

Dakar 2016: new stage victory for Iveco and double podium in the General

Gerard de Rooy solidified his first-place position in the 2016 Dakar after his second consecutive win in a shortened race, due to the high temperatures in the dunes of Catamarca

Turin, 13 January 2016

ASO had scheduled a special for all four categories that would begin and end in the city of Belén, located in northeastern Argentina, and that would cover 285 timed kilometers. However, temperatures exceeding 50°C (122°F) forced the ASO to cancel the stretch beyond CP2, so the course was shortened to 178 kilometers.

In stage 9, Iveco was once again proclaimed the day's winner thanks to Gerard de Rooy, who – along with his teammates, Moi Tarrollardona and Darek Rodewald– is proving to be the best in the navigation stages. With yesterday's victory, the winner of the 2012 Dakar claimed his third triumph in this edition and put plenty of distance between himself and the current runner-up, the Russian pilot Eduard Nikolaev. The Kamaz pilot is now 27 minutes and 12 seconds behind De Rooy in the general after coming in 5th in Stage 9.

"Brilliant victory, but it wasn't easy. It was really hot and the sand was very soft. Cutting the race short at CP2 was the right decision," said Gerard de Rooy, who added: *"Everyone got stuck and got flat tires. The pressure in our tires was carefully managed by Darek and Moi didn't make any navigational mistakes".*

Iveco also took second place in the Belén-Belén loop, with the Trakker piloted by Ton van Genugten. The other Dutchman in the fleet crossed the finish line just 3 minutes and 59 seconds behind Gerard de Rooy and climbed to 5th place in the general after nine stages in this 2016 Dakar.

Federico Villagra and his Iveco Powerstar finished the day in 4th place, 16 minutes and 45 seconds behind the winner, and thanks to the delays suffered by Hans Stacey, Pieter Versluis and Ariat Mardeev, he rose to 3rd place on the podium in overall time. The Argentine pilot had to stop a couple of times to help his co-pilot Jorge Pérez Companc deal with breakdowns caused by the

conditions of this stage. After stage 9, Iveco now has two pilots in the Top 3 and three trucks in the Top 5 in the general.

Pep Vila had a more complicated day and lost start-up time before the first WP. The Spaniard was 40 minutes behind the leader at the first checkpoint and ended the day in 23rd place, more than an hour behind the leaders. This also led him to fall in the general classification, where he is now in 13th place but still has a good chance of making it into the Top 10.

Stage 9 – Trucks

- 1. GERARD DE ROOY (NLD), IVECO – 2:41:20**
- 2. TON VAN GENUGTEN (NLD), IVECO – plus 3 minutes 59 seconds**
3. Karginov (RUS), Kamaz – plus 16 minutes 04 seconds
- 4. FEDERICO VILLAGRA (ARG), IVECO – plus 16 minutes 45 seconds**
5. Nikolaev (RUS), Kamaz – plus 19 minutes 14 seconds
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- 23. PEP VILA (SPA), IVECO – plus 1:13:35**

General Classification – Trucks

- 1. GERARD DE ROOY (NLD), IVECO – 28:30:46**
2. Nikolaev (RUS), Kamaz – plus 27 minutes 12 seconds
- 3. FEDERICO VILLAGRA (ARG), IVECO – plus 41 minutes 24 seconds**
4. Versluis (NLD), MAN – plus 44 minutes 0 seconds
- 5. TON VAN GENUGTEN (NLD), IVECO – plus 45 minutes 2 seconds**
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- 13. PEP VILA (SPA), IVECO – plus 3 hours 3 minutes 26 seconds**

To learn more about Iveco's teams and vehicles and to follow Iveco day-by-day throughout the race, visit www.iveco.com/dakar

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.

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