

All Dieselgate victims are equal and should be treated that way

Brussels, 14th of February - It is with great regret that Euroconsumers has learned that the negotiation talks between consumer group VZBV and Volkswagen have collapsed. We would like to express our full support to our German colleagues. Over the years, the German automaker has consistently misled its costumers over the true polluting effect of its cars. German consumers should receive fair compensation, just like all other affected European consumers.

Dieselgate is not merely a German problem. It is a global one. All over the world, consumers have been deceived by the Volkswagen Group. And while consumers from the US obtained compensated rather quickly, European customers have been waiting for justice for over four years. This is unacceptable.

In light of these events, we would like highlight that this is a common European concern. We find the German automaker's unequal treatment of European citizens rather puzzling. Hence, we call, once again, on the European Commission's President Ursula von der Leyen to defend the interests of all European consumers, regardless of nationality.

In the meantime, Euroconsumers - the world's leading consumer cluster gathering five national consumer organisations in Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Brazil – will proceed with its class actions in all four European countries where it has a presence.

On Monday 17th of February, in the 1st Mercantil court of Madrid, the first hearing of our Spanish class action against Volkswagen will take place. Four years after our original complaint, OCU will get a chance to fight to secure adequate compensation for the 7,500 consumers it represents. We will demand over €22 million in compensation for consumers in damages (around €3,000 per victim). We are confident that we can achieve a positive result. Whatever happens, one thing is for sure: Euroconsumers will always persist in its defence of all consumers in the member states where we operate.

Marco Pierani, Director of Public Affairs at Euroconsumers: *"We would like to express our full support to our friends at VZBV. Nevertheless, despite the unfortunate turn of events, let us take this day to remind all European citizens that the consumer movement will never give up until all European victims of the Dieselgate scandal are fully compensated."*

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About:

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 terms of innovative information, personalized services and defence of consumer's rights. Our organisations work closely together and with the BEUC and Consumers International to ensure safe, fair and honest relations between consumers and businesses or authorities.