

Barum Czech Rally Zlín: First two positions go to Škoda drivers Adam Březík and Teemu Suninen

- › Samohýl Škoda Team's Adam Březík and co-driver Zdeněk Bělák jun. score maiden FIA European Rally Championship victory on their home event.
- › Finnish Škoda crew Teemu Suninen/Antti Haapala from The Racing Factory Motorsport Solutions take second place and strengthen their overall lead after five of seven events.
- › Defending champions Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk from Poland drive ORLEN Team's Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to fourth position.
- › Five Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 crews finish inside the top ten of the ERC classification.

Zlín (CZE), 17 August 2026 – Local heroes Adam Březík and co-driver Zdeněk Bělák jun. won Barum Czech Rally Zlín, fifth round of the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC). They finished 8.3 seconds ahead of their Škoda stablemates Teemu Suninen/Antti Haapala from Finland. With two rounds left, Teemu Suninen has extended his ERC overall lead to 25 points.

For Simone Tempestini, who turned 32 two days before the event, Barum Czech Rally Zlín started with a delayed birthday present: Together with co-driver Francesca Maria Maior, also from Romania, he powered his Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to the fastest time of the qualifying stage. When the rally had started for real, the cars from Mladá Boleslav kept featuring on top of the interim standings. And it was a local crew, who seized the opportunity to shine at their home event.

On Saturday evening, Adam Březík and co-driver Zdeněk Bělák jun. were in front. The Samohýl Škoda Team pairing had taken the lead after the fourth of the leg's seven stages. At that point, multiple former European champion Jan Kopecký and co-driver Jiří Hovorka held second position. Two stages later, it was game over for the Agrotec Škoda Rally Team crew. "A stone came into one of the rims. It broke and the brake pipes were damaged – no way to continue," explained Jan Kopecký, who has won the event already twelve times.

So, Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk were listed in second position after the first leg. The defending FIA European Rally Champions trailed the leaders by 9.7 seconds after winning one stage with the ORLEN Team's Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. Sharing a similar car of The Racing Factory Motorsport Solutions, Teemu Suninen and co-driver Antti Haapala followed a further 1.6 seconds down in third position. "These stages are incredible, I have no words. You need to drive this rally ten times to be really fast," Teemu Suninen confessed. However, the current ERC overall leader had won one stage across day one.

And he had no intention to give up on Sunday morning. After the legendary 18-kilometres stage "Pindula", Teemu Suninen/Antti Haapala had leapfrogged Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon

Gospodarczyk to second position. While Adam Březík/Zdeněk Bělák jun. safeguarded their lead with a three-stage winning streak, these two Škoda crews changed positions two more times until the lunch break.

During the afternoon loop, Teemu Suninen/Antti Haapala finally secured second position. Meanwhile, Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk came under pressure from Andrea Mabellini/Virginia Lenzi. With the fastest time in the final stage, the Italians snatched the lowest podium position by 1.3 seconds.

"I have no words, it's absolutely amazing", Adam Březík described his maiden FIA European Rally Championship victory. The 30-year-old normally concentrates on the Czech Rally Championship. His Samohýl Škoda Team-entered Fabia RS Rally2 is run by three-time Barum Czech Rally Zlín winner Roman Kresta. "I'm really happy with my performance. I know the stages really well. I live near the finish of the Pindula stage. But still, I'm surprised. Roman sets my Škoda up and I just drive." His best result across his previous eight ERC starts was a fourth place at the Barum Czech Rally Zlín two years ago.

With the second place, Teemu Suninen and Antti Haapala extended their respective leads in the ERC Drivers' and ERC Co-Drivers' standings to 25 points. "I am really proud, it was an extremely difficult rally," Teemu Suninen summed up the event. Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk now hold third position in the overall rankings.

Two more Škoda crews finished inside the top ten of the ERC result. With fifth place, Jakub Matulka/Damian Syty from Poland built on their breakthrough ERC podium at home three weeks ago. Simone Tempestini/ Francesca Maria Maior helped Team MRF Tyres celebrate its 50th start in the European championship with sixth place. Locals Ján Kundlák/Pavel Zalabák took sixth position for Auto Strž Škoda Rallypossible Team in the overall classification, but didn't score ERC points.

The FIA European Rally Championship continues with the sixth round, Rali Ceredigion (United Kingdom) from 4th to 6th September.

Number of the rally: 5

Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 driver Adam Březík and navigator Zdeněk Bělák jun. won five of the 13 stages on the way to their maiden FIA European Rally Championship victory.

**Barum Czech Rally Zlín (CZE), 14-16 August 2026,
5th round of the FIA European Rally Championship/Result ERC**

- 1 Adam Březík/Zdeněk Bělák jun. (CZR/CZR), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, 1:57.13.5 hours**
- 2 Teemu Suninen/Antti Haapala (FIN/FIN), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +8.3 seconds**
- 3 Andrea Mabellini/Virginia Lenzi (ITA/ITA), Lancia Ypsilon Rally2 HF Integrale, +15.8 seconds**
- 4 Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk (POL/POL), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +17.1 seconds**
- 5 Jakub Matulka/Damian Syty (POL/POL), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +55.9 seconds**
- 6 Simone Tempestini/ Francesca Maria Maior (ROU/ROU), Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, +1:33.7 minutes**

Standings ERC/Drivers (after 5 of 7 events)

- 1 Teemu Suninen (FIN), Škoda, 108 points**
- 2 Andrea Mabellini (ITA), Lancia, 83 points**
- 3 Mikołaj Marczyk (POL), Škoda, 69 points**
- 4 Jakub Matulka (POL), Škoda, 53 points**
- 5 Giandomenico Basso (ITA), Škoda, 45 points**

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Škoda crews at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

Czech pairing Adam Březík/Zdeněk Bělák jun. (Škoda Fabia RS Rally 2) took the lead after the fourth stage and defended it until the finish.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

Locals Adam Březík and co-driver Zdeněk Bělák jun. (Samohýl Škoda Team) used their knowledge of the stages to celebrate their first ever victory in the FIA European Rally Championship.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

With second position, Teemu Suninen and co-driver Antti Haapala from Finland (The Racing Factory Motorsport Solutions Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) extended their overall lead in the FIA European Rally Championship standings.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

The ERC podium with winners Adam Březík/Zdeněk Bělák jun. (centre) and second-placed Teemu Suninen/Antti Haapala (left), both competing with Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

Reigning FIA European Rally Champions Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk from Poland finished fourth with ORLEN Team's Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

Fifth after 13 stages: Polish Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 pairing Jakub Matulka/Damian Syty.

Source: Škoda Auto



Škoda crews at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

In the week of his 32nd birthday, Simone Tempestini and co-driver Francesca Maria Maior from Romania (Škoda Fabia RS Rally2) finished in sixth ERC 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.