

## Press release

### **Group action started to hold Volkswagen accountable for the consequences of the diesel scandal**

*Dutch parties can now register with the Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation*

**Amsterdam, 19 September 2019** - The Dutch Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation (DEJF), a non-profit organization, is starting an action to hold Volkswagen, Audi, SEAT, Skoda and Porsche to account for the diesel emissions scandal on behalf of affected drivers. As of today, owners and lessees of affected cars can register on the [website of the foundation](#) to participate in the action. This concerns car models manufactured by Volkswagen, Audi, SEAT, Skoda and Porsche in the period 2009-2015.

Volkswagen AG installed manipulated software in more than 11 million vehicles. Because of this software, the cars emitted ten to forty times less NOx during emissions tests than they emitted on the road. In this manner, car-owners and authorities were misled to believe that these cars were much more environment-friendly and durable than they actually were. Courts and regulatory institutions in several countries have strongly condemned Volkswagen's intentional and systemic fraud. In the Netherlands, the Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM) ruled that Volkswagen AG committed unfair commercial practices and awarded the maximum fine.

In the United States, Volkswagen has agreed to pay 25 billion US dollars in damages with owners, dealers, regulators and states. This week, Volkswagen agreed to pay up to 127 million Australian dollars to Australian car owners. In Europe, however, Volkswagen has not yet offered a solution, while 17 times more vehicles with "cheating software" were sold in the European Union than in the United States.

Femke Hendriks, managing director at the Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation:

“With its diesel fraud, Volkswagen inflicted a huge damage to consumers, the environment and public health. We believe that it is time for Volkswagen to finally come clean in Europe, and we are determined to make this happen. Rather than just bringing a collective action in the Netherlands, we intend to litigate the claims of car owners, companies and municipalities in various European countries if necessary. In that way, we can exercise more pressure on Volkswagen than any other organization. This will enable us to finally level the pitch, give our participants the voice they deserve and reach a collective solution that serves the interests of European car owners.”

The foundation's board, its supervisory board and its management consist of experienced international experts in the field of mass damages litigation. The foundation is also endorsed by Friends of the Earth, which states:



"With diesel gate Volkswagen damaged our health and our nature. People are experiencing the negative health effects of the air pollution caused by the Volkswagen fraud. As the cars keep on driving the amount of damage will only increase. The current political and legal system has not sufficiently protected people from the economic interests of the profit-driven industry. That is why Friends of the Earth supports the legal action of the Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation."

For more information about the foundation, see <https://www.emissionsjustice.com/>. This website contains information regarding our governance, the terms of participation and the fee that will be charged by our funder in case of success.

*Questions regarding this press release may be addressed to:*

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