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TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps An ideal showcase for the new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance 2026 range

- After the Prologue and the 6 Hours of Imola (Italy), the FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA World Endurance Championship) heads to the legendary Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, a preparatory round ahead of the 24 Hours of Le Mans.
- Michelin Motorsport's new Endurance range, made from 50% renewable and recycled materials, will play a key role in the expected spectacle in the heart of the Belgian Ardennes.
- Highly appreciated by teams and drivers in the Hypercar category, the new Michelin tires stand out for their rapid warm-up, consistency, and versatility—qualities that will prove especially valuable.

As every season, the Belgian round serves as a full-scale test ahead of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, taking place next weekend at the circuit often nicknamed the "Ardennes Rollercoaster" due to its spectacular layout, much loved by drivers.

At 7.004 kilometers in length, the Spa-Francorchamps circuit offers a relatively balanced layout in terms of load changes (9 left-hand corners and 11 right-handers), but it is above all highly technical and, in places, tricky. With more than half of its surface resurfaced (work completed in June 2024), the circuit enabled drivers—thanks in part to Michelin tire performance—to significantly improve lap times in 2025.

This event will provide an ideal showcase for Michelin's new Endurance ranges, which incorporate 50% renewable and recycled materials—a first at this level of competition.

Pierre Alves, Endurance Manager, Michelin Motorsport:

"After the 6 Hours of Imola, where the new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance Soft and Medium 2026 tires were tested under highly contrasting weather conditions, with track temperatures ranging from 17°C to 40°C, these same compounds will now face the demands of an iconic motorsport circuit."

This track is characterized by a clever mix of very high speeds and demanding technical sections, notably through the Eau Rouge and Blanchimont sequences. Added to this are significant 'energy' constraints generated by the heavy loads placed on the tires.

With higher operating temperatures than at Imola, wear is logically expected to increase, opening the door to potentially different race strategies.

This round therefore represents a key test, both for the cars and the tires, as the final preparation phase for the 24 Hours of Le Mans approaches. The circuit offers an ideal opportunity to fine-tune aerodynamic setups and deepen understanding of tire behavior over long stints. As always, we will stand alongside our partners to help them interpret the performance of our new ranges, which are clearly off to a strong start."

As in previous seasons, Michelin is the exclusive supplier for all Hypercar category entries. Each prototype benefits from a regulated tire allocation (here in Soft and Medium compounds), ensuring sporting fairness and strategic control.

Each Hypercar will have 12 tires for Free Practice, 4 tires for the Hyperpole session (run on Medium tires), and 18 tires for qualifying and the race. MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tires are available in the following dimensions:

- 29/71-18 front
- 34/71-18 rear

In wet conditions, a dedicated MICHELIN Pilot Sport rain range will also be available, in the same dimensions.

Race Weekend Schedule

On-track action will begin on Thursday, May 7, with a first free practice session at 11:00 a.m., followed by a second at 3:40 p.m. The next day, the third and final practice session at 10:10 a.m. will precede qualifying (3:20 p.m.), followed by the Hypercar Hyperpole session at 3:45 p.m. The race will start on Saturday, May 9, at 2:00 p.m., for six hours of intense battles and tire strategy. The ability of tires to complete multiple stints will be a decisive advantage, enabling teams to reduce time spent in the pits and optimize track position.

The Toyota Racing team, which secured its 50th victory in its 100th FIA-WEC race at Imola (Italy), will be eager to shine once again at Spa-Francorchamps. Last year, Ferrari AF Corse claimed a one-two finish ahead of Alpine Endurance Team at Spa-Francorchamps. As always, large crowds are expected in the Belgian Ardennes for this major motorsport weekend.



MOTORSPORT

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Michelin is building a world-leading manufacturer of life-changing composites and experiences. Pioneering engineered materials for more than 130 years, Michelin is uniquely positioned to make decisive contributions to human progress and to a more sustainable world. Drawing on its deep know-how in polymer composites, Michelin is constantly innovating to manufacture high-quality tires and components for critical applications in demanding fields as varied as mobility, construction, aeronautics, low-carbon energies, and healthcare. The care placed in its products and deep customer knowledge inspire Michelin to offer the finest experiences. This spans from providing data- and AI-based connected solutions for professional fleets to recommending outstanding restaurants and hotels curated by the MICHELIN Guide. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 175 countries and employs 122,600 people.


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