

transatlantic21 communications
ecos
Kati Rutz
Bäumleingasse 22
4001 Basel
Phone 061 205 10 66
Fax 061 271 10 10
E-mail kati.rutz@ecos.ch



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"sun21" on direct course to Martinique

Midway between the Canary Islands and Cape Verde, the "sun21" crew decided last night (Monday) to head directly to Martinique without the originally planned stop-over in Cape Verde. According to the current schedule, the first solar-powered boat to cross the Atlantic should arrive in the Caribbean by early February.

"We've never made such good headway as in the past few days," writes David Senn, the biology professor on board, to his home base in Basel. "It's fascinating to observe how well the vessel has been running on solar energy."

After a stop-over for repairs in Lanzarote, which held the expedition up for roughly one week during Christmas, all systems on board are again working perfectly. Despite heavy seas with waves of up to four metres, the catamaran is currently covering some 100 to 110 nautical miles (approx. 185 to 204 kilometres) a day.

The crew is therefore risking a direct crossing without calling at Cape Verde. "There's plenty of provisions and water on board," reports Senn. And Mark Wüst, the team's shipwright, has again double-checked the engines. "They are in perfect running order."

Position early on 9 January: 22° 59' 9" N / 21° 56' 8" W

Wind: NE, 20 to 25 knots

Daytime temperature: 24°C

Speed: 4.5 knots

Further information and visual material:

www.transatlantic21.org/media-information

Contacts: Urs Wehrli, info@transatlantic21.org, +41 79 798 24 31 and
Kati Rutz, kati.rutz@ecos.ch, +41 61 205 10 66