

12th – 18th October 2023

Date: **Wednesday, 18th October 2023**

Time: **18.00 hrs**

Subject: **STEWARDS DECISION N° 21**

Document No: **2.23**

From: *The Stewards*

To: Competitor: Vehicle No **314** Name: **ENERGYLANDIA RALLY TEAM**
Crew: **Erik GOCZAL / Oriol MENA**

Number of pages: 2

Attachments: 0

The Stewards, having received a report from the FIA Sporting Delegate, having examined the photo evidences, have heard the Crew members, having considered the following matter, determine the following:

Fact: The crew members lit a fire where it could not be done (this is prohibited by the legislation of the Moroccan state) and published posts on social media pictures taken during Stage 3 where the Crew was showing some bushes on fire.

Offence: Breach of Article 12.2.1.f. of the 2023 FIA International Sporting Code

Decision: **To impose a Reprimand on the Competitor ENERGYLANDIA RALLY TEAM**

Reason:

The Crew members explained that they had a mechanical failure on SS3, and after trying to share their position to their team during a couple of hours without success, and as the night was approaching, they thought that creating a bush fire was a good idea to reveal their position.

The FIA Sporting Delegate told the Crew members that in Morocco, starting a fire is very serious crime.

In the opinion of the Stewards, the crew members acted extremely irresponsibly and uploaded photos confirming such unjustifiable actions to social networks, thereby promoting unauthorized behavior incompatible with the fundamental principles and goals of the FIA.

In this way, it violated the legislation of the Moroccan state, which provides for extremely strict responsibility for actions of this kind. But moral aspects are also important. In Morocco, more recently, there was an earthquake that claimed casualties.

Crew behavior caused great damage to nature. Of course, it has caused enormous damage to the entire motorsport community, including, but not limited to, the organiser of the event Rallye du Maroc, W2RC promoter, FIA.

The FIA is making a huge effort to ensure that the motorsport community is as involved as much as possible in the promotion of nature conservation and responsible behavior in order to contribute to the promotion of green policies.

The crew's behavior showed extreme disrespect for the FIA's goals. It should be noted that such unjustified actions were performed by the driver, who is the priority driver of the FIA W2RC.

The crew members explained that in this way (by setting fire to the natural vegetation of nature) they sought to help their team members find their way to them with burning fire when they stopped and could not continue to drive due to a car damage. They stated that the fire was supposed to help find them in the dark.

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However, after the Stewards conducted an additional investigation, it became obvious that the team members reached the crew before it got dark. This is confirmed by the photos that the Stewards received during the investigation.

This calls into question the sincerity of the explanations of the crew members.

The crew undertook to take the necessary steps to minimize the damage caused.

In order to allow the competitor and the crew members to at least try to mitigate the consequences in some way, the Stewards suspended the hearing started on 17.10.2023 until 12:00 p.m. on 18.10.2023.

It is also noteworthy that on 18.10.2023, the President of the FRMSA (Moroccan ASN) sent a letter to the FIA Category Manager asking him to pay attention to such behavior of the crew members.

After the resumption of the hearing, crew members presented evidence that they posted on social media regrets about the damage caused. They did so on their accounts and in public media posts. This they also did in the media in Poland (the driver's country).

They also provided confirmation that they had donated 5000 EUR in order to make up for at least some compensation for the damage caused by their actions. They provided a copy of the payment to the United Nations World Food Programme with the 5000 EUR donation specified to the country of Morocco, in order to support the local community.

The Crew members expressed their sincere regret at the situation. They assured the Stewards that such behavior on their part would not happen again.

The Stewards decide that there is reason to believe that the Crew members are indeed sincerely sorry.

The decision is based on Art. 11.9.1, Art. 11.9.3.a, Art. 11.9.3.f and 12.4.1.b of the 2023 FIA International Sporting Code.

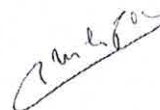
Competitors are reminded that they have the right to appeal certain decisions of the Stewards, in accordance with Article 15 of the FIA International Sporting Code and Chapter 4 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules, within the applicable time limits.



Arnas PALIUKENAS
FIA Chairperson of the Stewards



Mauro FURLANETTO
FIA Steward



Ahmed Houbri
ASN Steward

Received:

ERIK GOCZAL

Competitor:

ENERGYLANDIA RALLY TEAM

Car: 314

Crew:

ERIK GOCZAL / ORIOL MENA

Date: *18.10.23*

Time: *17:20*

Signature: 