

NO MORE BALANCE OF PERFORMANCE CHANGES

Yesterday in Monaco, the FIA World Motor Sport Council approved the concept that there will be no balance of performance changes to any of the FIA WTCC cars after the start of the 2010 season.

The same system of compensation weight that came into force in 2009 will be used again in 2010.

The championship will be held on twelve race meetings over four continents. The only changes to the calendar, compared to the provisional one approved in June, concern the Moroccan and the Italian events that were brought forward by two weeks and one week respectively.

The WTCC Race of Morocco will be held at Marrakech on May 2nd, while the WTCC Race of Italy returns to Monza on May 23rd, after having visited Imola in 2009.

2010 FIA WTCC CALENDAR

<i>Date</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Venue</i>
07 March	BRAZIL	Curitiba
11 April	MEXICO	Puebla
02 May	MOROCCO	Marrakech
23 May	ITALY	Monza
20 June	BELGIUM	Zolder
04 July	PORTUGAL	Portimão
18 July	GREAT BRITAIN	Brands Hatch
01 August	CZECH REPUBLIC	Brno
05 September	GERMANY	Oschersleben
19 September	SPAIN	Valencia
31 October	JAPAN	Okayama
21 November	MACAU	Macau

GABRIELE TARQUINI CROWNED AT THE FIA GALA

Last night Gabriele Tarquini and SEAT have been officially named 2009 FIA World Touring Car champions during the traditional FIA prize giving gala in Monaco.

In the sumptuous setting of the Sporting d'Été's Salle des Etoiles, the FIA honoured all its champions. In a progression from Karting to Formula One, the FIA World Touring Car Championship's prize giving took place between the FIA GT's and the World Rally Championship's.

After SEAT's Yvan Muller and BMW's Augusto Farfus – second and third in the championship respectively – had received the runner up trophies, the curtain rose unveiling Gabriele Tarquini and SEAT Sport director Jaime Puig standing on the stage, with the SEAT León TDI winning car between them.

Tarquini was awarded with the World Champion's trophy, while Puig collected a second consecutive Manufacturers' Championship trophy.



Jaime Puig and Gabriele Tarquini on the stage at the FIA gala in Monaco

TARQUINI RECEIVES AUTOSPRINT AWARD

These are days of celebration for Gabriele Tarquini and SEAT, newly crowned FIA World Touring Car champions.

Before going to Monaco to attend the FIA gala, Gabriele Tarquini received the prestigious Golden Helmet award from the Italian motorsport magazine Autosprint.

Tarquini received the award from the hands of Ferrari F1 team manager Stefano Domenicali, during a gala dinner in Bologna in which all the champions of the 2009 automobile sport season were also celebrated.

The Golden Helmet for the FIA WTCC winning manufacturer was collected by SEAT Italy's new director Cyrill René Hugi.

COUNTDOWN: - 85 DAYS



to the 2010 FIA Race of Brazil – 6th / 7th March in Curitiba