

Press Release – For Immediate Release

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DIESELGATE: EUROPEAN CONSUMERS: WHEN WILL WE BE COMPENSATED?

It is time for European leaders to demonstrate solidarity with consumers and protect the environment.

Brussels, 6 July - Today, Euroconsumers calls on European leaders to demonstrate support and solidarity with European consumers. Almost five years after the Volkswagen Dieseltgate revelations, it is high time all European consumers were compensated.

In 2015, the public learned that Volkswagen (VW) had illegally installed software technology that artificially lowered nitrogen oxide emission readings in vehicles during the emissions testing process. This malfeasance has impacted **consumers' rights, public health, the environment**, as well as critically eroding **public trust in the automotive industry, regulators and oversight bodies**.

The majority of European Dieseltgate victims affected have not received compensation. **Ongoing cases** launched by Euroconsumers in Belgium (*Test Achats*) Spain (*OCU*), Italy (*Altroconsumo*) and Portugal (*Deco Proteste*) are pending before court. Given the recent decisions of the German Federal Court of Justice (BGH) which ruled that VW had illegally installed the software and needs to compensate consumers for that, as well as VW's recent out-of-court settlement with the German consumer organisation VZBV, we believe that **all European citizens** impacted by Dieseltgate **deserve financial redress and justice now: they need to be treated equally and with the same respect as German consumers** .

Dieseltgate is detrimental for the environment and society. In a [letter](#) sent to the EU Institution leaders, Euroconsumers calls on them to **stand in solidarity with consumers and to support a sustainable environment** by demonstrating that Volkswagen's illegal behaviour is unacceptable and undermining the European project.

Consumer trust *must* be restored and European leaders showing support would help restore trust and pave the way for a green COVID-19 recovery strategy.

On 7 July at 14.00-15.00 CEST, Euroconsumers will host: **"Dieseltgate - How consumers' rights have been impacted"** [webinar](#). This will be an opportunity for larger groups of EU stakeholders to discuss **consumer rights/environmental protection and related issues**.

About Euroconsumers

Gathering five national consumer organisations and giving voice to a total of more than 1.5 million people, Euroconsumers is the world's leading consumer cluster in innovative information, personalised services and defence of consumer's rights. Our organisations work together and also with BEUC, the European Consumer Organisation, and Consumers International to ensure consumers are safe, that markets are fair and benefit from honest relations with businesses and authorities.