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<b>Date:</b>	13.02.2026	<b>Time:</b>	20:25 hrs
<b>Subject:</b>	STEWARDS DECISION No. 4	<b>Document No:</b>	2.5

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**From:** The Stewards  
**To:** The Competitor TEAM ARMIN SCHWARZ DRIVING EXPERIENCE of car No. 40  
Crew FABIO SCHWARZ / PASCAL RAABE

All Competitors / crew members

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The Stewards, having received a report from the Clerk of the Course, summoned the above crew members as well as a competitor's representative, have considered the following matter and determine the following:

**Facts** Crew of Car No. 40 incorrectly activated and maintained "Road Blocked" status on the FIA Safety Tracking device while the road remained passable.

**Offence** Breach of Article 12.2.1.i of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code.

**Decision** Fine of € 1000 jointly and severally on the Driver FABIO SCHWARZ and Co-driver PASCAL RAABE of Car No. 40.

In accordance with Art. 12.8 of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code, fines shall be paid within 48 hours of their notification. Any delay in making payment may entail Suspension during the period a fine remains unpaid.

**Reason** The Stewards heard from the Driver, FABIO SCHWARZ, the Co-driver, PASCAL RAABE, and the Sporting Coordinator, KINGA GOSPODARCZYK, of Car No. 40 on Friday, 13 February 2026 at 12:00 hrs.

The Stewards reviewed the report of the Clerk of the Course, which stated that during SS1 (Umeå 1), at approximately 5.5 km into the stage, the Crew of Car No. 40 stopped and activated the "Road Blocked" status on the FIA Safety Tracking device. The report further stated that the road remained passable and that four (4) following cars were able to pass without obstruction. Rally Control contacted the crew via the FIA Safety Tracking system and instructed them to cancel the "Road Blocked" status. Although the crew confirmed receipt of the messages, the status remained active for approximately seven (7) minutes and forty-six (46) seconds, resulting in unnecessary yellow proximity warnings being triggered for Cars No. 41, 42, 44 and 45.

The Driver stated that the car suffered an engine failure and that the crew were attempting to restart the car in order to move it to a safer location. The Co-driver confirmed that the red warning triangle was placed in accordance with the prescribed procedure. The crew stated that the car was positioned near the middle of the road with limited space on either side and that, given the night-time conditions and restricted visibility, they believed the passage for approaching cars was unsafe. The crew further stated that they actively attempted to warn approaching cars and apologised for their lapse in judgement.

The Stewards reviewed three (3) onboard camera recordings from following cars and determined that sufficient space existed for cars to pass safely at reduced speed. The Stewards further noted that, despite direct instruction from Rally Control, the "Road Blocked" status was not cancelled in a timely manner.

Article 12.2.1.i of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code provides that failure to follow the instructions of the relevant officials for the safe and orderly conduct of the event constitutes an offence. The crew failed to promptly cancel the "Road Blocked" status after being instructed to do so by Rally Control.

Having considered the matter extensively, the Stewards determined that the road was not fully blocked and that the continued activation of the "Road Blocked" status was not justified. The Stewards therefore conclude that the crew were in breach of Article 12.2.1.i of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code.

The Stewards consider the fine imposed to be proportionate and necessary in the circumstances.

Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the 2026 FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 5 of the 2026 FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules.

  
Mazen Al-Hilli  
The Stewards

  
Kai Tarkiainen

  
Janne Rydh

**This decision was notified to the Competitor's officially nominated representative as below:**

<i>Name (in block letters):</i>	<b>KINGA GOSPODARCZYK</b>	<i>Date:</i>	<b>13.02.2026</b>
<i>Position within the team:</i>	<b>SPORTING COORDINATOR</b>	<i>Time:</i>	<b>20:30</b>

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