

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Barum Czech Rally Zlín: Reigning champions Kopecký/Dresler score sixth win in a row for ŠKODA

- › Jan Kopecký, co-driver Pavel Dresler and the ŠKODA FABIA R5 are undefeated in Czech Rally Championship (MČR) since April 2015, victorious on all 16 rallies they participated
- › After a thrilling fight Kopecký/Dresler added Barum Czech Rally Zlín to winning streak
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "In the Czech Rally Championship Jan and Pavel remain the benchmark."

**Zlín, 27 August 2017** – At the Barum Czech Rally Zlín local heroes Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, secured their sixth consecutive win of the 2017 season. They not only defeated their regular competitors inside the Czech Rally Championship. Even the top crews competing in the European Rally Championship (ERC), of which Barum Czech Rally Zlín was round six, had no chance to beat the reigning Czech Champions.

ŠKODA factory driver Jan Kopecký and navigator Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) began their chase for the sixth win in a row during the 2017 season on late Friday with a fastest time at the popular show stage in the streets of Zlín's city centre. "I would not say I was happy with my driving, it can always be better," concluded Kopecký although he brought his ŠKODA FABIA R5 an impressive 4.1 seconds faster to the stage finish than his closest rival, Alexey Lukyanuk from Russia. Straight out of the blocks on Saturday morning, Kopecký/Dresler were fully awake and scored another fastest time. The battle between the reigning Czech champions and their rivals from Russia continued throughout the Saturday leg, which was the longest of the rally.

After stage three Lukyanuk took the lead by 0.3 seconds only. But one special stage later Czech Champion Kopecký fought back and conquered the top position again. While the ŠKODA FABIA R5 of Kopecký/Dresler was running reliable like a clockwork, Alexey Lukyanuk got a problem with the power steering of his Ford and lost valuable time. With a fast and faultless drive Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler built up a more or less comfortable lead of 16.6 seconds at the end of the day. But Jan Kopecký emphasized at the overnight halt in Zlín: "Alexey will never give up. I know it from last year. I have to stay focused and concentrated to avoid any mistakes. The stages on Sunday are very tough and rough. Especially the 22 kilometres of Košíky have a lot of gravel and stones on the road. There you can easily get a puncture."

On the final day of Barum Czech Rally Zlín, Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler achieved fastest times on all of the remaining six stages with their ŠKODA FABIA R5 and reached the finish with a margin of 55.5 seconds over Lukyanuk. "Barum Czech Rally Zlín is clearly the most demanding event of the Czech Rally Championship and one of the best European rallies. I am proud and happy that I managed to win it for the seventh time. Thanks to my co-driver Pavel and the whole ŠKODA team, all the engineers and mechanics for providing me with the quickest and most reliable car. My ŠKODA FABIA R5 was simply perfect", emphasized Kopecký.

"In the Czech Rally Championship without no doubt Jan and Pavel remain the benchmark," said ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek. Since Rally Šumava Klatovy 2015 the combination Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE) and ŠKODA FABIA R5 is undefeated and achieved 16 victories in the





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national series. This year they won each of the up to now six rounds of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR).

## Barum Czech Rally Zlín (MČR and ERC) final standings

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 1:56:15.2 h.
2. Lukyanuk/Arnautov (RUS/RUS), Ford Fiesta R5, +55.5 sec.
3. Krešta/Stary (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +1:22.8 min.
4. Kostka/Kučera (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +1:25.8 min.
5. Kajetanowicz/Baran (POL/POL), Ford Fiesta R5, +2:06.4 min.
6. Griebel/Kopczyk (DEU/DEU), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +2:08.3 min.

Number of the day: 16

Since 2015, when they debuted the brand new ŠKODA FABIA R5 on Rally Šumava Klatovy, Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler have won every Czech Championship Rally they were participating in.

## The 2017 calendar of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Valašská Rally	25/03–26/03/2017
Rally Šumava Klatovy	21/04–22/04/2017
Rally Český Krumlov	19/05–20/05/2017
Rally Hustopeče	16/06–17/06/2017
Rally Bohemia	01/07–02/07/2017
<b>Barum Czech Rally Zlín</b>	<b>25/08–27/08/2017</b>
Rally Příbram	06/10–08/10/2017

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## Media images:



### ŠKODA at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

Reigning champions Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, won Barum Czech Rally Zlín, their personal sixth win in a row in the Czech Rally Championship.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

Jan Kopecký/ Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5), undefeated for 16 rallies in the Czech Republic.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been successful on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

2016 was one of the most successful years in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. In the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2), Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won the title for the Czech car maker for the first time. In total, ten of the 2016 season's races in the World Rally Championship were won by a ŠKODA FABIA R5. ŠKODA drivers Gustavo Saba (PRY) and Gaurav Gill (IND) also won the continental championships in South America and the Asia-Pacific region at the wheel of the successful ŠKODA FABIA R5. Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) was unbeatable in the Middle East Rally Championship (MERC), while a further ten national titles also went the way of ŠKODA drivers.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA SUPER 2000, won 50 national and international titles around the world. In 2017, works duos Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) will contest selected races in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2). Kopecký/Dresler will also compete in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR), where they will be looking to claim a third title in a row.

## ŠKODA AUTO

- › is one of the longest-established vehicle manufacturers in the world. The company was founded in 1895 – during the pioneering days of the automobile. Today, the company's headquarters remain in Mladá Boleslav.
- › currently offers the following models in the range: CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, YETI, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2016 delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. ŠKODA, in association with the Group, independently manufactures and develops vehicles, as well as components, engines and gear transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic, produces in China, Russia, Slovakia and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- › employs over 30,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

