes. They intend to cover 65 miles a day, which means 6 hours on their tandem per day, and they will be doing this 5 days a week. From the dry hills of Spain to the lonely, icy landscapes of Scandinavia, adventure is just round the corner! Some of us will luckily be able to follow them...from their cozy armchairs...

### A humane adventure

Loaded with cameras, phones and computers, Nelly and Francis will stay in touch with European students. They will regularly update their website so that everyone can discover Europe and its unlimited diversity almost day by day.

Put Europe at hand... thanks to a humane experience: this could be their motto.

NUMBERS
25 countries
455 million people
21 languages
14 currencies
25 capitals
25000 km (17500 miles)
a full year
an 12-foot convoy

### 2 experienced cyclists

The Arbogasts are no beginners. They have been riding their tandem across France since 1977 and have ridden around Corsica, Brittany, France and Denmark.

Our two travel-lovers have also visited some 20 different countries. As far as their professional lives are concerned, Nelly oversees construction sites for a real estate developer, and Francis is a human resources administrator as well as **a coach for teachers. He is also a professional sport film producer.**

### Francis: in front, Nelly: behind

“One tandem for one union” is a real convoy. Francis will be riding in front and Nelly behind and they will carry a 150 liter trailer: 11 feet hand in hand. Their trailer will hold their clothes, documents, dishes, camping equipment... but also a video camera, a digital camera, a laptop computer and an international cell-phone: all rechargeable thanks to soft solar panels secured to the trailer. This equipment will also allow them to update their website: [www.tandemunion.com](http://www.tandemunion.com)

### Support and sponsors

Nelly and Francis Arbogast have strong supporters: French navigator Loick Peyron, Organ player Brice Montagnoux, artistic director Jean-Pierre Kehlif, and mountain-bike world champion Eric Baronne. Others, like Michel Barnier, a European deputy and former minister of Foreign affairs also **bring their support.**

The towns of Annecy-le-vieux and Annecy are also involved and **want it to be of some benefit to their students.**

Finally, the media (TV and written press) as well as major French firms are involved in this adventure.

Sandy or Jagged coasts, high mountains, volcanoes, open country, forests...diversity will not be cultural only. Nelly and Francis' tour will lead them through the following countries (in chronological order) and 25000 km (17500 miles).	
France	295 miles September 04
Germany	430 miles September 04
Czech Republic	450 miles October 04
Slovakia	190 miles October 04
Hungaria	115 miles October 04
Austria	240 miles October 04
Slovenia	225 miles October 04
Italy	730 miles November 04
Greece	670 miles November 04
Cyprus	155 miles December 04
Malta	125 miles December 04
Sicily	230 miles December 04
Sardinia	205 miles December 04
Corsica	200 miles December 04
France	350 miles December 04
Spain	1240 miles January 05
Portugal	625 miles January 05
Spain	660 miles February 05
France	895 miles March 05
Belgium	300 miles March 05
Netherlands	370 miles March 05
UK	515 miles April 05
Ireland	440 miles April 05
UK	490 miles April 05
Denmark	520 miles May 05
Sweden	1215 miles June 05
Finland	475 miles June 05
Estonia	220 miles June 05
Leetonia	240 miles June 05
Lithuania	275 miles June 05
Poland	700 miles July 05
Germany	765 miles July 05
Luxemburg	115 miles August 05
France	690 miles August 05