



Gerard causes a shimmering final but finished 2nd overall!

Gerard, immediately after the finish: "It was a nasty stage, often too narrow for the trucks. It's also not wise to let the cars and trucks start together. I told this last year already to the organisation. At the end I did all I could today. I hope it will be enough. Anyhow, the entire team can be satisfied with the team, the material and the course of the race. Now we'll have to wait what the organisation will decide."

Later on we'll talk to him again but at this moment the riders are doing the liaison between the Special and Valparaiso where the prize giving will take place.

The last kilometres of this Dakar were the most exciting kilometres for team Petronas – de Rooy – Iveco ever. Gerard had to recover 7:25 minutes. Immediately after the start he shows that it's a matter of sinking or swimming. Gerard passed WP1 first, 2:23 ahead of the leader Karginov. At that moment he's still 5:02 minutes behind in the general rankings.

At WP2, after 69 kilometres, Loprais has taken over the lead and Karginov is 1:49 minutes behind Gerard.

And then, at WP3, we suddenly see a change; Loprais is 1st again but the gap between Gerard and Karginov is 10:11 minutes. Virtually he's now the leader in the general league, 2:46 minutes ahead of Karginov.

At WP4 no changes, so Gerard is still the new virtual leader.

At the finish of the 13th stage, after 157 km's, Loprais wins and finished in 2:17:37 hours. It's his 2nd stage victory in this Dakar.

Gerard takes a splendid 2nd place and then it's getting exciting. Immediately after the finish we see Nikolaev and Karginov at 11:53 minutes and 11:59 minutes behind the winner. This would mean that Gerard had taken over the lead in the General Rankings, 2:11 minutes ahead of Karginov.

Then the disillusionment came: apparently Nikolaev and Karginov stopped after 100 km's Special for a Mini that had crashed and asked for a compensation of time. One hour after the finish, the organisation announced that the request has been granted and, sadly for the team Petronas – de Rooy – Iveco, the results have changed.

Loprais and Gerard still keep the 1st and 2nd place in this stage, followed by Nikolaev and the IVECO-pilots Hans "Racey" Stacey and Jo Adua who take the 4th and 5th place. Karginov now takes the 7th place, 6:39 minutes behind Loprais. The difference with Gerard de Rooy in this stage is only 4:14 minutes which is not enough for the overall rankings.

Gerard has to give up his leading position which he just re-obtained. The difference after today's Special is only 3:11 minutes. The difference was never that little in the whole Dakar history. The last stage was in all respects a thriller and certainly Dakar worthy.





General rankings Trucks Dakar 2014:

1.	Karginov	KAMAZ	55:00:28 hours
2.	Gerard de Rooy	IVECO	at 3:11 minutes
3.	Nikolaev	KAMAZ	at 1:34:52 hours
4.	Sotnikov	KAMAZ	at 3:22:10 hours
5.	Shibalov	KAMAZ	at 4:37:25 hours
6.	Loprais	TATRA	at 5:04:01 hours
7.	Hans Stacey	IVECO	at 5:14:57 hours
8.	Kuipers	MAN	at 6:31:08 hours
9.	Van Vliet	MAN	at 7:06:53 hours
10.	Pep Vila	IVECO	at 7:53:35 hours
22.	Jo Adua	IVECO	at 22:18:58 hours

Tomorrow, the vehicles will return to the harbour and all competitors will go home.

