

#03 - 30 JANUARY 2009

SEAT CONFIRM WINNING TEAM

SEAT president Erich Schmitt officially confirmed that the SEAT Sport team will compete in the 2009 World Touring Car Championship with the same five drivers they had in 2008: the new world champion Yvan Muller, Jordi Gené, Tiago Monteiro, Rickard Rydell and Gabriele Tarquini.

The announcement was delivered Wednesday in Barcelona, during a gala in which SEAT Sport celebrated their victory in the 2008 FIA WTCC Drivers' and Manufacturers' championships.

"Competition is very important to our brand and I am very proud of the successes achieved by our team. I would like to thank Jaime Puig and all of the drivers because the magnificent teamwork they performed last year was the key to our success. I am pleased to announce that SEAT will defend the world championship titles with the same team and the same drivers," Erich Schmitt said.

During their winning season the five SEAT Sport's drivers and SEAT Netherlands' Tom Coronel collected twelve victories out of the championship's twenty-four rounds and five pole positions.



SEAT president Erich Schmitt with Jaime Puig and the drivers

CORONEL STAYS WITH SUNRED

Tom Coronel will stay in the FIA World Touring Car Championship in 2009. The Dutch driver who won last year's second race in Okayama, will be racing again a SEAT León car run by the Spanish team SUNRED and supported by SEAT's Dutch importer Pon Car.

SEAT importer Pon Car, SUNRED and SEAT Sport have worked hard to prepare the best possible package for the 2009 season and the opportunity to have Coronel driving a diesel-powered SEAT León TDI car, like those used by the factory team was also considered.

"However, after consultations with everyone involved, we decided to continue with the petrol-powered León," explained Marco de Bos, managing director of Pon Car.

Coronel is looking forward to racing in the WTCC again this year. *“I am happy that the partnership with SUNRED goes on. My first year with them was very positive and I really feel at home with them. Last year, our results were very good already, so that gives me a positive feeling.”*



Tom Coronel's car will sport the colours of SEAT Netherlands

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR CURITIBA

Rounds 1 and 2 of the 2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Curitiba, Brazil, 7th and 8th March.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 24th February.

Please remind that media passes issued by National Sporting Authorities and/or any other series will NOT be valid.

The Accreditation form may be downloaded at the websites www.fia.com and www.fiawtcc.com.

- **International Press** must send applications to Fabio Ravaioli
tel +39 06 39729497, fax +39 06 39729470, email: media@fiawtcc.com
- **Brazilian Press** must send applications to Márcio Fonseca
tel/fax: 011 55429834/55314621; email: fonsecamarcio@terra.com.br
- **TV and Radio** must send applications to Antonios Argyropoulos
tel +33 1 40938517; email: antonios@eurosport.com

COUNTDOWN: - 37 DAYS



to the 2009 FIA WTCC Race of Brazil – 7th / 8th March in Curitiba