



Communiqué de presse – Mardi 18 août 2020

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## Le 61e Rallye International du Valais reporté à 2021

Le 61e Rallye International du Valais, prévu du 15 au 17 octobre 2020, n'aura pas lieu. Après avoir étudié de nombreux scénarios, parmi lesquels celui d'une *version light* baptisée « *Covid-Edition* » assortie d'un strict concept sanitaire et sans l'occupation du site des Casernes de Sion, le Comité d'Organisation a décidé, au vu de la situation sanitaire et des mesures de restriction édictées par le Conseil Fédéral, de reporter l'événement au mois d'octobre 2021.

Le Coronavirus engendre une situation exceptionnelle dans le monde, en Suisse et en Valais. Suivant les restrictions édictées par Le Conseil fédéral, et tenant compte du fait que le Rallye n'aurait pas pu occuper le site des Casernes de Sion pour des raisons sanitaires et d'occupation militaire liée aux mesures COVID, le Comité d'Organisation doit se résoudre à reporter l'édition prévue en 2020. Une décision qui fait date dans l'Histoire du « Valais », dans le cœur de nos commissaires, bénévoles et celui des passionné-es de rallye suisses et valaisans, de même que pour tous les pilotes, équipages et partenaires concernés.

Dans la pesée d'intérêts, plusieurs points ont fait pencher la balance :

- Dans le scénario d'une *version light*, le site des Casernes de Sion n'aurait pas pu être utilisé. Traditionnel centre névralgique regroupant les assistances, les bureaux de course, le centre de presse, la zone des bénévoles, le public et les VIPs (12'000 personnes sur 2 jours), c'est aussi là que se déroulent animations et démonstrations, et trois des spéciales au programme.
- L'incertitude permanente, avant comme pendant la course, de devoir à tout moment interrompre l'édition si un cas positif venait à se déclarer directement dans

un équipage, dans l'entourage sécuritaire de la manifestation (PCI, pompiers, médecin, infirmerie, etc.), parmi la Direction de course ou nos partenaires et bénévoles, etc ; et de voir certains de nos publics mis en quarantaine en cas d'événement sanitaire avéré.

- Le risque éthique que de déplacer des équipages suisses et étrangers (quelques 70 engagés à ce jour) sans pouvoir garantir un déroulement sportif optimal, et celui de ne pouvoir proposer une fête du Rallye aux milliers de fans suisses et valaisans, la *version light* ne prévoyant que 3 zones publiques strictement limitées et contrôlées.
- Enfin, le risque financier encouru par l'organisateur en fonction de tous les engagements à réaliser pour la tenue de la manifestation et de la compétition.

Dans ces conditions, le Comité d'Organisation a pris la décision de diriger toute son énergie pour faire rouler le « Valais » en 2021 : **du 21 au 23 octobre 2021 !**

M. Cédric Borboën se tient à votre disposition pour tout complément d'information.

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## 61st Rallye International du Valais postponed to 2021

**Sadly, the 61st Rallye International du Valais will not take place this year on 15–17 October as planned. After considering several scenarios, including a scaled-back version of the event known as the ‘Covid Edition’, combined with stringent public health measures and not using the Casernes de Sion site, the Organisation Committee has decided to move the competition to October 2021 due to the current pandemic and the preventative measures imposed by the Swiss Federal Council.**

Coronavirus continues to cause unprecedented disruption in Valais, Switzerland and the rest of the world. Following the restrictions imposed by the Swiss Federal Council, and taking into account the fact that the Rally cannot be held at the Casernes de Sion site due to health reasons and the barracks being occupied by the Swiss army under COVID-19 measures, the Organisation Committee has made the difficult decision to postpone the 2020 edition. It is the first time in history that ‘Le Valais’ has been postponed and this is a huge disappointment for our officials and volunteers, for all the drivers, crew members and partners involved, and, of course, for rally fans across the canton and the rest of the country.

The decision was taken after careful consideration of a number of factors:

- The Casernes de Sion site cannot be used for the Rally in the scaled-back version of the competition. This site is traditionally the nerve centre of the event, and contains the service park, rally offices, media centre, volunteers’ zone and spectators and VIPs (12,000 people over two days). It is also the location for various entertainment and demonstrations as well as three of the programme's special stages.
- The ongoing uncertainty, both before and during the competition, of having to stop the event at any moment if a crew member or one of our security and medical team members (Swiss civil protection service, fire service, doctor, nurse, etc.), officials, partners or volunteers tests positive for COVID-19, and of putting our spectators at risk of quarantine in the event of a confirmed case.

- The ethical risk of having Swiss and international crews travel to the event (approximately 70 crews are involved on the day) without being able to guarantee the best possible conditions for the competition, and of not being able to hold fun and safe celebrations for the thousands of fans from Valais and the rest of Switzerland, as the scaled-back version only allows for three public areas with strictly limited and controlled access.
- Lastly, the financial risk incurred by the organiser of fulfilling all the obligations required to hold the event and competition.

Under such circumstances, the Organisation Committee has decided to devote their efforts to next year's 'Le Valais', **from 21 to 23 October 2021!**

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Cédric Borboën should you require further information.

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## About the organisation and event

The Rallye International du Valais is a two-day competition held every autumn in Valais. It consists of a modern rally, and since 2017, a historic rally, which both cover the same route, mainly on asphalt roads.

Launched in September 1960 and originally known as the 'Rallye du Vin' or 'Wine Rally', the Rallye International du Valais is now an international motorsports event that offers stunning views from its setting in the Valais Alps. Since 1 January 2017, the Association du Rallye du Valais – the event organiser – has granted Martigny-based Global Events Sàrl the role of coordinating and organising part of the event.

The Rallye International du Valais attracts around one hundred crews and more than one thousand volunteers. The Association du Rallye du Valais is committed to leveraging the competition to promote the Valais region beyond its local and national borders. Our regional partners therefore play an instrumental role and the Rallye International du Valais contributes nearly CHF 950,000 to the local economy every year.

The Business Premium Club brand created by Global Events offers spectators the wonderful opportunity to experience the Rallye International du Valais through different exclusive VIP packages.

The Casernes de Sion site has been the nerve centre of the Rallye International du Valais for over three years. Over the two-day competition, it brings together all of the Rally's infrastructures, including the service park, rally offices (FIA, officials, trackside performance analysis, GPS management), media centre and volunteers' zone, as well as the ten thousand spectators and one thousand VIPs.

It is also home to the Rally Village, which offers a wide range of entertainment and demonstrations, including the Rally Motor Show Emotion, a kids zone, shakedown stages, three special stages and partner exhibitions, as well as various food trucks, the VIP Business Premium Club zone and the Air Glaciers helipad for flights included in the exclusive VIP Packages.

The 61st Rallye International du Valais should have included the following stages:

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Modern Rally:   | FIA ERT Alps Rally Trophy       |
|                 | Swiss Rally Championship        |
|                 | Swiss Rally Cup                 |
|                 | Junior Swiss Rally Championship |
|                 | Clio R3T Alps Trophy            |
|                 | Swiss Michelin Trophy           |
| Historic Rally: | FIA Historic Rally Championship |
|                 | Swiss Historic Rally Cup        |