



## **Dakar 2016: Villagra, with the Iveco Powerstar, lead the general classification**

*The fifth stage of the Rally led the caravan to Bolivia and close to the Uyuni Salt Flats, after dueling it out over 327 kilometers. Federico Villagra and his Iveco Powerstar finished in 3rd place and were moved up to first place for overall time.*

Turin, 8 January 2016

The Iveco fleet is performing at an impressive level on the most difficult roads in Argentina and Bolivia after five days of competition. After Gerard de Rooy's victory in stage four, which almost put him on the podium in the general, yesterday it was Federico Villagra who, once again, proved to be the star behind the wheel of an Iveco truck and jumped to the top spot in the Dakar Rally in the general classification.

The day got started just after 1:00 PM local time, when the first truck kicked off the special after crossing the La Quiaca (Argentina) - Villazón (Bolivia) border. The Iveco Trakker driven by the Dutchman Ton van Genugten put up a good fight in the beginning against the Kamazes, Tatras and MANs that fought for the first spots in a stage that took them up to 4,600 meters above sea level and presented a challenge for the pilots and their vehicles.

Federico Villagra, in the La Gloriosa De Rooy Iveco Team's Powerstar, gradually edged towards the top spot, until he came neck and neck with his teammate Ton van Genugten, tying for 3rd place. With Pieter Versluis and Hans Stacey falling a bit behind in this stage, Villagra took advantage of the opportunity to snag the lead in the general by just 5 seconds and put Iveco in the number 1 spot in the Dakar Rally.

In this stage, which was won by Eduard Nikolaev behind the wheel of a Kamaz, the Dutchman Gerard De Rooy, winner of the 2012 edition of The Dakar, reached the 8th place, but is holding steady in 4th in the general. The overall balance is positive for him because he was able to finish the marathon stage and now he will be able to attack in the second part of The Dakar to try to bring home another victory.

Pep Vila took advantage of his strong pace, and the fact that his competitors were lagging, to secure 15th place today, which puts him in a very commendable 10th place in the general aboard his Iveco Trakker.

Unfortunately, the Czech pilot Aleš Loprais, who was in the top 10 of The Dakar with Iveco Powerstar #503, had to drop out of the race. Loprais had to stop his truck in the connecting stretch because of a mechanical problem. And, since this was part of the marathon stage, his teammates were not allowed to come to his aid or help him with his vehicle.

Today, the Dakar Rally participants will compete in the 542-kilometer special (with one stretch that is exclusively for Trucks), starting in the city of Uyuni and returning to the same point, but not before circling the entire Salt Flats on a course that will present difficulties such as sand, rocks and, of course, a lot of salt.

### **Stage 5 – Trucks**

1. Nikolaev (RUS), Kamaz – 4:00:03
2. Kolomy (CZE), Tatra – plus 2 minutes 32 seconds
- 3. FEDERICO VILLAGRA (ARG), IVECO – plus 4 minute 32 seconds**
- 4. TON VAN GENUGTEN (NLD), IVECO – plus 4 minutes 32 seconds**
5. Nikolaev (RUS), Kamaz – plus 3 minutes 32 seconds
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- 8. GERARD DE ROOY (NLD), IVECO – plus 7 minutes 27 seconds**
- 15. PEP VILA (SPA), IVECO – plus 29 minutes 21 seconds**
- ALEŠ LOPRAIS (CZE), IVECO – dropped out

### **General Classification – Trucks**

- 1. FEDERICO VILLAGRA (ARG), IVECO – 14:09:13**
2. Versluis (NLD), MAN – plus 5 seconds
3. Stacey (NLD), MAN – plus 21 seconds
- 4. GERARD DE ROOY (NLD), IVECO – plus 5 minutes 50 seconds**
5. Mardeev (RUS), Kamaz – plus 8 minutes 49 seconds
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- 8. TON VAN GENUGTEN (NLD), IVECO – plus 11 minutes 28 seconds**
- 10. PEP VILA (SPA), IVECO – plus 58 minutes 29 seconds**
- ALEŠ LOPRAIS (CZE), IVECO – dropped out

## Iveco

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*The brand's wide range of products include the Daily, a vehicle that covers the 3 – 7 ton vehicle weight segment, the Eurocargo from 6 – 19 tons, the Trakker (dedicated to off-road missions) and the Stralis, both over 16 tons. In addition, the Iveco Astra brand builds off-road trucks, rigid and articulated dumpers as well as special vehicles.*

*Iveco employs close to 21,000 individuals globally. It manages production sites in 7 countries throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and Latin America where it produces vehicles featuring the latest advanced technologies. 4,200 sales and service outlets in over 160 countries guarantee technical support wherever an Iveco vehicle is at work.*

*For further information about Iveco: [www.iveco.com](http://www.iveco.com)*

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