

## Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain: Škoda drivers want to improve their WRC2 overall position

- › On the asphalt stages of the fifth round of the 2026 FIA World Rally Championship, ten private Škoda crews are competing for WRC2 points
- › As fourth and fifth in the WRC2 overall standings, Toksport WRT's Robert Virves and Roberto Daprà of Delta Rally Team are the top-seed Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 drivers
- › Former WRC2 Champion Emil Lindholm as well as tarmac specialists Eric Camilli and Jan Solans also rely on the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2

**Mladá Boleslav, 22 April 2026 – The FIA World Rally Championship heads into its second tarmac event in only two weeks. However, the stages of Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain (23-26 April 2026) are expected to be much smoother and cleaner than the tracks of the recent Croatia Rally. The need for a highly precise driving style usually favours the drivers from Southern Europe. At least four Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews travel to the island of Gran Canaria with a podium position as a realistic goal.**

Four rounds into the WRC2 season, Robert Virves of customer team Toksport WRT holds the fourth position in the category's overall standings. The 25-year-old and co-driver Jakko Viilo together won WRC2 at the Safari Rally Kenya, arguably the toughest gravel event of the year. Robert Virves will use the trip to the Canary Islands mainly to improve his tarmac driving skills. Therefore, the Estonians are not scoring points in the WRC2 Drivers' and Co-Drivers' classifications, but for the WRC2 Team's championship only.

On the other hand, fifth-placed overall Roberto Daprà is chasing more WRC2 points. The 24-year-old Italian shares a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta Rally Team with co-driver Luca Guglielmetti. At last year's Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain, they achieved a seventh place in WRC2. This time around, they target an even better position. Same counts for Emil Lindholm, who last year reached the finish as sixth in WRC2. The former WRC2 Champion from Finland, who listens to the pace notes of Brazilian Gabriel Morales, also competes for team Toksport WRT.

From coastal roads to the hill-climb resembling stages of the interior, Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain needs absolute precision from the competitors. The winding and narrow roads of Gran Canaria offer extremely high grip levels due to their abrasive, volcanic asphalt. They are ideally suited to the clean driving style Southern Europeans are known for. Among them are French crew Eric Camilli/Thibault De La Haye (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Eurosol Racing Team Hungary) and Giovanni Trentin/Pietro Elia Ometto from Italy (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team MT Racing). Jan Solans and co-driver Rodrigo Sanjuán (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team PH.Ph) fly the Spanish flag.

A “dark horse” in this equation is Alexey Lukyanuk. The 45-year-old former FIA European Rally Champion returns to the world series after a hiatus of five years. He has won the Canary Islands event four times when it was part of the FIA European Rally Championship. After three years, he is back at the wheel of a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, this time listening to co-driver Yuriy Kulikov. Another driver with the main goal to improve his tarmac driving skills is Mille Johansson from Sweden. He shares a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 with Johan Grönvall, who guided him to last year’s FIA Junior World Rally Champion title. Also on the starting line as reigning champions are Miguel Granados and co-driver Marc Martí. The Mexican-Spanish Škoda crew plans to defend their titles as WRC Masters Cup winners. In total, ten Škoda crews are on the WRC2 entry list of Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain.

The Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain features 18 special stages, covering 322.61 kilometres. On Thursday (23 April), a spectacular show stage at the Circuito Islas Canarias kicks off proceedings. 17 proper stages – the longest running for 28.90 kilometres – follow on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The winners will celebrate on the podium on Sunday afternoon (2h45 local).

**Did you know, that...**

...that the event celebrates its Golden Jubilee? First run in 1977, it was part of the FIA European Rally Championship for decades before being promoted to FIA World Rally Championship status in 2025.

...the rally returns to the Circuito Islas Canarias, where the WRC’s stars will compete side-by-side in a stadium-style showdown reminiscent of the legendary „Race of Champions“?

...the weather often makes tyre choice extremely difficult, as the coast may be basking in the sun, while the high-altitude mountain stages are frequently hit by unexpected showers?

**Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 4 of 14 events)**

- 1 Léo Rossel (FRA), Citroën, 42 points
- 2 Roope Korhonen (FIN), Toyota, 35 points
- 3 Yohan Rossel (FRA), Lancia, 27 points
- 4 Robert Virves (EST), Škoda, 25 points**
- 5 Roberto Daprà (ITA), Škoda, 25 points**

**Standings WRC2/Teams (after 4 of 14 events)**

- 1 Lancia Corse HF, Lancia, 84 Points
- 2 Toksport WRT, Škoda, 67 points**
- 3 M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, Ford, 45 Points

**2026 FIA World Rally Championship**

Rallye Monte-Carlo	22-25 January
Rally Sweden	12-15 February
Safari Rally Kenya	12-15 March
Croatia Rally	9-12 April
<b>Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain</b>	<b>23-26 April</b>
Rally de Portugal	7-10 May
Rally Japan	28-31 May
Acropolis Rally Greece	25-28 June
Rally Estonia	16-19 July
Rally Finland	30 July-2 August
Rally del Paraguay	27-30 August
Rally Chile Bio Bío	10-13 September
Rally Italia Sardegna	1-4 October
Rally Saudi Arabia	11-14 November

Contact

**Jan Hrbek**

Communications Motorsport

P +420 730 867 534

[jan.hrbek@skoda-auto.cz](mailto:jan.hrbek@skoda-auto.cz)

<https://www.skoda-motorsport.com/>

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**Škoda crews at Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain**

Following their victory in the WRC2 category at Safari Rally Kenya (pictured), Robert Virves and co-driver Jakko Viilo (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT) use the rally mainly as an exercise.

Source: Škoda Auto



**Škoda crews at Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain**

The Italian duo of Roberto Daprà/Luca Guglielmetti (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Delta Rally Team) has a top position as goal.

Source: Škoda Auto



**Škoda crews at Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain**

Former WRC2 Champion Emil Lindholm from Finland is building on his sixth-place finish from last year. He shares a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of team Toksport WRT with Gabriel Morales from Brazil.

Source: Škoda Auto



**Škoda crews at Rally Islas Canarias – Rally of Spain**

Eric Camilli/Thibault De La Haye from France (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 of Eurosol Racing Team Hungary) are among the tarmac specialists aiming for a podium position.

Source: Škoda Auto

**Škoda Motorsport**

- › Škoda celebrates 125 years of Motorsport since the first efforts in 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as in circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the Škoda 130 RS.
- › Since 2009, the Škoda Fabia celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide.
- › Until 2014, the Škoda Fabia S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The Škoda Fabia S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The successor model Škoda Fabia R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) entered the scene in 2015. Later renamed to Škoda Fabia Rally2 and followed by the further developed Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo, the model collected nearly 2,000 victories in 68 countries until the end of the 2022 season.
- › During this period, Škoda Motorsport factory drivers Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE) and Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) won the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro. Škoda Motorsport also took the WRC2/WRC2 Pro Manufacturers' title five times in a row from 2015 to 2019.
- › Beginning with the 2020 season, Škoda Motorsport changed its strategy to supporting private teams. The success story continued: Driving a Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo run by Toksport WRT, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) und Emil Lindholm (FIN) became WRC2 Champions in 2021 and 2022. Mikkelsen became WRC2 Champion again in 2023 with team Toksport WRT, when the all-new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 entered the scene. The Škoda Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT also won the WRC2 Teams' title three times in 2020, 2022 and 2023. In 2025 Toksport WRT took another WRC2 Teams' title and Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov of Toksport WRT become WRC2 Challenger drivers' and co-drivers' champions respectively.
- › Škoda Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC).

**Škoda Auto**

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the Next Level Škoda Strategy;
- › aims to become one of the top three best-selling brands in Europe by the end of the decade by offering its customers the best of both worlds through a range of attractive BEV, hybrid & ICE products;
- › effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- › currently offers customers 12 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- › delivered more than 1,040,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2025;
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group, one of the world's most successful car manufacturers, for more than 30 years;
- › is part of Brand Group CORE, an organisational merger of the Volkswagen Group's volume brands, with the aim of achieving joint growth and significantly increasing the overall efficiency of all five volume brands;
- › independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Volkswagen Group brands;
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic; has production capacities in Slovakia, Kazakhstan and India, mostly through group partnerships, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine in cooperation with a local partner;
- › employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.