

Report from the EFRA EC Warm-Up in Izmir.



On Friday the 3th July 2015, I left middle Europe heading to Izmir.

From the AGM presentation, the Facebook pictures presented and posted by the EFMOD club, and also from my previous conversations with Michael Salven, I hoped that the EFMOD RC complex could represent something special in our small RC Car World.

But as middle European you never really believe what you didn't see with your own eyes.

After a pleasant and not expensive 3 hour flight with Sun express I finally arrived at the new terminal at the Izmir international airport. Mr. Bodur, the main responsible for the organization of the EFRA EURO, already expected me. From here we drove to the EFMOD complex, that is-about 15-20minutes distance from the track.

Already from a distance (500-800m), in the middle of a beautiful Mediterranean ambiance, surrounded by olive trees and vineyards, you could spot the impressive driver stand heading to the sky. Just after we passed the gate to the complex, I was in a shock mode and had difficulties to breathe or even to speak. I had to rub my eyes because I could not believe what I was seeing there.

I was staring at one of the most outrageous RC Tracks on this planet.



The installed facilities like the pit-, true- and clean areas were perfectly integrated in this complex and made the place even more perfect. The monumental Driver stand with incorporated technical area, race control, VIP room, Referee room and plenty of space for drivers, is surely setting new standards in the RC car scene. I wasn't surprised that all the officials' areas are fitted with modern air-conditioning systems. Also there is a well thought sun protection for the drivers on top of the driver stand.



After a quick pit walk and a small chat with Dirck Wischnewski, his mechanic Alex Kempe, Alexander Hagberg and his mechanic Bertram Kessler I had collected enough new impressions for the first day. I was really relieved that my expectations were way topped and I was not a victim of photo shop treated pictures.

In the evening Dirk and Alex and me went out with to visit the nearby Mall situated in a short walking distance from our Hotel Anemon (5min). As common in Mediterranean countries, life begins at night. So don't be surprised that the mall and the most shops and restaurants are



opened till 11pm. This super modern mall (one of many others in Izmir) has dozens of boutiques, a huge supermarket and plenty of various

restaurants including the obligatory Mac Donald and Burger King. Yes, they serve alcoholic drinks. Izmir is a modern city with the most western oriented and open people that I've ever met so far in the orient.

I would propose to eat at one of the restaurants where they serve typical local dishes. The variety of starters, cheese, meat, vegetables, salads and desserts is astonishing. The quality is exquisite and the prizes are shocking low.

Do not expect to find the typical Döner known in our countries in these places. I'm talking here about fine Mediterranean and international cuisine.



During the dinner Alex, Dirk and me discussed and compared our first impressions and since Dirk and Alex were there since Thursday, they also shared the driving experience they had collected so far.

Dirk told me that the EFMOD crew had treated the track only once with „sugar water“ to bind the dust and the small dirt particle on the surface. After this initial treatment the grip level



was immediately good and was getting better and better each time he hit the track again. The track is absolutely flat

and has no bumps or changeovers. Dirk mentioned by the way that this was the best tarmac he had ever driven on in his long driving career (electric + gas).

The next morning after we were picked up by the EFMOD shuttle service from the hotel, I took a long walk and explored these immense RC area. If the RC-Car track is amazing, the airplane area is surely not less impressive. Two huge runways

for any size of planes, jets and helicopters. There is also a big lake for racing

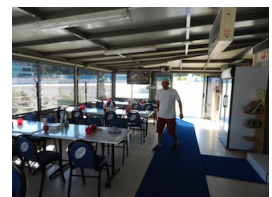


boats, used by a duck family. Also a well-equipped playfield for kids a large camping area, an immense parking space, an air-conditioned



restaurant. All vegetables and salads are cultivated in this area. I mean in this compound!!! The tomatoes here are surely my favorites.

Like Steve Jobs always mentioned there is still something left, one more thing to show, one more thing to speak about: The incredible Off-road track!!! Wow what an amazing area, it can host easily 1:10 and 1:8 Off-road events. In perfect prepared conditions by



the numerous present workers of EFMOD that are daily maintaining the complete area.



There is also a guard (in a guard house) at the entrance of the compound as numerous electronic cameras for surveillance and safety of the stored equipment there.

After this extended discovery walk through this incredible area and a fresh served Turkish mokka, together with Dr. Hagberg, 200mm Dirk and Mustafa Alp, we took a close inspection walk on the track.

We discovered that some of the numerous curbs might had a small edge to high, we did not even finished mention this to the organizers, that already brought the guys from the EFMOD



construction immediately in motion. In not even one hour they had corrected the small bits and pieces of all "spotted" imperfect curbs.

Now the warm-up race officially started and I could test all the installed technical equipment. Well equipped, absolutely modern everything at his best. The EFMOD guys have surely not only done their homework, but exceeded all our EFRA section expectations.

I would like to address a very special thanks to my close friend Enrique Esteve, the „man“ behind the great Spanish Autet club. Who gave so many precious inputs to the EFMOD crew.

Together with 28 guys from the Gas fraction, there were another 35 electric drivers present. It wasn't any problem to race together with different counting systems (electric and Gas). The idea behind a warm-up race is to have a complete race simulation under real-time conditions so that weaknesses are discovered and removed before the main event. So the race is observed through another perspective and you have a focus on various things like:

Is the time loop in the correct place? Are the marshals positions correct? Are the walking ways on the rostrum clear? Is the time between the heats sufficient? Starting Grid in the right position? Audio understandable and in the right positions for mechanics and starter?



Although the present Turkish drivers were not used to our EFRA IC rules, after the drivers briefing and a couple of personal coaching sessions, they got used to it, and after Sunday it looked like they never experienced any other kinds of racing rules and habits than the EFRA once.



From the driving level I think it's not a big secret that after Mr.200mm Dirk and Dr. Hagberg only Mustafa Alp could follow them

with some gap, and a little more behind was the rest of these amazing friendly and fun having guys that attended this Warm Up race.

Dirk was able to win the first 3 rounds and Alexander won 1 qualifying round on Saturday. On Sunday Alexander was able to win the last qualifying round. Never less together with the 3rd Mustafa Alp and the 4th and 5th placed driver, he had to face the thrilling super pole shoot out.

Mustafa Alp drove a superb lap with a 26.377 Sec and the reigning World champion Alexander Hagberg had to push really hard on his super pole attempt. He was able to beat him on his 4th lap by only 0.5 Seconds.

This meant that Dirk as winner of the qualifying rounds would start from the pole position in the main final , joined by the 2nd placed Alexander Hagberg.

After the ¼ final and the 2 ½ final we faced the 45 minutes main final race.

The guys from Turkey and from the small Greek island of Chios were delighted to attend a final

with these 2 international famous and well known guys in the IC scene. Our good friend Halit Korpe told me that he was absolutely delighted and that nobody could ever take this moment away from him anymore. He made it once in his RC career in the same final with the actual World Champion and the multiple European Champion.



That's the guy in the finalist arrangement between Dirk and Alex.

The final went as expected, Dirk was heading in front followed close by Alexander and with some respect distance Mustafa, and with a little bit more distance, the rest of the field. The first 2 were running in a class of their own, but the rest of the finalist gave their best and there was not one rough incident during the 45 minutes.

Unfortunately Dirk had several flame outs during the refueling so that Alexander was able to pass him and to establish a little gap between them.



How good the spirit was during this warm up race showed the fact that Dirk and Alexander mechanics helped each other out in the final changing the tires. Alex Kempe and Bertram were also supporting and helping all the present

drivers nevertheless regardless which brand they were using.

After the last fuel stop Alexander made one little mistake that made him miss the time loop. But this was immediately corrected after the race. So at the end Alexander Hagberg won this amazing final. 2nd place went to Dirk Wischnewski with equal laps and third place went to the local hero Mustafa Alp.

But this was not the end of the day, still something was left:

The EFMOD crew organized a little party with drinks and finger food for all present people on the track, and the prize winning ceremony was held by the EFMOD compound owner, mastermind and one of the most likely person that I've met: Mr. Sertac Bakioglu.

One last thing, after the prize giving ceremony we held a debriefing together with the organizers to discuss the small things and bits that need to be corrected for the EC.

Special thanks to all the EFMOD guys for all the tremendous support, the unforgettable well treatment and hospitality:

Faith Bodur, Evrim Bombar(ovic), Sertac Bakioglu, Hülya Edemir, Serdar Aytemiz (race director) and to the hardest working and best singing audio technician **Recep Asena**.

Finally I would thank all my new friends from the beautiful Greek island of Chios and the rest of the attending drivers at the EFMOD Track.

Çok teşekkür ederim!

I'm looking forward to meet you all in September in Izmir.



J. Dragani
EFRA TenthTrack Chairman