

## **Stichting Volkswagen Car Claim speaks in European Parliament during conference: “Dieselgate, What Next”**

Rotterdam, 29 June 2018

During the multi-stakeholder high level conference “Dieselgate, What Next” that was held on 27 June 2018 in the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, of various stakeholders and of the automobile sector talked about a pan-European solution for the still looming diesel scandal. Marten Oosting (former National Ombudsman) was one of the speakers at the conference on behalf of the Dutch non-profit organization “Stichting Volkswagen Car Claim”.

The participation of Stichting Volkswagen Car Claim at the well-attended Dieselgate conference is an important step in its aim for a total solution for all drivers of affected diesel cars in Europe. Such a solution must address the problems faced by millions of European car owners as a result of the use of illegal software. The Foundation is cooperating with various consumer organizations in Europe in this respect.

During the conference Oosting pointed at the responsibility of the European institutions to ensure that a true and effective dialogue on a solution will be opened between representatives of the automotive industry on the one hand and a collective platform of all relevant stakeholders on the other hand. This approach should ensure that Dieselgate-like breaches of environmental and other regulations cannot take place again. At the same time, the interests of consumers as well as those of the environment and public health must be protected. In this way public trust in sustainable car production in Europe could be restored.

*Oosting: “We are convinced that all parties in the process have a joint responsibility to make that happen. Ethics, concerns about the environment and public health are by themselves already sufficient reasons to act. Moreover this conference clearly demonstrates that also economic challenges that are around the corner offer convincing motivation for all relevant stakeholders to rapidly solve the problems caused by Dieselgate. If we do not want to waste time, continue to destroy public trust, to further deteriorate the relations between car producers and their customers and if we want to prevent another Dieselgate from happening again, it is time to act now. I sincerely hope that a year from now we can look back on the scandal and conclude that the solution thereof started today with this conference.”*

As long as a pan-European solution is not yet available, Volkswagen will remain exposed to a growing number of legal proceedings in Europe. Stichting Volkswagen Car Claim started large-scale legal proceedings in May 2018 on behalf of 180,000 owners of affected diesel cars in the Netherlands against Volkswagen, its (former) CEO’s, SEAT, Audi, Skoda, importer PON, software supplier Bosch and the Dutch car dealers. The Foundation inter alia claims that the Dutch court declares that diesel drivers are allowed to return their affected vehicles to the Dutch dealers against full repayment of the purchase price. For consumers and commercial car owners who have bought second-hand cars, the Foundation requests the court to confirm that Volkswagen is liable for all the damage suffered and to be suffered from Dieselgate.

**Media Contact**

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**About Stichting Volkswagen Car Claim**

Stichting Volkswagen Car Claim is a non-profit organization. The Foundation was incorporated on 2 October 2015, with the aim to ascertain the (financial) consequences for all car owners who have purchased a vehicle from one of the brands within the Volkswagen AG group (Volkswagen, Audi, Skoda, and Seat) and who have suffered damage as a result of the misconduct of Volkswagen et al.

The Foundation is committed to reach a solution where affected car owners are reasonably compensated for any and all negative effects resulting from 'Dieselgate'. The Foundation also wants Volkswagen to guarantee that all affected car owners can continue to drive their car in the future without any possible negative consequences. More information about the Foundation can be obtained via the website [www.stichtingvolkswagencarclaim.nl](http://www.stichtingvolkswagencarclaim.nl).

**Board**

The Foundation is governed by an independent management board and supervisory board and advised by an advisory board. The management board consists of Mr. Fausto Pocar (former president of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)), Mr. Guido van Woerkom (former president of the Royal Dutch Touring Club (ANWB)) and Mr. Arie van der Steen (accountant and former CFO of a number of private companies). The supervisory board consists of Mr. Marten Oosting (former National Ombudsman and former member of the Council of State) and Mr. Hans de Savornin Lohman (deputy justice at The Hague court of appeal). The Foundation's advisory board is presided by Mr. Gerhart Baum, former German Minister of Interior.