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Press Release

The UCI E-MTB XC World Cup season gets underway in Monaco

Monaco (P.ty), Saturday 23 April 2022 – The first race of the 2022 season at the Monaco Round **Presented by SMEG** took place today in heavy rain, on a challenging, slippery track. Some broken chains, flat tyres and crashes forced a few riders to retire and save their hope for tomorrow's race.

The morning's Qualirace saw the first-ever **Pole Position Powered by Raspini** awarded in the two categories to teammates **Justine Tonso** and **Jérôme Gilloux (Lapierre)** with a lap time of 8:29.18 and 7:20.41, respectively.

Starting first in the Women's field in her debut in the series, Tonso managed to maintain the lead for the entire race. French fellow countrywoman also at her first appearance in the World Cup, **Estelle Charles (Specialized)** had a brilliant start and a good race pace, being second for the first three laps but started slowing down while teammate **Sofia Wiedenroth** was improving. The German, who got the double on this course in 2021, engaged in an exciting battle with **Nathalie Schneitter (Trek)** and they eventually finished second and third, respectively, behind an impressive Tonso.

First WES race also for **Nicole Göldi (Trek)** in her rainbow jersey, who struggled to stay in the group in the last couple of laps, finishing fourth.

In the Men's, Reigning World Champion and 2021 World Cup Winner, **Jérôme Gilloux** set his well-known pace already on the first lap, handling a 10-second gap ahead of **Hugo Pigeon (Scott)**, on his return to the Monaco Round, and his teammate **Emeric Ienzer**. Gilloux went to get his first win of the season on his home track in style and the two French fellowmen completed the podium, Pigeon improving his 2021 performance on this course (3rd and 4th place), and Ienzer challenging himself in the UCI E-MTB XC World Cup for the first time.

Disappointment in the Men's field, as 2021 WES n.2 Joris **Ryf (Bergstrom)** broke his chain right after the start, n.3 **Theo Charmes (Cube)** crashed on lap 4 and **Noël Loïc (Specialized)** finished fourth while he was pushing hard to step on the podium.

The action will back tomorrow for Race 2 with slight changes to the track layout and new exciting battles.

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