



Press Information

Ingolstadt, 30 April 2001

Cause of the accident clarified

The cause of the accident which ended with the tragic death of Michele Alboreto last Wednesday, has been clarified. Experts from the independent investigating group DEKRA, investigating on behalf of the public prosecutor's office at Cottbus, and specialists of Audi unanimously came to the opinion that the accident has been caused by a punctured tyre.

"All investigations carried out so far, show that a sharp object went into the left rear tyre which caused a gradual loss of pressure in the tyre," explain the experts of DEKRA. From that, all investigations carried out so far prove that the accident was caused by external circumstances and no technical failure of the car.

"Knowing the results of the investigations, which of course does not bring Michele back, Audi has decided in accordance with its drivers, to take part in the pre-practice at Le Mans," explains Dr Wolfgang Ullrich, Head of Audi Sport. "I am absolutely sure this would also be in the mind of Michele, whose work helped us make the Audi R8 such a successful sportscar."

Also the two customer teams Champion and Johansson will take part in next weekend's Le Mans pre-practice with their Audi R8 sportscars.