



Ufficio Stampa – Press Office

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## Drivers' quotes from the shakedown

### n.14 Teemu Arminen (Subaru Impreza)

*We were here last year, the roads were much harder than this year, there is some loose gravel, I do not know how it is going to stay on the road, maybe the second lap is going to be really rough but at first it looks like it's much nicer. The new stages are absolutely fantastic, fast, slow, there is everything there can be in a stage, I really enjoy these. Trentin, Bruschetta and "Dedo" are my opponents for the Trofeo Terra, this event gives double points so we have to think about the championship. We might not be able to catch the IRC guys, this is a tough event for Group N cars, we broke a driveshaft in our first run on the shakedown.*

### n.11 Paolo Andreucci (Peugeot 207 Super 2000)

*Very nice event with great stages. I face strong opponents, as we have seen Ogier is winning in the World Championship so the level is very high, also Meeke, Hanninen, Kopecky whom we already know in the Italian Championship where he is performing very well. A difficult Rally, long and with many dangers, particularly punctures, we will have to wait for the second pass to see the real classification. The new stages near Oristano are nice, especially Monte Grighine, it is very twisty, with changes in rhythm.*

### n.3 Kris Meeke (Peugeot 207 Super 2000)

*I love the island, it's beautiful here, the weather and everything is fantastic. I've done the rally two or three times, the last time was in 2005 so it's quite a while ago. Day 2 is traditional Sardinian stages which we all know are very tricky and narrow, with some rocks. Lots of loose gravel this year, I don't know if something is being done to the stages, but there will be a lot of it on day 2. Stage number 1 of Day 1, the 28 km one, is fantastic, it's a new road through the mountain, through wind turbines, it is an absolutely beautiful road. The other stages are a little bit tricky, they have their own characteristics, the Monte Lerno stage is quite slippery, in the first pass the cars at the front are at a big disadvantage, for the second pass it may not be so bad but for sure cleaning the road on this rally is going to mean a lot. We must watch the fast guys starting at the back, they can find a really good grip, it's going to be interesting. Hanninen has a very strong start at the moment, he was untouchable in Argentina, this rally is quite similar to that one so he is going to be strong here. I know all the rallies from after Sardinia, we can have good performances. I want some good points here but it is not necessary for me to win at the moment, a podium would be nice.*



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#### n.9 Franz Wittmann jr. (Peugeot 207 Super2000)

*I like the stages very much, it's a shame I haven't been here earlier because the roads are superb, to compete at the highest level it is surely an advantage to know one or two stages from previous rallies. My goal is just to finish, on the shakedown we had our first 6 km on gravel with this car, on this gravel and with this set-up, since the shakedown is not like the rally we do not know what to expect, I think the first stage will be our first test kilometres for this rally, so no expectations.*

#### n.8 Bruno Magalhaes (Peugeot 207 Super2000)

*It's my first time here. I like it a lot, I had seen many images of the rally but it's very difficult for the first time with only two passes on the recce. The surface is very hard with a lot of stones. We have to be very careful for punctures and also not to damage the car. I need to finish the rally and try to learn a little bit more because it's my first season on IRC. My start position is not so bad, but only for the first three stages because for the second pass it's the same for everybody. This rally will be difficult for us, there are many good drivers, good teams, good cars, I think there are more than five drivers who can win this rally.*

#### n.12 Andreas Mikkelsen (Ford Fiesta Super 2000)

*The stages look very good, I did Sardinia two years ago, some stages are different but they look fantastic, especially the first long one on Saturday. I think the stages suit my driving style so I'm really looking forward to it. There are so many good drivers, Ogier, Meeke, Hanninen, Wilks, it's hard to say where we will be, it's a new car, new tyres from Hankook which we need to develop a bit, hopefully we can be up there fighting with them.*

#### n.1 Sebastien Ogier (Peugeot 207 Super 2000)

*Most of the stages are new, to be honest it's not my favourite rally, the stages are quite slow, difficult, narrow, with a lot of stones so it will be easy to have punctures. I think it will be a difficult rally but it's an occasion for me to gain experience, next year this rally will be back in the World Championship so it's interesting. My goal here is to help Peugeot, I will try to get the best possible result to score many points for the team, it may prove difficult as we are first on the road the first day, here it may be a disadvantage but we will try to do our best. I know there are good drivers in the IRC, Meeke, Hanninen, maybe also Mikkelsen who is eleventh on the road the first day, he will have a big advantage on us. We will try to do our best.*



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## n.2 Juho Hanninen (Skoda Fabia Super 2000)

*The stages are quite nice, characteristics change a lot, sometimes very fast, sometimes slow. I think the ground is mainly quite hard, it's better than in the past, it will be an interesting rally. I would like to win, it will be difficult, Ogier, Meeke, Wilks, Kopecky, Andreucci, there are so many good drivers, it will be difficult to win but it's the only thing I want to do here.*