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PRESSEMITTEILUNG

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## Kristoff extends his series of German wins at the Deutschland Tour

After a frantic fight for the break of the day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the Deutschland Tour cooled down for quite a bit. But it was the calm before the storm because the last 40 kilometers were a real challenge. After EF Education - EasyPost split the peloton at the Amöneburg climb, it remained hectic for the last kilometers between Meiningen and Marburg. In the end, however, things were as they often are in a Deutschland Tour: Alexander Kristoff (Intermarché - Wanty - Gobert Matériaux) stood at the top of the winner's podium. For the Norwegian it was already the fourth stage win at the new Deutschland Tour – that's a best.

**Kristoff**, who also took over the green jersey of the points leader with his victory, is always lucky when racing in Germany. *"I don't know why, but Germany suits me. I also always have good results in Frankfurt. Maybe it's because the climbs are not too long, and we do local circuits – like the Champs-Élysées. I prefer them."*

But the efforts of EF Education - EasyPost, which played a starring role in the final kilometers, were also paid off. Although the team's leader Alberto Bettiol was still behind Kristoff and second-placed Florian Sénéchal in the stage's classification, he took the overall leader's red jersey thanks to six bonus seconds he had secured at the finish and five kilometers earlier in the bonification sprint. Previous leader Filippo Ganna and Kristoff are tied behind.

**Bettiol** said after the race: *"We are not here to see the German landscape. We try to win. Unfortunately, we didn't do today, but we were close. And we also reach the goal to take some bonus seconds for me. Because tomorrow I don't think I'm gonna win. The climb is very hard, and I am happy to take some seconds on the best climbers here."*

The group of the day was formed by Jan Hugger (Lotto - Kern Haus), Byron Minton (Dauner - Akkon), Quentin Jauregui (B&B Hotels - KTM) and Abram Stockman (Saris Rouvy Sauerland). The quartet made it to the KOM in Amöneburg 42 kilometres from the finish.

At the first crossing of the finish line in Marburg, a group of ten was in the lead, but EF Education - EasyPost caught them. The last attempt to prevent a bunch sprint was made by Tony Gallopin (Trek - Segafredo), but the Frenchman was overtaken by the approaching peloton on the finishing line.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of this year's Deutschland Tour starts in Freiburg. It ends with the first mountain-top finish of the Deutschland Tour after 148.9 kilometers on the Schauinsland summit. Here a preliminary decision will be made in the fight for the overall classification. Three mountains of the first category, including the Schauinsland, must be mastered.