

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Rally Turkey: Puncture relegates ŠKODA's Jan Kopecký to second position in WRC 2 Pro

- › ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo crew Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler lost the lead in the WRC 2 Pro category after they collected a puncture on day 3 of Rally Turkey, eleventh round of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019
- › WRC 2 Pro championship leaders Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) re-started after their Fridays tire mishap, now targeting championship points
- › ŠKODA privateer Kajetan Kajetanowicz is still leading the WRC 2 category for private teams and is also first among the competitors in R5 cars

Marmaris, 14 September 2019 – Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) had bad luck during day 3 of the eleventh round of the FIA World Rally Championship, Rally Turkey Marmaris (12/09–15/09/2019), when they lost the lead of the WRC 2 Pro category due to a puncture. Their teammates Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) re-started on Saturday and now have valuable points for the WRC 2 Pro drivers' and manufacturers' championship in sight. Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL) is still leading the WRC 2 category for private teams on Saturday evening, he is also first among the competitors driving R5 cars.

The Saturday (14 September) of Rally Turkey Marmaris brought six more stages covering 110.10 kilometres. Already on Friday Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) hit bad luck. They had to retire after three punctures on their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, literally running out of spare wheels. They re-started on Saturday and their mission was clear: to bring the car to the finish and to collect as many points as possible for both the drivers' and manufacturers' category of the WRC 2 Pro championship. The two Finns strictly followed that plan, safely reaching the leg's finish on Saturday evening.

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler found themselves in a solid lead of the WRC 2 Pro category on Friday evening. But the Czech Rally Champion Kopecký was cautious. "This rally with tough gravel roads and big stones is unpredictable. Not to collect a puncture, is very much depending on good luck," he said. The opening on Saturday morning was more than 33 kilometres long, a tough wakeup for the surviving crews at Rally Turkey Marmaris. Jan Kopecký had a smooth and controlled ride with his ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo and confessed: "It's all about finding a good rhythm and avoiding mistakes." The Czech Rally Champion finished the morning loop in a commanding lead of the WRC 2 Pro category.

After the midday service, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler started into the repetition of the longest stage of the day, the 33 kilometres of "Yesibelde". After 14 kilometres, they collected a puncture on their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo and had to change the wheel in the stage. The time loss was more than two minutes, eventually costing the category lead. On the next stage, Jan Kopecký switched to attack-mode and on only 8.5 kilometres reduced the gap to the leading Ford driver Gus Greensmith by 14.5 seconds. "It is difficult for us, but we will try – that's all I can say," commented Kopecký at the finish of the stage. After collecting another slow puncture, he had no spare wheel left and had to play it safe in the last stage. Actually, it is Kopecký's main mission to save ŠKODA important points for the manufacturers championship of the WRC 2 Pro category.

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After the Saturday leg, the dominant leaders of the WRC 2 category for private teams, Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak, are by far the fastest among the R5 competitors.

Sunday (15 September) will bring four more stages of 38.62 competitive kilometres. After 17 tests totalling 310.10 kilometres, the winner will reach the podium at the service area of Asparan close to Marmaris at around 14h15.

## Standings Rally Turkey after Day 3 (WRC 2 Pro/WRC 2)

1. Kajetanowicz/Szczepaniak (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 3:33:04.5 h
2. Greensmith/Edmondson (GBR/GBR), Ford Fiesta R5 MKII, +57.6 sec.\*
3. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +1:58.3 min.\*
4. Bulacia-Wilkinson/Cretu (BOL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +3:06.7 sec.
5. Andolfi/Inglesi (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +9:25.4 min.

\*Factory nominated crews eligible to score points in the WRC 2 Pro category

Number of the day: 10

In the field of the 12 surviving R5 competitors at Rally Turkey on Saturday evening, ten crews trust the robustness of the ŠKODA FABIA R5 and ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo models.

## The calendar of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2 Pro)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	24/01/-27/01/2019
Sweden	14/02/-17/02/2019
Mexico	07/03/-10/03/2019
France	28/03/-31/03/2019
Argentina	25/04/-28/04/2019
Chile	09/05/-12/05/2019
Portugal	30/05/-02/06/2019
Italy	13/06/-16/06/2019
Finland	01/08/-04/08/2019
Germany	22/08/-25/08/2019
<b>Turkey</b>	<b>12/09/-15/09/2019</b>
Great Britain	03/10/-06/10/2019
Spain	24/10/-27/10/2019
Australia	14/11/-17/11/2019



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### ŠKODA at Rally Turkey Marmaris 2019

ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) lost the lead in the WRC 2 Pro category due to a puncture on day 3 of the eleventh round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship in Turkey

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at Rally Turkey Marmaris 2019

Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) could restart on Saturday at Rally Turkey and are targeting valuable championship points with their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo

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## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2018 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) became WRC 2 champions and managed to win the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the fourth consecutive time. 2017 WRC 2 winners Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson finished second overall, and youngsters Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) completed a pure ŠKODA podium in the final standings of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship's WRC 2 category. For the fourth time in a row ŠKODA Motorsport won the WRC 2 Championship for Teams.

The success story of the Czech brand took place worldwide. The private ŠKODA driver Yuya Sumiyama and navigator Takahiro Yasui from Japan won the 2018 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) took the title win in the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC). After winning the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) in 2013, 2016 and 2017, ŠKODA crew Gustavo Saba/Fernando Mussano (PRY/ARG) again were successful. On top of that, ŠKODA crews won 17 national championships.

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.

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.

## ŠKODA AUTO

- › was founded during the pioneering days of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established automobile companies in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.25 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2018.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 39,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.