### 29th September 2016

### WTCC Independent’s Trophy for Bennani in China

Mehdi Bennani was crowned Champion of the privateer trophy at the FIA WTCC race weekend in Shanghai, China. The trophy rewards non-works teams in the FIA WTCC Championship and saw dramatic moments and a hotly contested challenge particularly from Tom Chilton, his team mate from Sebastien Loeb racing. The Championship which boasts the premium Japanese Tyre supplier YOKOHAMA as Official Tyre supplier, had already crowned the World Champion in Japan recently, after Jose Maria “Pechito” Lopez earned the mathematical win, only pending Official confirmation from the FIA.

Race 1 had been a real scrap with bumper to bumper action – literally - with Thed Björk managing his first win in the FIA World Touring Car Championship and also giving Volvo and Polestar Cyan Racing its first triumph and cause for celebration. In a dramatic turn of events, in the penultimate-corner Björk managed to overtake Norbert Michelisz who had led till then. In third, the 47 year old Frenchman, Yvan Muller grabbed his podium place and bagged the points.

Race 2 was absolutely dominated by the World Champion Lopez who crossed the chequered flag after an impressive lights to flag victory and brought his season’s tally to eight wins. In second place, Yvan Muller gained valuable points on his challenge to the overall second position in the Driver’s Championship, while Bennani came in third place.

In China, Citroen also won\* the Manufacturers title for a third consecutive year and Yvan Muller announced his retirement from WTCC at the end of the season. In reaction to the news, David Oliva, Communications Manager for Yokohama Europe expressed his gratitude to Yvan for the many years of high level competition stating “Yvan has been a huge asset to professional Motorsports and we are proud and happy to have worked closely with him and his teams. His WTCC legacy is four-times World Champion and a colossal respect earned all over the world. All at Yokohama wish him the best for the future.”

Pending confirmation from the FIA following a request from the promoter to cancel the Race of Thailand, the final race of the Championship will be held in Qatar in November.

Independent WTCC Trophy

Mehdi Bennani 176 points

Tom Chilton 145 points

Tom Coronel 115 points

\*pending official FIA confirmation