



## **DEJF Statement in response to Volkswagen/VZBV Settlement in Germany**

4 March 2020

### **DEJF welcomes the VW settlement offer that has been negotiated by the Federation of German Consumer Organizations VZBV.**

It is the first time VW has accepted responsibility for Dieseldate in continental Europe. While not nearly as sizeable as what U.S. customers were paid through US settlement, it is the result of the negotiations between VW and VZBV. The offer amounts to about 15% of the purchase price of the car with payments ranging from 1,350 euros to 6,257 euros, depending on the model of car and age.

Whether the offer succeeds and turns out to be “fair” remains to be seen. At least 70% of the 260,000 German consumers who were participating in the VZBV proceedings against VW need to accept the offer before the end of April, specifically before Dieseldate is heard by the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe, Germany on 5 May. If 30% or more eligible German consumers don’t accept the offer, the settlement will be off.

Dieseldate has been a large-scale deception, including a breach of European rules, resulting in damages to the environment and public health, as well as financial losses to current and former Volkswagen owners. Despite the fact that Volkswagen has admitted cheating, the results from cases around the world have led to asymmetrical forms of justice and compensation determined primarily by claimants’ countries of residence. While more than 25 billion euros have been allocated in compensation around the world, no compensation, on a collective basis, has been granted in Europe - outside of the potential agreement in Germany last week.

DEJF is committed to justice for all Europeans who were impacted by Dieseldate.

In 2019, the DEJF started an unprecedented campaign to gather participants across Europe to unite and negotiate a pan-European settlement, the first of its type in Europe. The German settlement clearly demonstrates that unification pays off. Addressing the issue for only 260.000 is not sufficient though. About 8.5 million cars were manipulated and sold across Europe. We believe VW needs to come clean and deal with the past. It is vital that all affected European VW-car owners work together and demand justice.

DEJF has sent a formal letter to Volkswagen announcing its intention to start proceedings before the Amsterdam District Court very shortly.

#### *About the Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation*

*The Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation is an independent non-profit organization, based in The Netherlands, representing the interests of owners, past and present, of European vehicles affected by Dieseldate and manufactured and sold between 2009 and late 2015.*