FIA HISTORIC RALLY EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

ARDECA YPRES HISTORIC RALLY
25 - 27 June 2026

Date:	**27 June 2026**	Time:	**18:15**
Subject:	**Stewards Decision No. 1**	Document No.:	**2.02**
From:	**The Stewards**		
To:	Competitor car no. **Autostal atlantic # 117** Crew: **Wouter LIEVENS / Bert ALLEMEERSCH**		
	Number of pages: 2	Attachments:	[…]

The Stewards, having received a report from the Clerk of the Course, having examined the available photos, summoned (Summons No. 1) and heard the driver Mr. Wouter LIEVENS and Mr. Bert ALLEMEERSCH and team representative Mr. Eddy Smeets, have considered the following matter, determine the following:

Fact: The crew opened the bonnet of their car while within the control zone of TC 21A.

Offence: Breach of Art. 2.13 of the EHRC Regulations 2026
Breach of Art. 42.3 of the EHRC Regulations 2026
Breach of Art. 63.1 of the EHRC Regulations 2026

Decision: **10 Minute time penalty**

Reason: At the hearing, Mr Smeets explained that the crew had already experienced engine overheating issues before reaching TC 21A. He stated that the sole intention in opening the bonnet was to protect the engine from further damage and not to carry out any work on the car or gain any sporting advantage.

Mr Smeeth further acknowledged that the crew had made a significant error by entering the control zone before their permitted clock-in time. As a consequence of that mistake, the crew had already been penalised by the Clerk of the Course for early check-in in accordance with the applicable regulations..

The Stewards established that the crew opened the bonnet of their car while the car was within the control zone of TC 21A. Pursuant to Article 2.13 of the 2026 FIA EHRC Sporting Regulations, a Parc Fermé is an area in which any operation, checking, tuning or repair on the car is not allowed unless expressly provided for by the regulations. Article 63.1 and Art. 42.3 stipulate that, control zones are subject to Parc Fermé conditions unless otherwise expressly under Parc Fermé conditions.

Opening the bonnet constitutes a operation to access to the mechanical components of the vehicle and is therefore considered to be work or preparation incompatible with Parc Fermé conditions.

The Stewards considered whether the infringement warranted the penalty of disqualification. However, they identified several mitigating circumstances which justify the imposition of a lesser sanction.

The incident occurred at the final time control before the finish podium, and therefore no sporting advantage could have been gained by the crew. The Stewards are satisfied that no repair work, adjustment or other intervention on the car was actually carried out after the bonnet was opened. The action was solely intended to prevent further overheating of the engine.

The crew immediately acknowledged their error and fully cooperated during the hearing. They admitted that entering the control zone before their permitted clock-in time and opening the bonnet constituted a breach of the regulations. The Stewards also note that the crew had already received the prescribed penalty for their early check-in.

Finally, the Stewards took into account that this was the crew's first participation in an event counting towards the FIA European Historic Rally Championship.

Having considered all of the above circumstances, the Stewards determined that a penalty short of disqualification was proportionate to the nature of the infringement while maintaining the importance of strict compliance with Parc Fermé regulations.

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 5 of the FIA Judicial and Disciplinary Rules, within the applicable time limits (both documents can be found at https://www.fia.com).

Uwe M. SCHMIDT (GER)
FIA Chair of the Panel of Stewards

Ruth LAPIEZA (ESP)
FIA Steward

Ludo PEETERS
ASN Steward

Name in block letters	**Mr. Eddy Smeets**	Date	**27.06.2026**
Position in the team	**Team Manager**	Time	**18.30 hrs**
Signature	**Signature on the original document**		

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