

16.08.2013. Raffaele Marciello (Prema Powerteam, 1:22.788 minutes) started into this weekend's seventh season meeting of the FIA Formula 3 European Championship at the 3.629 kilometres long circuit variant of the Nürburgring by setting the fastest lap time in free practice. The Prema driver, a member of the Ferrari Driver Academy, ended up ahead of Sven Müller (ma-con, 1:22.910 minutes), who, in turn, was followed by Alexander Sims (ThreeBond with T-Sport, 1:22.919 minutes) and Lucas Auer (Prema Powerteam, 1:22.936 minutes).

Raffaele Marciello dominated proceedings in free practice. The Italian was in the lead for most of the time. It was entirely different for Sven Müller, who has yet to score his first podium finish this season. The Mainz-born driver only moved up into second place in the final stages of the session, but was no threat for Marciello's top position. With his fastest time, the German toppled Alexander Sims, who, next to Spike Goddard (ThreeBond with T-Sport, 1:24.507 minutes) is the only one to race with a ThreeBond-Nissan engine, and ended up third. Sims has his second outing in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship after Norisring.

Lucas Auer made it two Prema drivers in the top four by ending up fourth. A trio of Carlin drivers followed behind the Austrian, led by rookie Jordan King (Carlin, 1:22.978 minutes). Guest driver and Red Bull junior Daniil Kvyat (Carlin, 1:23.048 minutes) followed in sixth place from Jann Mardenborough (Carlin, 1:23.252 minutes), who, like King, is in his maiden Formula 3 season. Felix Rosenqvist (kfzteile24 Mücke Motorsport, 1:23.260 minutes), the main rival of points' leader Raffaele Marciello in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship drivers' standings, had to make do with eighth place. Harry Tincknell (Carlin, 1:23.361 minutes) and Michael Lewis (kfzteile24 Mücke Motorsport, 1:23.366 minutes) rounded out the top ten in free practice.