

SILK WAY RALLY 2017: two IVECO trucks again in the top ten of overall ranking after 10th Leg

Artur Ardavichus, the Kazakh driver on board the Powerstar #310, finished the daily stage in sixth place and remains fifth in the overall

Dutch pilots Ton Van Genugten and Gerard De Rooy crossed the finish line of this third Chinese stage in 8th and 9th place respectively. Van Genugten is firmly in 8th position of the partial general ranking, while Team leader De Rooy is 16th

Dunhuang, 19 July 2017

The third stage of 2017 Silk Way Rally hosted in Chinese territory started from Hami and reached Dunhuang after crossing a big wadi with magnificent landscapes: about 320 km of special stage (total distance 517.53 km), very fast at the start and then more technical and slower with many changes of direction.

Ardavichus was again at the daily start line ahead his teammates. He finished this SS with a time of 3h43m58s, just 8m37s behind the first. Thanks to his careful driving, the Kazakh was again in 5th position of the overall ranking after ten hard stages. He really could be the man of this edition of the famous rally raid for Team PETRONAS De Rooy IVECO, beside Russia, Kazakhstan and China.

This stage of the Silk Way Rally was more difficult for the other two members of the team: De Rooy, who started just behind Ardavichus, was slowed down by some mechanical issues and lost about half an hour. *“The special was very nice with some amazing passages and the truck felt good even if not in optimum conditions. We are waiting for the special and the dunes of tomorrow”* – said Gerard who placed 9th in the daily ranking.

The third man of PETRONAS De Rooy IVECO Team, Ton Van Genugten, now in 8th position of the partial overall, drove faster in the second part of the leg to recover the time lost to help De Rooy when he got in trouble 30 km before the finish. Behind the wheel of his IVECO Trakker #306, he arrived 8th in the stage at Hami-Dunhuang. The general classification after leg 10 sees him in 8th position.

Today, July 19th, as the first special was due to be run in a region that has very recently declared a nature reserve by the Chinese authorities, the organisers of the Silk Way Rally have decided to

cancel ES11A while maintaining the second timed special (ES11B) of the 11th stage. Held in wide sand river and between the canyons, it will be very fast at the end.

Stage 10 results – Silk Way Rally 2017

1. Eduard Nikolaev (Kamaz) 3h35m21s
2. Martin Kolomy (Tatra) +1m29s
3. Dmitry Sotnikov (Kamaz) +2m29s
4. Anton Shibalov (Kamaz) +3m14s
5. Airat Mardeev (Kamaz) +5m47s
- 6. Artur Ardavichus (IVECO) +8m37s**
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- 8. Ton Van Genugten (IVECO) +29m27s**
- 9. Gerard De Rooy (IVECO) +29m46s**

Overall classification – Silk Way Rally 2017

1. Dmitry Sotnikov (Kamaz) 31h27m50s
2. Anton Shibalov (Kamaz) +15m12s
3. Airat Mardeev (Kamaz) +29m48s
4. Martin Kolomy (Tatra) +30m30s
- 5. Artur Ardavichus (IVECO) +1h50m07s**
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- 8. Ton Van Genugten (IVECO) +8h19m21s**
- 16. Gerard De Rooy (IVECO) +215h23m56s**

Starting order for SS11 – 19th July 2017

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- 08.46 Eduard Nikolaev (Kamaz)
 - 08.52 Martin Kolomy (Tatra)
 - 08.54 Dmitry Sotnikov (Kamaz)
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 - 09.02 Artur Ardavichus (IVECO)**
 - 09.08 Ton Van Genugten (IVECO)**
 - 09.09 Gerard De Rooy (IVECO)**

IVECO

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The brand's wide range of products include the Daily, a vehicle that covers the 3 – 7.2 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.

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