



## Press release Dieselgate

Brussels, 26th of November 2019

*Today the Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation (DEJF) announced a new and unique coordinated European mass claim to hold Volkswagen accountable for the dieselgate scandal. The kick-off was announced at the Brussels museum AUTOWORLD by members of the DEJF board and their outside counsel.*

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 did on the road. As a result, car-owners and authorities were misled to believe that these cars were significantly more environment-friendly and durable than they actually were. Courts and regulatory institutions in multiple countries have strongly condemned Volkswagen's intentional and systemic fraud.

The Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation (DEJF), which has its headquarters in Amsterdam, is a new Dutch not for profit organisation. The objective of DEJF is to provide access to justice for all who have been harmed in Dieselgate. It is not limited to private consumers, but also wants to defend the rights of professional car owners, fleet owners and lessees.

The DEJF started her campaign in the Netherlands in September 2019, continues today in Belgium and soon will expand to other European countries, including France and Spain in the next several weeks. The aim is to have an interconnected group of actions that cover the whole of Europe.

As a member of the board and spokeswoman of the DEJF, Maria José Azar-Baud, Associated Professor at Paris-Saclay University states: *"8,5 million European car owners suffered serious damages and are entitled to an adequate and reasonable compensation - even if VW pretends to have addressed the issue with so-called repairs and updates. In the meantime, the second-hand diesel market collapsed."*

While no settlement has been reached in Europe, in the US where effective collective redress mechanisms exist, Volkswagen entered into a multi-billion settlement, affecting about 500.000 impacted cars. In Belgium there are nearly 400.000 affected vehicles, but VW has not offered any compensation. The DEJF is determined to provide access to justice to all harmed European car owners and committed to fiercely litigating across Europe if VW doesn't come clean and deal with the past. The DEJF is fully equipped and resourced to do whatever it takes to hold VW to account. It has secured a unique international network of experts and specialized attorneys who will work towards a global settlement and holding VW accountable.

The unique Dutch system of WCAM is the perfect procedure to reach a comprehensive and effective solution. Indeed, it allows for a settlement to be declared binding for all harmed car owners in the EU, unless they opt out.

An important legal ground against VW springs from its EU-wide issuance of Conformity certificates mentioning false NOx emissions levels. Based on Belgian "pilot" proceedings, it is likely that if proved inaccurate, such certificates can lead to annulment of the sales of the cars equipped with cheating devices. This could also result in criminal litigation.

Leading Belgian attorneys Geert Lenssens (SQ Law) and Laurent Arnauts (WATT Legal) have been appointed for Belgium because they are experts in the class action field and have earned their stripes in landmark mass litigation cases such as Fortis. Mr. Arnauts and Lenssens comment: *'In our view this EU conformity certificate, if confirmed inaccurate, may very well become a cornerstone for the Dieselgate litigation in Europe. We believe that all sales of cars without a valid certificate should be declared null and void. This provides huge leverage to all duped car owners. We will also investigate the potential criminal dimension of this situation.'*

The DEJF encourages the car owners to register as quickly as possible, since the statutes of limitation loom. It's the last call.

More information and participation documents are available on <https://www.emissionsjustice.com/de-claim/>

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