



Rally Guide

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A. INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

For maximum motorsport action and excitement, the FIA Middle East Rally Championship always delivers, and the 2009 season is proving to be as thrilling as ever.

The Cyprus Troodos Rally is round 5 of this year's calendar and we're sure it will prove to be another exciting and memorable round of the MERC. In this Rally Guide, we have outlined all the information you're likely to need ahead of this year's Troodos Rally.

Organised by the Cyprus Automobile Association (CAA) and sponsored by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, cyta, Compusource, Golden Telecom the 2009 Troodos Rally will be held over the weekend of the 9th-11th October. Given the successful move last year to the island's west coast, we'll once again be basing the event around the attractive town of Geroskipou, near the popular resort of Paphos. So once again, competitors, crews and fans will get to enjoy both the rally and all the facilities that make Cyprus such a popular holiday destination.

On behalf of all the organisers, I wish you a safe, enjoyable and successful rally.

Yours sincerely,



Nayia Kontopoulou
Clerk of the Course
2009 Troodos Rally



Welcome from the Mayor of Geroskipou,

As you will already know, this year's Troodos Rally will be held here in Cyprus in October and, along with everyone else involved, I am looking forward to welcoming you to the island for what is sure to be a very enjoyable event.

In 2008, we based the Troodos Rally in our beautiful town, Geroskipou, for the first time and the event proved so successful that we will once again be hosting the event. I am pleased to say that our town is building a reputation as a focal point for sporting achievement on our island. Along with hosting last year's Cyprus round of the Middle East Rally Championship, Geroskipou has also had occasion to welcome many other professional athletes from other sporting disciplines – often as part of their rigorous training schedules.

Last year's Troodos Rally was a great experience for everyone involved and we are keen to capitalize on that success to ensure that this year's event will be even better – both for the teams and for the visiting fans.

Since last year, we have been in close contact with the organizers of the 2009 Troodos Rally to see how we can ensure an even more enjoyable event and are looking forward to welcoming you here for a great weekend's motorsport. Of course, as well as the facilities we'll be putting in place for the rally, while you are here you will also be able to enjoy the many attractions of our town, including our exceptional restaurants, relaxing cafes and friendly bars.

On behalf of the municipality, the local business owners and the people of Geroskipou, I'd like to express a warm welcome to you ahead of this year's Troodos Rally.

Yours faithfully,

Tasos Kouzoupos

B. EVENT HISTORY / OVERVIEW

Blue skies, beautiful beaches and warm hospitality have helped make Cyprus one of the world's best-loved holiday destinations.

They've also contributed to the island's exceptional reputation as an international motorsport venue.

After all, it's the perfect opportunity for rally fans to enjoy a holiday in Cyprus and to spectate at a tough, challenging and entertaining rallying event.

Since its inception in 2000, the Troodos Rally has provided rallying thrills and spills to many thousands of rally fans, as well as providing an excellent opportunity for local and regional talent to shine.

An official round of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship (or MERC, as it's more commonly known), the Troodos Rally is held every year and welcomes many of the region's best drivers to Cyprus for a weekend battling it out on the challenging roads and tracks of the island's major mountain range.

Always a popular event, local drivers Andreas Tsouloftas and Andreas Peratikos have both taken victory here. Recently, the event has been dominated by the *tour de force* that is Qatar's Nasser Al-Attiyah. Al-Attiyah's victory at last year's event marked his 6th consecutive Troodos Rally win! It also saw Al-Attiyah crowned as the 2008 Middle East Champion, and saw him enter the record books as the first driver ever to win 3 FIA Championships in the same year. (Al-Attiyah had already won the FIA Cup for Cross Country Baja, and the FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies.)

Competitors and their cars really are tested to the limit here. The Troodos Rally is considered one of the toughest events in its championship, with its punishing stages proving a real test of man and machine. As a result, the event is often unpredictable and capable of providing surprises, making the event that much more exciting for fans and that much more challenging for the competitors.

Organised by the Cyprus Automobile Association (CAA) and sponsored by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, the 2009 Troodos Rally is set for 9th-11th October and promises a weekend packed full of excitement. Based in the west coast town of Geroskipou, there's plenty of opportunity for rally fans to get to enjoy the action.

C. RECENT RALLY WINNERS

YEAR	POS	DRIVER/CODRIVER	NAT	CAR
2002	1	Andreas Peratikos / Nikitas Stavrinou	Cyp	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 6
	2	Chris Armeftis / Petropoulos	Cyp/Gre	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 7
	3	Misfer Al-Marri / Adel Hussein	Qat	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 6
2003	1	Nasser Al -Attiyah / Steve Lancaster	Qat/Gbr	Subaru Impreza WRC
	2	Andreas Tsouloftas / Savvas Laos	Cyp	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 6
	3	Rami Shiohatovich / Michael Michael	Isr/Cyp	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 6
2004	1	Nasser Al -Attiyah / Chris Patterson	Qat/Gbr	Subaru Impreza WRX STI
	2	Khaled Al Qassimi / Michael Orr	UAE/Gbr	Subaru Impreza WRX STI
	3	Chris Thomas / Chips	Cyp	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 7
2005	1	Nasser Al -Attiyah / Chris Patterson	Qat/Gbr	Subaru Impreza WRX STI
	2	Chris Thomas / Chips	Cyp	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 7
	3	Andreas Peratikos / Nikos Stavrinou	Cyp	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO VI
2006	1	Nasser Al -Attiyah / Chris Patterson	Qat/Gbr	Subaru Impreza WRX STI
	2	Andreas Tsouloftas / Savvas Laos	Cyp/Cyp	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO IX
	3	S. Almakhtoum / W. Murjan	UAE/UAE	Subaru Impreza
2007	1	N. Al-Attiyah / Chris Patterson	Qat/Gbr	Subaru Impreza 2007
	2	Andreas Peratikos / Nicos Panayides	Cyp/Cyp	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO VII
	3	Charalambos Timotheou / Michalis Stylianou	Cyp/Cyp	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO VII
2008	1	N. Al-Attiyah / Chris Patterson	Qat/Gbr	Subaru Impreza 2008
	2	Charalambos Timotheou / Panayiotis Shalos	Cyp/Cyp	Mitsubishi Lancer EVO IX
	3	Constantinos Tingirides / Angelos Loizides	Cyp/Cyp	Subaru Impreza N12

D. EVENT ORGANISATION DETAILS

Permanent Postal address:

CAA Office
12, Chr. Mylona Street
CY-2014 Lefkosia

Mailing Address:

Cyprus Automobile Association
P.O. Box 22279
CY-1519 Lefkosia

Tel: +357 22 31 32 33
Fax: +357 22 31 34 82

Rally HQ:

CAA Office (permanent Office up to Monday 5th October 2009)
12, Chr. Mylona Street
CY-2014 Lefkosia

Tel: +357 22 31 32 33
Fax: +357 22 31 34 82
Internet official website: <http://www.cyprusrally.com.cy>
E-mail: caa@cytanet.com.cy

Rally H.Q. (as from Tuesday 6th October 2009)
Riu Cypria Maris, Geroskipou
Tel: T.B.A.
Fax: T.B.A.

Internet official website: <http://www.cyprusrally.com.cy>
E-mail: caa@cytanet.com.cy

Key officials:

Clerk of the Course:	Nayia Kontopoulou
Deputy Clerks of the Course:	Stelios Demetriou, Petros Laos
Competitors' Relations Officer:	Costas Theocharides
Press Relations Officer:	Chris Christodoulou
ASN Safety Officer:	Loucas Loucaides
Chief Medical Officer:	T.B.A.

Rally office opening hours:

Upto Thursday October 8 th 2009 -	08:00 – 19:00 hours
Friday October 9 th 2009 -	08:00 – 20:30 hours
Saturday October 10 th 2009 -	07:00 – 19:00 hours
Sunday October 11 th 2009 -	07:00 – 20:00 hours

E. HOTELS/ACCOMMOATION

The organizers have made arrangements with the official travel agency of the Rally (Travelscope) for hospitality packages at the Service Park.

For details please contact Travelscope at tel. (+357) 25 34 31 11, fax (+357) 25 34 58 34.

Please note that in order to get a firm quotation they will need the approximate number of persons.

F. PROGRAMME AND CRITICAL DEADLINES

SCHEDULE BEFORE RALLY WEEK

Friday 14 th August	Opening date for entries
Monday 21 st September	Closing date for entries (reduced fee)
Friday 25 th September	Closing date for entries (normal fee)

SCHEDULE DURING RALLY WEEK

Tuesday 6 th October	16:00-19:00 -	Date of Preliminary Documentation
Tuesday 6 th October		Date of issuing the Road Book (Leg 1)
Wednesday 7 th October		Date of issuing the Road Book (Leg 2)
Wednesday 7 th October		Reconnaissance Day1
Thursday 8 th October		Reconnaissance Day 2
Friday 9 th October	14:00-17:00	Administrative Checks
	14:00-17:00	Scrutineering
		(according to the timetable to be issued at Preliminary Secretariat)
	19:00	First Stewards Meeting
	20:00	Publication of List of the cars eligible to take the start
	20:30	Ceremonial Start
Saturday 10 th October	08:00	Start of Leg 1
	20:00	Publication of Re-Start List for Leg 2
Sunday 11 th October	07:00	Start of Leg 2
	17:22	Rally Finish
	17:30	Final Scrutineering
	19:00	Publication of the Final Provisional Classification
	19:30	Publication of the Final Official Classification

G. ENTRY DETAILS

FIA titles for which The Troodos Rally 2009 counts:

FIA Middle East Rally Championship for Drivers
FIA Middle East Rally Championship for Co-Drivers
FIA Middle East Rally Cup for Group N Drivers

Criteria for acceptance of entries

Anybody wishing to take part in The Troodos Rally 2009 must send the attached entry form duly completed to the Rally Secretariat before Monday 21st September 2009 at 12:00 hours (reduced fee) and before Friday 25th September 2009 at 12:00 hours (normal fee).

If the entry form is sent by fax, the original must reach the organiser at the latest one week after the close of the entries.

Details concerning the co-driver can be sent up to 9th October 2009 **at 14:00 hours.**

The maximum number of entrants in the 2009 Troodos Rally is fixed at 70. In case there are more than 70 entries, the Organising Committee shall decide which entries will be accepted and notify the competitors not accepted by 29th September. The decision of the Organising Committee is not protestable.

Events of the FIA Regional Championship are reserved for Group N, cars of Group A of which the corrected cylinder capacity does not exceed 2000 cc, Super 1600 cars and Super 2000 cars.

Cars homologated as Kit cars, where the capacity is greater than 1600 cc, are not accepted.

Cars homologated as Kit cars, where the capacity is between 1400 and 1600 cc, may be accepted if they also comply with Article 255-6.2 "Weight" of Appendix J.

Two-wheel drive cars equipped with a supercharged diesel engine with a nominal cylinder engine with a nominal cylinder capacity of less than 2000 cm³ are accepted in Groups A and N.

For S1600 homologated cars it will be possible to use lapsed errata without any penalty.

Other cars as detailed in the Regional Championship regulations.

The classes for the non-priority drivers will be divided as follows:

Production Cars (Group N)

Cylinder capacity classes	
Class 1	Up to and including 1400 cc
Class 2	Over 1400 cc up to and including 1600 cc
Class 3	Over 1600 cc up to and including 2000 cc
Class 4	Over 2000 cc (including super 2000 cars)

Touring Cars (Group A)

Cylinder capacity classes	
Class 5	Up to and including 1400 cc
Class 6	Over 1400 cc up to and including 1600 cc (including super 1600)
Class 7	Over 1600 cc up to and including 2000 cc

Group N and Group A cars whose homologations have expired upto a maximum of four years before the beginning of 2009 under the conditions and regulations of the FIA.

In addition to Super 1600 and Super 2000, Group R cars that are in conformity with Articles 260 and 260D of Appendix J of the International Sporting Code, are authorised to participate in The Troodos Rally 2009. However, two-wheel drive cars equipped with a supercharged diesel engine with a nominal cylinder capacity of less than 2000 cc are accepted in Groups A and N. Their cylinder capacity will determine the vehicle class in its group.

A minimum number of four starters per class is admitted. Should this number not be attained the competitors in the class are admitted in the next class up of the respective group.

Entry fees

With the optional advertising proposed by the organisers:

Entries at Reduced Fee received upto Monday September 21st - €575 including VAT.

Entries at Regular Fee received after Monday September 21st and before Friday September 25th - €759 including VAT.

Without this advertising the above fees are doubled.

Club or Ecurie Team: €35,00 per car including VAT

Make Team Entries: €60,00 per car including VAT

The entry fees, must be paid by bank transfer to the organiser's bank account:

Name of Bank: Bank of Cyprus, Evrou Branch, Lefkosia

Account Name: CAA – Cyprus Rally

Account Number: 0108-01-004976-00

Swift Code: BCYPCY2N

IBAN Account no.: CY83 0020 0108 0000 0001 0049 7600

All expenses are payable by the Competitor. Payment must be made in Euro.

The entry application will be accepted if accompanied by the total entry fees or by a receipt issued by the competitor's National Sporting Authority.

H. ADVERTISING

Organisers' obligatory advertising (see .17.3 of the 2009 FIA Regional Rally Championships Sporting Regulations) will be published in a bulleting by September 9th 2009.

The optional advertising will be published in a bulletin by September 9th 2009.

Competitors who accept the organisers' optional advertising must reserve an area for it on the car.

The organiser will provide each crew with competition numbers and rally plates as per the 2009 FIA Regional Rally Championships Sporting Regulations.

For missing any one of the number plates the penalty is €200.

Advertising of tobacco, tobacco products and imitations, as well as smokers' requisites is forbidden by the Laws of the Republic of Cyprus, on cars, competition/service equipment and on the team members' outfits.

I. MEDIA CENTRE

RIU Cypria Hotel
Poseidon Avenue,
8042 Geroskipou,
Pafos.
Tel: T.B.A.
Fax: T.B.A.
Email: cypriamaris@dhyprotels.com
www.cyprotelshotels.com

Press Officer:

Chris Christodoulou
c/o Action Global Communications Limited
6 Kondilaki Street
Nicosia 1090
Cyprus
Tel: + 357 22 818884
Fax: + 357 22 873634
E-Mail: chris.c@actionprgroup.com

Accreditation

National and International journalists may apply to be accredited for the 2009 Troodos Rally by contacting the Accreditation Manager no later than 10/10/2009

Accreditation Manager:

Koulla Charalambous Kakopierou
c/o Action Global Communications Limited
6 Kondilaki Street
Nicosia 1090
Cyprus
Tel. Number: + 357 22 818884
Fax Number: + 357 22 873634
E-Mail: koulla.c@actionprgroup.com

Applications for accreditation can also be faxed to the above number.

For national media, they may accredit at the above address during normal office hours until Wednesday 7th October.

International media can accredit at the Media Centre on Friday 9th October from 11:00 to 19:00.

Media Centre hours:

Thursday 8 th October	08:00 – 19:00
Friday 9 th October	08:00 – 19:00
Saturday 10 th October	07:00 – 19:00
Sunday 11 th October	07:00 – 19:00

Press Office Staff:

Chris Christodoulou (English)
Koulla Charalambous (Greek)
Mikaelo Papadakis (Greek)
Sean Chrysanthou (English)

J. SERVICE PARK

During the whole duration of the rally there will be one service park. This will be located at Geroskipou, and is adjacent the Rally H.Q. The G.P.S.reference for the Service Park is: **N34 44.425** and **E 032 25.984**.

Type of Surface

The Service Park will be located on gravel.

TC IN / OUT with numbers

The Service Park TC IN / OUT numbers is mentioned in the Road Book.

FACILITIES AT THE SERVICE PARK

Organisers have foreseen the following facilities at the Service Park venue for the competitors: General Security / General Lighting / Public Toilets / Waste Collection/Water.

If your required additional individual security services, please contact:

AKME Securitas, tel: 26 931380, 97 617886, fax: 26 271741, e-mail: andy@akmesecuritas.com

Please note that extra security service is charged at €10+VAT per hour per person.

ACCESS TO THE SERVICE PARK

During the rally, only vehicles having affixed the plates (service, auxiliary), distributed by the organisers, will be allowed to enter the Service Park. These plates should be affixed on the left side of the front windscreen (co-driver's side).

Service, auxiliary plates will be distributed during material collection.

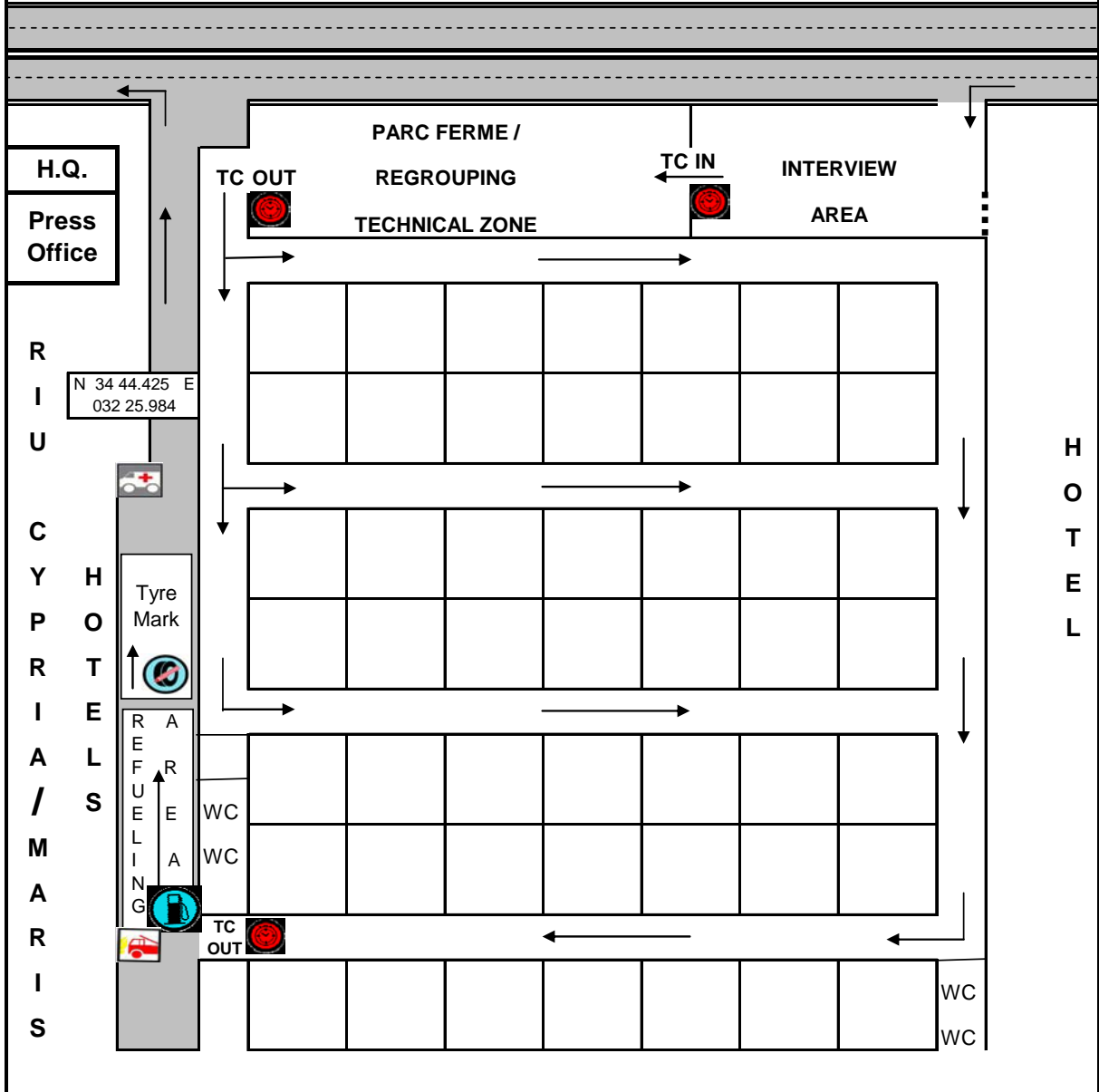
Access times for Teams to the Service Park:

Tuesday 6 th October	08:00 to 19:00
Wednesday 7 th October	08:00 to 19:00
Thursday 8 th October	08:00 to 19:00
Friday 9 th October	08:00 to 22:00
Saturday 10 th October	06:00 to 22:00
Sunday 11 th October	05:30 to 20:00

A separate auxiliary parking will be provided for all competitors.

All entrants will be allocated at an area 10mX10m.

S E R V I C E P A R K



K RECONNAISSANCE

Procedure for registration

Reconnaissance will be run in accordance with Article 23 of the 2009 FIA Middle East Rally Championship Regulations.

Reconnaissance cars must be in conformity with Article 23.1 of the 2009 FIA Regional Rally Championships Sporting Regulations.

When registering for reconnaissance one of the crew members must be present to sign an indemnity and register the details of the reconnaissance car (spare recce car, if any), mobile telephone number and contact details of the place of residence.

The Reconnaissance Registration Form can be filled in during the Preliminary Documentation on Tuesday October 6th 2009 at the Rally HQ.

Schedule

Reconnaissance will take place according to the following schedule:

Wednesday 7th October 2009 - 07:00 hrs to 18:00 hrs for Day 1

Thursday 8th October 2009 - 07:00 hrs to 18:00 hrs for Day 2

The Road Books together with the reconnaissance time cards will be issued on Tuesday October 6th 2009 and Wednesday 7th October 2009 at the Rally HQ.

Specific and/or national restrictions

- a. It is emphasized that reconnaissance is not practice. The competitors must drive in a manner that does not endanger or cause inconvenience to traffic or people living near the stages. All road traffic laws of Cyprus must be strictly complied with and the safety of other road users must be respected.
- b. Reconnaissance is **PROHIBITED** from the publication of the itinerary to the aforementioned dates. The presence of any entrant and/or crew member entered in the rally on any part of a special stage, in any way whatsoever, is considered as reconnaissance. If any crew and/or competitor is found, between both dates, on any part of any special stage to be used in the rally, he or she will be reported to the stewards who may apply penalties at their discretion.
- c. Crews are required to present their reconnaissance time card at the start and finish of all special stages. Crews will only be permitted to enter and leave special stages through the start and finish controls shown in the Road Books and may not under any circumstances drive in a direction opposite to that of the Rally.
- d. The maximum speed limit of 60 kph (or as specified) is imposed on all special stages during reconnaissance unless the organizers introduce a lower speed limit.
- e. All cars must have their headlights on at all times whilst travelling on the special stages.

Registration, Installation of Tracking and speed control devices

Registration for reconnaissance will take place as stated in the Rally Programme. At that time reconnaissance number plates, time cards and the schedules will be issued.

All recce cars will be fitted with a monitoring system of the speed and recce car position.

K. ADMINISTRATIVE CHECKS

The Preliminary Documentation will take place on Tuesday October 6th 2009 between 16:00-19:00 hours at Rally H.Q.

The administrative check will take place on Friday 9th October 2009 between 14:00-17:00 hours. Both crew members have to attend the administrative checks. However FIA A and B seeded drivers may appoint a representative and/or a team manager (duly assigned in writing) for their entries.

Documents to be presented

The following will be checked at the administrative check:

- a. Drivers and co-drivers competition licence
- b. Drivers and co-drivers road licence
- c. Entrants licence
- d. Authorisation from the crew's ASN to take part in the rally
- e. Information given on the entry form
- f. Insurance cover (third party) for the rally car
- g. Documents and registration papers for the rally car

L. SCRUTINEERING

Location

Scrutineering and marking will take place at Ringos Garage, Kantarenas 36, Geroskipou Industrial Area

Times/schedule

From 14:00 to 17:00 hours on Friday 9th October 2009, according to a time schedule to be issued at the preliminary secretariat.

Scrutineering provisions:

- Cars must be presented to the scrutineers with the competition numbers, rally plates and optional advertising affixed on the car before entering the scrutineering venue.
- The use of silvered or tinted film, complying with Appendix J, Article 253.11, is authorized on the side as well as the rear windows.
- The crew must show the car's homologation form as well as any appendices to this form. If these are not submitted, the Stewards may pronounce a penalty which may go as far as refusal to allow the car to start (art.25.2.4 of the 2009 FIA Regional Championships Sporting Regulations).
- The control of drivers' helmets and equipment as well as the head restraint (HANS device) will take place at the scrutineering. The helmets must meet one of the standards listed in technical list no.25 of Appenix J. Each helmet used by the crew will have to be identified and marked during the scrutineering before the start. This marking may be checked on the start of each special stage.
- In accordance with ISC Appendix L, Chapter III, Article 3.2., the wearing of an FIA approved restraint is MANDATORY for all drivers and co-drivers. Drivers' and co-Drivers' overalls as well as underwear, gloves, balaclava, boots homologated to the FIA 8856-2000 standard and will be checked at the scrutineering.

Competitors reporting late to scrutineering will be penalized €50 for every 30-minute period delay. Thereafter Article 15.1.2 of the 2009 FIA Regional Rally Championships Sporting Regulations, will apply.

M. START PROCEDURE

Dates and Place

The Start of the 2009 Troodos Rally will be held at the Geroskipou municipal square on Friday 9th October 2009 at 20:30 hrs.

Competitors will arrive at the Holding Control – Start at 19:45 hrs. They will then be called up onto the ramp in the Starting order order 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4, 5, 6

Procedure

At approximately 20:15 – 20:20 The MC will make a brief introduction to the event and give spectators information on where to go and watch the event. The Mayor of Geroskypou will then make a brief speech welcoming people to the event,

At 20:28 Car no 1 is called up onto the ramp. Driver and co driver step out of the car for a short interview and then get back in the car. Dignitary is called up onto the ramp to wave off the first car.

At 20:30 the first car is waved off the ramp and drives back to the service park.

2nd overall is called up onto the ramp and is waved off by 20:32

3rd overall is called up onto the ramp and is waved off by 20:34

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Last car onto the ramp waved off

N. FINISH PROCEDURE

Dates and Place

The finish of the 2009 Troodos Rally will be held at the Geroskipou municipal square on Sunday 11th October 2009 at 17:40 hrs.

Competitors will arrive at the Holding Control – Finish at 17:39 hrs. They will then be called up onto the finishing ramp in the finishing order 3rd, 2nd, 1st 4, 5, 6

Procedure

Third overall is called up onto the ramp by the M/C.

The car slopes slightly to aid better pictures. Driver and co driver step out of the car for a short interview and then get back in the car and drive off the ramp and park the car to the side of the ramp. Driver and Codriver wait next to the photographers area to be called up onto the podium.:

Second overall is called up onto the ramp by the M/C. The car slopes slightly to aid better pictures. Driver and co driver step out of the car for a short interview and then get back in the car and drive off the ramp and park the car to the side of the ramp. Driver and Codriver wait next to the photographers area to be called up onto the podium

First overall is called up onto the ramp by the M/C. The car slopes slightly to aid better pictures. Driver and co driver step out of the car for a short interview and then are asked to step onto the bonnet for the:

Wreaths

Spraying of Champagne / Sparkling Water

Team stays on bonnet for 30s for pictures and the driver and co-driver walk off to the waiting area with second and third overall.

Podium is moved into position and the MC then calls the three winning crews to step up onto the podium in the order 3rd, 2nd and 1st. Dignitaries are invited to hand over the cups in the respective order. National Anthem of the winning driver is then played followed by the National Anthem of the Manufacturer of the winning car.

Top three teams are then asked to proceed with the traditional spraying of Champaign.

Drivers (or team representatives) enter their cars and drive to parc ferme or scrutineering.

4th overall drives up to the ramp, dips the nose of the car slightly. Are handed any respective prize, may be asked to comment by M/C and drives off the ramp to Parc Ferme

Similar procedure for all remaining teams.....

O. GENERAL INFORMATION ON CYPRUS

There are many reasons why the beautiful Mediterranean island of Cyprus is one of the world's best-loved holiday destinations. There are the stunning beaches, the beautiful mountain scenery, the wealth of historical sites and the traditional warm Cypriot welcome. Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was born on the shores of Cyprus and, after spending some time here, you'll understand why she made it her home.

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean after Sicily and Sardinia. It covers an area of 9,251 square kilometres (3,608 square miles) and lies at the north-eastern corner of the Mediterranean, at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa. It is an island of contrasts with a coastline made up of stunning rock formations interspersed by long sections of sandy beach.

The main mountain range is the Troodos, with its highest peak, Mount Olympus, at 1,951 metres. There are 380 rural villages in the Republic and the population is just under a million. The main language is Greek but English is widely spoken (you'll find someone with a knowledge of English even in the rural villages).

There are four main towns in Cyprus: Nicosia (Lefkosia), the capital, Larnaca (Larnaka), Limassol (Lemesos) and Paphos (Pafos). The main airports are at Larnaca and Paphos and modern motorways link all the main towns. The main seaports are at Larnaca and Limassol – Limassol being the main port.

TIME

Cyprus time is GMT+3 from the last Saturday in March to the last Saturday in September and GMT+2 in the winter months.

APPROXIMATE DISTANCES BETWEEN TOWNS

Larnaca Airport to Limassol	70km
Larnaca Airport to Paphos	139km
Limassol to Nicosia	82km
Limassol to Paphos	68km
Limassol to Troodos	46km
Paphos to Troodos (via Limassol)	114km

BANKING

Banks operate from Monday to Friday from 0830 to 1330. They do not open on Saturdays. Banks in the main tourist areas provide an afternoon tourist service and a number of automatic currency exchange machines operate on a 24-hour basis in major town centres and main tourist resorts. Most banks also have ATMs, which accept the majority of major credit and bankcards. Hotels, large shops, restaurants etc accept major credit cards.

CURRENCY

The currency of the Republic is the euro.
The notes and coins in circulation are:
Notes: 5-, 10-, 20-, 50-, 100-, 200-, and 500-euro
Coins: 1-, 2-, 5-, 10-, 20-, and 50-cent, and 1-euro and 2-euro.

ELECTRICITY

The electricity supply in Cyprus is 240 volts AC 50Hz. Sockets are 13amp, square pin. Adapters are available on request at most hotel reception desks and can also be purchased from supermarkets, grocery shops etc.

WATER

It is safe to drink mains tap water in Cyprus, as there are no water-borne diseases. However, due to the climate, Cyprus has severe water shortages and it is important not to waste water.

TELEPHONES

Call boxes are coin or card operated, increasingly the latter. For international calls from Cyprus dial 00 followed by the country code and the number. Pay-as-you-go packages for mobile phones are widely available, enabling the transmission of calls and SMS messages at local rates within Cyprus and abroad. Connection packs and top-up cards can be purchased at kiosks and most stores.

DRIVING IN CYPRUS

Visitors to Cyprus from EU countries need their national driving licence, provided it is valid for the class of vehicle they wish to drive. Non EU citizens must have an international driver's licence to drive, however they can also drive for a limited number of 30 days on their national licence (certain restrictions apply to certain countries). In order to hire a car, the driver must be over 25 years of age and have held a valid national/international licence for at least three years.

FUEL

Petrol, diesel and unleaded petrol are freely available at EKO, Mobil, Esso, Lina, Petrolina and Agip stations. Petrol is sold by the litre. Petrol stations are open at the following times:

Monday, Thursday, Friday:	0600 – 1900
Tuesday:	0600 – 1400 in the Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos Districts. Stations are open all day in the Nicosia District.
Wednesday:	0600 – 1400 in the Nicosia District only. Stations are open all day in the other districts.
Saturday:	0600 – 1500.

All petrol stations are closed on Sundays, but most stations have fuel vending machines, which accept bank notes and credit cards. Vending machines operate during non-working hours and the instructions are in English.

MINI GUIDE FOR DRIVERS

Traffic moves on the left hand-side of the road, not on the right.

The maximum speed limit on the motorways is 100 km/h and the minimum is 65 km/h. On all other roads, the maximum speed limit is 80 km/h, unless a lower one is indicated. In built-up areas, generally the speed limit is 50km/h, unless otherwise indicated.

The use of **front and rear seat belts** is compulsory.

Rush-hours in the towns are approximately between 0730 and 0800, and between 1300 and 1330, and in the late afternoon.

Driving while under the influence of alcohol is prohibited and strict penalties are in place for anyone caught doing so. It is illegal for drivers to use a mobile telephone while the car is in motion.

Crash helmets must be worn when riding motorcycles and scooters. Headlights must be switched on at all times of the day. Pillion passengers must be over 12 years old.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Shared Taxi/Mini-bus service: This inexpensive and convenient half hourly service operates between major towns until 18:00 daily on weekdays.

Private taxis: Meters should run from the start of each journey.

Intercity buses: Buses operate between all the major towns, as well as to the villages en route. Bus services between Limassol and Nicosia run until around 17:00 on weekdays and until 14:00 on Saturdays. For more information call Nicosia 22778841 or Limassol 25370592.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police/Fire/Ambulance	112
Police Headquarters Nicosia	22802020
Forest Department	1407
Air Sea Rescue	1441
Major Hospitals (enquiries)	1400
Private Doctors on call (Weekends, Public Holidays)	
Nicosia	90901422
Larnaca	90901424
Limassol	90901425
Paphos	90901426
Late night pharmacies	
Nicosia	90901402
Larnaca	90901404
Limassol	90901405
Paphos	90901406
Airports	
Larnaca	77778833
Paphos	26801810
Cyprus Telecommunications Authority	
Operator & Customer hotline	132
National Directory Enquiries	11892
International Directory Enquiries	11894
International calls via operator	80000198

FOOD AND WINE

Food-lovers will appreciate Cypriot cuisine, as it consists of many varied dishes and flavours. Some specialities are favourites with visitors to the island.

Meze – a collection of over 20 different appetisers and savoury dishes. This is a meal not to be hurried.

Kebab (or souvlaki in Greek) – small chunks of charcoal grilled pork or chicken, served in pitta bread with salad.

Souvla – large chunks of charcoal grilled lamb, served with salad and roast potatoes.

Stifado – beef or hare, cooked in wine, vinegar, onions and tomatoes.

There is a great variety of Cyprus wine: red, white and rose. KEO, Carlsberg, and Leon beer are brewed on the island. Cyprus is famous for the Brandy Sour, which is made from Cyprus brandy, lemon juice, angostura bitters, soda water and ice.

And finally a few words of Greek to help you on your way.....

Kali-mera	Good morning
Kali-nikta	Goodnight
Yassoo	Hello, hi, bye-bye, ciao
Adeeo	Goodbye
Ef-haristo	Thank you
Endaxi	OK
Para-kalo	Please
Sig-nomi	Excuse me
Mia beera para-kalo	May I have a beer please?
Ena neskafe para-kalo	May I have a coffee please
Nero para-kalo	Water please
Posa einai	How much is it?
To logar-iasmo	The bill please
Ti ora einai	What time is it?
Pou ine.....;	Where is.....?
Dromos	Road
Aris-tera	Left
Dhex-ia	Right
Efth-ia	Straight
Strofi	Bend, turn
Pano	Up, upper
Kato	Down, lower
Pou ine o kirios dromos;	Where is the main road?