

**Jiří Běhounek**

President

Žižkova 57, 587 33 Jihlava, Czech Republic

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I was very happy to hear that the Merida Biking Team civic association has decided to candidate to hold the 2016 Mountain Bike World Cup. I am pleased to see that mountain biking has developed into a top sporting event with a similar tradition that cross-country skiing and biathlon already enjoy in our region.

I believe that the 2011 through 2013 editions helped to convince the international biking community that the Vysočina Region can provide everything needed for top sports performance.

I also firmly believe that the World Cup will attract sports fans from all over Europe who will discover the cycling opportunities that our region has to offer. I am looking forward to welcoming the world's best mountain bikers to Vysočina in 2016.

MUDr. Jiří Běhounek
President of the Vysočina Region

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