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Press release, Basle/Miami, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007, 7 o'clock PM

## Miami's mayor welcomes the "sun21" crew

**Today at 11 o'clock AM (local time), the mayor of Miami, Manuel A. Diaz, received the crew of the "sun21" in the Miami Yacht Club. During a formal ceremony aboard the ship, he handed them the key of the city and welcomed the Atlantic crossers officially to America. Already on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at around 3:30 PM (local time), the solar boat had reached the American mainland, thus travelling 1400 nautical miles.**

The journey from Martinique to Miami was challenging in many ways. "In the so-called 'channels' between the Caribbean islands, incoming waves of the Atlantic caused strong currents, heavy swells and wave washes. The shallow depth of the sea in the Bahamas and the coral reefs also demanded a lot from the skippers," the crew reported. The catamaran itself, however, "endured" all the moods of the seas solidly and confidently and remained intact.

On the 12th February at 11 o'clock AM, the "sun21" left Martinique in the direction of St. Pierre – with one of their crew members missing. Professor David Senn had to return to Switzerland due to his professional commitments. After a short sojourn in St. Pierre, the "sun21" visited the Swiss private organization "Children in Dominica". In schools with mainly black children, Renate Siegenthaler, a former member of the town council in Allschwil (canton of Basle-Country), has founded a project for school kitchens and financed it with money from Swiss donations. The journey continued via Marie-Galante and Guadeloupe to St. Martin. Having arrived, skipper and boatbuilder Mark Wüst left the "sun21" in order to go back to his home country. Jean-Claude Pichon took over his place as the second skipper up until the Dominican Republic, where Yves Thonney, the son of Michel Thonney, replaced him.

During their stopover at the Virgin Islands, the crew of the „sun21“ devoted to itself to „spring-cleaning“. "We wanted to get the boat in top shape. We cleaned the solar roof and removed the algae and shells from the hulls," Beat von Scarpetti related in a blog report on [www.transatlantic21.org](http://www.transatlantic21.org). Thanks to this thorough cleaning and the ever-present Caribbean sun, "the 21" could draw on its full potential: an average speed of 6 knots (about 11 kilometres per hour) in the evenings with still fully charged batteries. "And so we would already



reach our next anchoring place in the afternoons,” Beat von Scarpetti mentions. After stopping at Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, the solar boat reached the Bahamas in the middle of March 2007 as its last stop before the American mainland.

Tomorrow on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007, the “sun21” will set about completing the last stage of its journey to New York. The solar boat will travel on the “Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway”, an inland water path which stretches along the coast of the Atlantic from Key West (Florida) to Boston.

**Footage of the reception with the Mayor of Miami and further information about the project are available at [www.transatlantic21.org](http://www.transatlantic21.org)!**

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