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## BIG's News Letter 2006\_06 (English Version)

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### Introduction:

As some people sing: It's the most wonderful time of the year. I think we, as cyclo-climbers, do not agree on that! We prefer the time when there is more light and even higher temperatures that allow us to cycle in shorts. But for the family it is good to be able to catch up with us and listen to all the heroic stories of the mountains and BIGs that we conquered. By the time they get sick and tired of our exaggerations the climate must have improved enough so we can go out again. So, though cyclo-climbing is our main task, you now are advised to spend some quality time with your families. And for the dull moments we have prepared this long and important newsletter so you can still enjoy the cyclo-climbing but this time from a lazy chair and while enjoying a good drink. Cheers!

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### 1. BIG news.

#### a) CLAIMS 2006 : A NEW RECORD

Imagine, I was so proud that I cycled 21 BIGs this year. I almost doubled the amount of BIGs I already had. I was even in the top 25 for a short while. But there are always people who can do better. The most impressive one for this year:

It's **Olivier Dupeyroux** from Paris and GIO manager for France. He has set a new record even after the 100 BIGs cycled by Etienne Mayeur in 1994, Olivier has conquered **126 BIGs in 2006!**

How is it possible, do you think ?

Of course, there are in this listing, many short BIGs, all in the same region (like in Bretagne, Belgium or low mountains areas in France), but he also took advantage of the fantastic sunny weather during his holidays in Spain and Switzerland. You can have a look in his personal website and in the claims' pages of our official BIG website.

Here is the top 5:

- |    |                      |          |
|----|----------------------|----------|
| 1. | DUPEYROUX Olivier,   | 126 BIGs |
| 2. | VAN AMEIJDEN Richard | 78 BIGs  |
| 3. | KLEIJNENBURG Pim     | 75 BIGs  |
| 4. | LUCAS Eric           | 73 BIGs  |
| 5. | SPEED Kevin          | 73 BIGs  |

Congratulations to all of them and also, to all the members having claimed at least 1 BIG during this year 2006. We all come inside our own legend.

If you want to look at Olivier's claims then you can visit his website at:  
<http://panneauxcols.free.fr/>

**b) TRENTO RENDEZVOUS 2007**

Just like it was announced, the only BIG rendezvous in 2007 will take place at **Trento** in northern Italy in good company with our friend of the the UIC (Unione Internazionale dei cicloscalatori). The UIC will organize what must be managed on the field but the B.I.G is a full manager with them in the promotion of the event.

It will be a great event because it's a full week and we can arrive and leave when we want, there is a main day, the saturday 27th of May with a common climb to the Monte Bondone with invitation to all the cycloclimbers liking to climb with us.

At least, the sunday will see the start in Trento of a stage of the Giro, to the Tre cime di Lavaredo.

In Cicloturismo, a well known cycling review in Italy, there is an announcement of our common rendezvous with the UIC in Trento, in May 2007! <http://danielgobert.free.fr/presse.htm>

Never miss this kind of thing ! Look at: <http://bigascensions.free.fr/rendezvous/trento.htm>

**c) WEEK UEcT IN NAMUR**

The international cycletouring week of the **UEcT**, the official european federation for cycletouring, will be performed in july 2007, in Namur, birth of the challenge BIG and city of its president-founder.

According to this fact and to the non-commercial way of our challenge, we'll have a free window during the whole week for showing there our 1.000 climbs, our reviews and promotions; and obviously to invite the visitors to go to climb the BIGs of the region.

Every help or presence will be welcome.

Click here to read more of this event: <http://www.saitta.be/uct2007/accueil.asp?n=1>

**d) NEW VERY PRECISE MAPS FOR THE 1.000 BIGs**

All the maps showing the listing of the 1.000 BIGs have been updated under a new design so you can plan ahead where you can go to conquer some new BIGs. Look at:  
<http://danielgobert.free.fr/carte/table.htm>

**e) B.I.G's CHANGES – listing of 1.000**

You can now have a look at the official changes linked to the special rights agreed by the GIOs for 2006. It will be the same for some other zones in 2007. Afterwards, the listing will be fixed. See the votes and the results on: <http://danielgobert.free.fr/deutschland/changes2006.htm>

You will have more details about those changes afterwards (see chapter number 2)

In 2007, last year for main changes, we'll work in small groups to suggest the changes in the last areas called TZ. In November, the GIO will finally vote for the final rush.

f) **BETTER NAMES FOR SOME BIGs**

Sure ! In Greece, the climbs not changed have sometimes got a better name more accurate to their top.

- BIG 908: Vigla-Pisoderi becomes: **Vitsi-Nymfeo**
- BIG 909: Vrontous becomes: **Lailias ski center**
- BIG 910: Varnous becomes: **Pisoderi ski center**
- BIG 912: Naoussa Palati becomes: **Seli ski center**,
- BIG 918: Agriolefkes becomes: **Pliasidhi**,
- BIG 921: Parnassou becomes: **Fterolaka ski center**
- BIG 927: Parnón becomes: **Kosmas Pass**

Nothing changes for the climb, just the name !!

Not only some Greek names have been changed for the better, also some Spanish names have been improved:

- BIG 401: Sotres.  
Sotres is only a village down the pass. Higher is La Caballar , Jito de Escarandi and finally the real name: **Collado Barreda**.
- BIG 403: Alto Campoo.  
Alto Campoo is only the winter resort under the pass called Collado de la Fuente del Chivo and under the Mirador. The real name is now **Alto Campoo- Fuente Del Chivo**.
- BIG 440: Collado de Cabris.  
Collado de Cabris is a spelling mistake. Real name: **Puerto De Cabus**.
- BIG 445: Puerto de Cantohincado.  
Puerto de Cantohincado is the oldest name given to the place also called Piedra (stone) Hincada or the most wellknown and finally official name: **Puerto De Peña Hincada**.
- BIG 451: Alto de Peñarroya.  
Alto de Peñarroya is the name of the mountain. The climb is very known in professional races as the present official name : **Valdelinares**.
- BIG 452: Puerto Vidré.  
Puerto Vidré helps for the direction but Vistabella is the real top. Well, the official name is now: **Puerto Vidre-Vistabella**.

Thanks to Claudio Montefusco and Olivier Dupeyroux for their informations.

Last thing, purely practical, Crkvine (899→ 904) and Gornje Selo (904 → 899) have been changed one for another, because of the division between Serbia and Montenegro.

***All this information and changes will be included in the website in January and updated in the Passacol at the same time. You also have in attachment the new official listing of 1.000 for the year 2007.***

g) **NEWSLETTERS NOW ONLINE**

Since now and in the future, you'll always be able to read the previous newsletters online.

<http://danielgobert.free.fr/newsletters/newsletters.htm>

## h) PERSONAL FILES

The personal file of , for instance, Jean-Luc Matte has been updated. You can do the same thing or send information to create your own personal file. You can have a look to all the personal files here: <http://odupeyroux.free.fr/index.htm>

## i) THE GREAT TOURS 2007 AND the 1.000 BIGs

Here are the BIGs that the professional racers will climb during the Giro d'Italia, the Tour de France and the Spanish Vuelta.

- **Tour de France (July 2007):**
  - BIG 276: Col de la Colombière
  - BIG 283: Cormet de Roselend
  - BIG 285: Col du Petit St Bernard (partiel)
  - BIG 286: Col de l'Iseran
  - BIG 291: Col du Galibier
  - BIG 332: Col de la Pierre St Martin
  - BIG 333: Col de Marie-Blanche
  - BIG 334: Col d'Aubisque
  - BIG 346: Plateau de Beille
  - BIG 348: Col de Peyresourde
  - BIG 350: Col de Menté
  - BIG 351: Col de Portet d'Aspet
  - BIG 358: Port de Pailhères
  - BIG 420: Puerto de Larrau

Very wanted, the Port de Balès between Menté and Peyresourde, with its finest side, and on a perfect asphalted road, recently surfaced.

Very wanted also, the stage with the Port de Larrau, 4 BIGs in one day with 3 BIGs climbed on their toughest sides. Magnificent landscapes

Thanks to Olivier Dupeyroux for his information.

- **Giro d'Italia (May 2007):**
  - BIG 683: Colle dell'Agnello
  - BIG 690: Passo di San Marco
  - BIG 716: Passo di Giau
  - BIG 719: Tre Cime di Lavaredo
  - BIG 720: Monte Zoncolan
  - BIG 765: Passo della Futa
  - BIG 775: Sella di Leonessa (Terminillo)
- **Vuelta (September 2007):**
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Stage on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, BIG 400: Lagos de Covadonga
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Stage on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September, BIG 404: Puerto de Palombera
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Stage on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, BIG 424: Estación de Esquí Cerler
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Stage on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September, BIG 428: Puerto del Cantó
  - 18<sup>th</sup> Stage on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, BIG 465: Puerto de Mijares

## 2. BIG Changes.

Well you may have visited the link as is mentioned on the news page but for the ones who did not I'll here give the official changes linked to the special rights agreed by the GIOs for 2006. I've even added the votes!

### 1) Iceland.

- a) BIG 001: **HRAFNSEYRARHEIDI** in (82,35% voted yes) and *Breidadalshéidi* out.
- b) BIG 004. **HALFDAN** in (76,47% voted yes) and *Modrudalsfjällgardar* out.

Kleivaheidi was not selected as a replacement for *Modrudalsfjällgardar* as it had only 64,71% votes.

So, did it help? Yes it did! Before the voting we had 3 gravel roads (1 short&steep / 1 deteriorated / 1 almost not rideable. And now we have 2 gravel roads (1 short&steep / 1 easily rideable).

### 2) Germany

- a) BIG 151. **WASEBERG** in (68,75% voted yes) and *Hoch Elten* out.
- b) BIG 153. **HOHER MEISSNER** in (75,00% voted yes) and *Am gericht* out.
- c) BIG 154. **HOHERODSKOPF** in (68,75% voted yes) and *Michelsberg* out.
- d) BIG 162. **WINTERBERGSTRASSE** in (73,33 voted yes) and *Cloef* out.
- e) BIG 164. **HESELBERG** in (66,67% voted yes) and *Potzberg* out.
- f) BIG 175. **LOCHEN PASS** in (80,00 % voted yes) and *Sirnitz sattel* out.

Meerane Wand (53,33%), Schwartenberg (60,00%), Czornehoh (46,67%), Grosser Erleshügel (60,00%), Furtle Pass (53,33%), Hoher Peissenberg (53,33%), Grosser Picho, Hohenzollern Schloss, Auersberg were not selected.

And again the question, did it help? Well, the idea was to get a better geographical dispatch of the BIGs in Germany. And that has indeed been improved but maybe not as planned. But then again, it's a democratic process where the GIOs participated and that is more important then just changing the dispatching of the BIGs with the approval of the GIOs.

### 3) Greece

- a) BIG 911. **HORTIATIS** in (80,00 % voted yes) and *Stena Klissouras* out.
- b) BIG 913. **PANTOKRATOR** in (78,57% voted yes) and *Kastania* out.
- c) BIG 915. **MEGALO PAPINGO** in (78,57% voted yes) and *Voria Pindos* out.
- d) BIG 923. **APOLLO EPIKOURIOS** in (80,00% voted yes) and *Agiou Nikolae Vlassias* out.
- e) BIG 924. **MYCENAE CITADEL** in (69,23% voted yes) and *Kithairon Oros* out.

Hlemoutsi Castle (42,86%), Likavitos Hill (42,86%) were not selected to replace any BIGs as they did not have enough votes.

And also for Greece it has improved the situation. Before the voting we had 7 winter resorts / 7 passes / 1 divine mountain / 1 stony religious site / 4 plateau's / 1 scenic mountain. And after the voting we now have only 6 winter resorts and 6 passes. The number of divine mountains has increased to 2 (temple). The number of plateau's has been decreased to just 1. And we now have 3 scenic mountains, even 1 citadel and 1 canyon.

### **3. Diplomas' Contest.**

Unfortunately we did not get any feedback on the contest we organized. I guess we are all too much occupied by the cycloclimbing itself that there is no time for artistic work. Well, that's a pity but very understandable of course.

The central committee has thought it over and came with a proposal. Per default, waiting for perhaps one time a better suggestion, the diplomas and trophées will be the following ones that you can overview in <http://danielgobert.free.fr/trophees.htm> !

Pierre Chatel agreed to take the job as the diploma's manager, just like Bernard Giraudeau does for the jerseys. There will be a special bankcount for the diplomas and trophées, the rules to have the ability to require them (general BIG's rules) are already available since a long time but the rules to get them and to pay them will soon be online.

### **4. 2006 Claims.**

Presently, nearly 300 members have registered their claims for the year 2006. Congratulations to all of them. Each BIG, you know it, is not easy to win. Each BIG claimed means an effort done !

**For those who hadn't yet done it, last chance to register your 2006 claims. Don't miss it ! It's the sprint !**

**Click here:** <http://users.swing.be/sw202779/formularK.htm>

In the beginning of the year 2007 (very soon!), the new classification and the new tables of results will be **stopped**, updated in the website and for the review. Afterwards, it'll be too late for this year. Look at the new present classification at <http://danielgobert.free.fr/formulaires/classif2006.htm>

### **5. Annual review.**

Dear BIG Members,

This is the time of the year to trust your minds to the patience of paper! Therefore we would like to ask all of you to produce an article (or articles), ready to be published in next year's BIG Review.

This Review will appear in March of 2007 and contains as usual several rankings, experiences and news about BIG-activities.

For us it is important to get a good overview of all the GIO's and zones, so don't hesitate and start writing down:

- Your personal opinion about BIG.
- Your latest climb.
- Your biggest effort ever.
- Your tour in a bizarre environment.
- The time you fell in love on a bike.
- Your personal frustration
- The day you met the pro when you where training
- Or share your knowledge about hard to find climbs, beautiful tracks, undiscovered websites etc.

Off course it will take some time for us to edit your articles, so please make sure that we receive your data **before: 21 January 2007**

Please send us your article in MS-Word and your pictures in JPEG-format.

Hope to hear from you soon,

Martin Kool, <mailto:mm.kool@quicknet.nl> and  
Hans Koedijker, <mailto:h.koedijker@publishing.audax.nl>

## **6. About a BIG.**

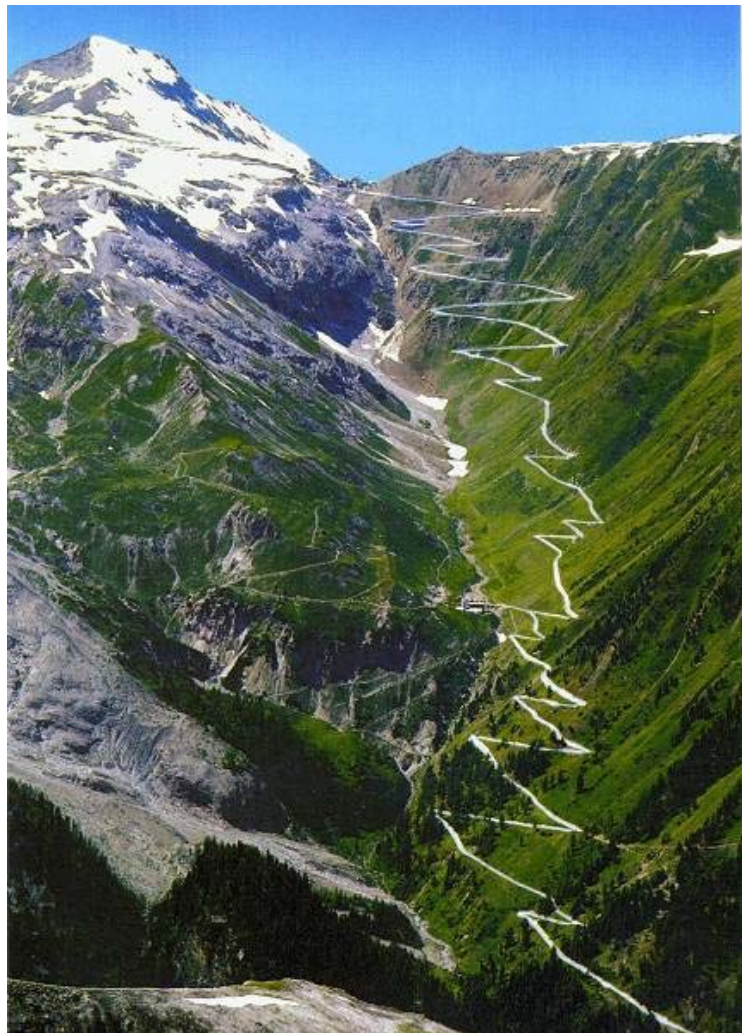
Our eastern journey comes quite abruptly to an end here. The last 'About a BIG's' were written by our dear president, thank you for that, and unfortunately, I did not receive any input that allowed me to continue the journey to the east either. So I'll take it from here and will take you back to Italy this time and then on to? Well, we'll see about that. Let's first head to Italy.

This BIG I watched last year on TV during the Giro d'Italia. It was the Cima Coppi in 2005. And when I saw it on television I knew I had to ride it. Any thoughts of the BIG I'm talking about? It's the Passo dello Stelvio, BIG 697. Also known as Stilfserjoch as this part of Italy is bilingual as it once belonged to Austria. The region is still called Süd-Tirol. This tough climb can be combined with the Cima Coppi of the Giro d'Italia of this year: Passo di Gavia. That is if you can muster the strength and determination as also the Passo di Gavia is not an easy climb! As I have mentioned the Cima Coppi a few times now I may have to explain to some of our members what Cima Coppi stands for. It's the highest pass climbed during a Giro d'Italia and it is of course named after the famous Italian professional cyclist: Fausto Coppi

Let's start with the Passo dello Stelvio. Some of you may have recognized the picture of this BIG, as it was on the cover of this year's review. It has been on the background of my PC last year, as I like the picture. In fact the climb is as impressive and beautiful as it looks on the cover of the last BIG review.

In the picture to the right you can see most of the hairpins of the climb. Most of them? Yes, the actual climb has 48 hairpins and starts in Prato allo Stelvio if you climb from this side. For me, this is the most beautiful side. I think one of the reasons why it is so famous is that about half of the climb is above tree level and can be seen from the top. And from the top it is a very powerful and dramatic sight.

So, the eastern ascent (the most famous one) starts in Prato allo Stelvio or Prat am Stilfserjoch as it is also called. The first part is not



that steep of course. And also the lower part of the Stelvio is beautiful. The road is lined with a thick forest and a rushing river roars by the side of the road. After approximately 4.3km you will cross the Ponte di Stelvio. This part is ~5% on average. It's another kilometer or so before the small town of Trafoi is reached. Here the real work starts with gradients of 8% and up. And just after Trafoi you will encounter the first out of the 48 hairpin turns. In Italian a hairpin is called tornanti. The tornante (plural) are numbered, like on l'Alpe d'Huez, so you can see how much tornante there are left to take.

So, there are 47 left to go now and you have by now covered some 600 altimeters and there are still 1267 altimeters left to climb! After the first two hairpins it unfortunately takes quite some time before the third one can be taken. After 15 hairpins or so the summit is already in sight. For one thing that is good to have the target within view. But on the other hand it looks quite far still and almost straight up!



Traffic on the Passo dello Stelvio can be quite harsh. Among lots of cars, lorries and busses there are also many cyclists. It's a popular climb. The trouble with Stelvio is also that it does not give much place to recover. From the 15th kilometer or so, there are still 10km to go then, and the average gradient is 9%! The last 10 hairpins have been carved out of the sheer face of the mountainside with barely room for two small cars. The length of the climb and the steepness are making the last part of the climb really tough. But then again, it's only 10 hairpins that are left.

Reaching the top is as always very rewarding. What makes the view so spectacular, is that you can look down on the hairpins that you have covered.



In the top right corner you can see the Hotel that you could also see on the previous picture.

From the top of the Passo dello Stelvio you can descend down to Bormio. Here you will encounter 43 tornante. This side (W) is not as tough as the other side (E). 1,230 Europoints versus 1,681 Europoints. But still a climb that should not be underestimated

From Bormio you can start the Southern ascent of the Passo di Gavia. At the little town of San Antonio, there is a La Gazzetta kiosk that marks the official start of the climb. Then you will encounter a cobbled part. An indication that it will not be an easy climb. Especially not when you have done the Passo dello Stelvio first. The next few kilometers are again, very pretty, in a thick forest with a rushing river.

Some eight kilometers past San Antonio, you will reach Santa Caterina, and there the hairpins will start. Bormio is approximately at 1,200 meters, Santa Catarina is at almost 1,800 meters and the summit of the Gavia is at 2,621m. So, out of the 1,400 meters of vertical climbing, you will have covered 600. The average gradient of this side is 5.5% with a maximum of 10%.



The good thing about the Passo di Gavia is that there is less traffic than on the Passo dello Stelvio.

The last 4km the climb flattens out a bit with only ~4% on average.

After riding around a little lake and a couple of buildings standing by the side of the road, you'll finally reach the summit.

If you did perform both the Passo dello Stelvio and the Passo di Gavia in one go then you can be truly proud of yourself. Covering 3,200 altimeters and some 2,800 Europoints.

I'll be honest with you. I have not performed the Gavia climb myself. After me and my daughter reached the top of Stelvio we decided that we had had enough for the day.



Hence there is less text on the Gavia and no personal experiences. If you'll do the Passo di Gavia this summer then please provide me some feedback on this BIG.

## **7. Rendezvous 2007**

Well, as already stated in the news part, the only BIG rendezvous in 2007 will take place at Trento in northern Italy in good company with the UIC (Unione Internazionale dei cicloscalatori).

Here is what I copied and translated from the UIC website (<http://www.cicloscalatori.it>) on this event:

The two large European clubs for cycling in the mountains will meet in Trento for a great festival of sport and friendship. Such is the significance of the concentration, in the course of organization with Trento, for the end May 2007. UIC and BIG will be found there together to reinforce the bonds which link already the members of these two associations based on a common passion of bicycle and mountain. The organization is working on it!. The date is the last weekend of May. Now, one occupies oneself of the lodging and the courses which we will have, well on, to include the stage of the "Alpina Challenge" (Monte Bondone) and the rises of the BIG of the area (Bondone, Palade, Mendola, Campogrosso). The rise in Bondone will be made to remember the mythical company of Charly Gaul who won a memorable stage of Giro there, in a snowstorm. A unique opportunity to celebrate all together, while pedalling and perspiring the day on the splendid coasts of Trentino then in the evening together taste the canederli, stinco, speck and all that the local gastronomy has to offer, the sprinkled whole of sublime Teroldego Rotoliano and of scented and dry Traminer. All that in less than six months! But as of today, let us start to mobilize the friends of UIC and BIG so that they take part many, and if possible with their family



From the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2007! One week around Trento (Italy), you come in when you want, you go out when you want. And Monte Bondone, the 26<sup>th</sup> and the Giro alive the 27<sup>th</sup> .

If there is more news about this event then I will include it in the coming newsletters

### **8. Wanted!**

Wanted? Yes, we are looking for a **new editor for the newsletters**. I have been writing these newsletters for over 2 years now, with a lot of help of our President (Daniel Gobert), and I'm looking for a successor. Both Daniel and myself will help to get the new editor started so don't worry that you will be thrown into the deep. The position is yours if you want it. In case you are interested, then send a mail to Daniel (<mailto:danielgobert@swing.be>) or to me (<mailto:phme.dekkers@zonnet.nl>). It's your chance to get more familiar with the BIG challenge and to be in close touch with the central committee!

We would like too in a soon future, to send the newsletters in the six main languages, that means that we would like to get for only one evening each two months, members able to translate from French or English languages to german, dutch, italian and spanish languages. Send a mail to the same addresses.

### **9. Conclusion:**

As usually I hope that you have enjoyed the newsletter, that's making it worthwhile writing it. And I want to wish you and your families on behalf of the central committee of the BIG a wonderful 2007 in good health. And may it bring many new and exciting BIGs on your path!

Best regards,  
Helmuth Dekkers, BIG's secretary

## **9. Translation Links:**

*This Newsletter from the BIG is only in English or French. You can translate it to your own language through automatic translators like: [http://www.google.com/language\\_tools?hl=en](http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en).*

*Cette Newsletter du BIG est en Anglais ou Français seulement. Vous pouvez traduire ce Bulletin dans votre langue d'origine via des traducteurs automatiques comme: [http://www.google.com/language\\_tools?hl=fr](http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=fr).*

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