



**PETRONAS**  
**TEAM DE ROOY**  
**IVECO**

**First Special was a fast but treacherous track.**

That's what Gerard de Rooy concluded after the finish of the 1<sup>st</sup> stage in Dakar 2014. "The Special from Rosario to San Luis was fast but certainly also treacherous. A lot of dust and because of that we saw a bend sometimes almost too late. It cost me a mirror and halfway the Special I lost a mud flap. If that's all, I won't complain," said a satisfied Gerard de Rooy who took the 4<sup>th</sup> place, only 1:33 minutes behind the winner.

It was a real WRC stage, told Tom: "taking over was impossible and only reserved for the real kamikazes. We have to stay calm and take our chances when it's really possible. You can lose the rally here too," said a relaxed looking navigator of truck 501.

The differences at CP1 are very small: 33 trucks within 5 minutes from Loprais who's doing well with his new Tatra.

The finish shows a similar list. In the meantime it is Mardeev who put on a final sprint and took the victory within a time of 2:46:52 hours. Loprais had to give up a bit but finished second only 10 seconds behind the winner. Marcel van Vliet took the 3<sup>rd</sup> place at 21 seconds, followed by Gerard who lost 1:33 minute, but who's still 2:27 minutes ahead of last year's winner, Eduard Nikolaev.

The assistance truck from Pep Vila finished 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:56 minutes behind. We didn't talk to Hans Stacey yet at he was still on the road. He finished 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:09 minutes. Despite the small difference with the top of the league, it's not his best opening time. We hope to tell you his story later.

Jo Adua finally closed the row for Petronas – Team de Rooy – Iveco with a splendid 12<sup>th</sup> place, 11:26 minutes behind.

A start has been made and for the moment the entire Team Petronas – Team de Rooy – Iveco is in the top-12. We hope they will keep on doing.

After this first short but interesting start of Le Dakar 2014, we are looking at the second stage. It will be a sunny and hot day with temperatures of 33° Celcius. A stage with different distances for all categories. The stage from San Luis to San Rafael starts with a fast track of 220 km's followed by 65 km of desert sand. The grey desert sand of Nihuil in the Argentinian Sierra Nevada is tough and treacherous. The best navigators and pilots can make the difference in this second stage. The trucks start around 8:30 local time with a liaison of 304 km followed by a Special of 400 km. After 269 km Special, the bikes and quads will be separated from the cars and trucks. The Special will be followed by a short liaison of 62 km until the bivouac in San Rafael.

**Time schedule Special – Day 2 (GMT + 1)**

Start of the trucks	14:18	(18:18)
Gerard (501)	14:26	(18:26)
Pep (516)	14:30	(18:30)
Hans (507)	14:34	(18:34)
Jo (520)	14:40	(18:40)

To be continued.....

