



## Why Meeke is running first on the road in the ERC

While Germain Bonnefis has the honour of starting first on the road on the final day of round five of the FIA European Rally Championship, he will actually be following in Kris Meeke's wheel tracks.

The hugely talented Northern Irishman, the winner of the Intercontinental Rally Challenge in 2009, is driving the course-opening zero car – a Peugeot 208 R2 – on Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse.

He explained his role: "There's obviously a safety job to do with the zero car and we've got to keep that in mind. We have a job to do but at the same time one of the jobs as zero car is to drive at a good enough pace to let everyone know the first competing car is coming very soon. We're running the zero car directly in front of car number one so we'll be going at a very good speed. It's enjoyable for me to get back out on a rally like this."

Meeke, who is being co-driven by Chris Patterson, continued: "Obviously if we see a big problem on the stage we have to contact the clerk of the course to let him know there is a problem and to stop the first car coming in. There has to be a sufficient gap to do this, about 10 minutes. There is a serious side but the nice side for me is to get back out on a world-renowned rally like this. It's shaping up to be a special event."

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