



**Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation (DEJF) Press statement
following the judgment of the Bundesgerichtshof (BGH), the Supreme Court of Germany, against
Volkswagen AG**

Amsterdam, 26 May 2020

Yesterday, Germany's Federal Court of Justice (BGH) ruled that Volkswagen has been guilty of deliberate and systematic deceit of its customers for many years by installing cheating software, in the cars it manufactured, with the aim of circumventing emission standards. This "insidious" deception has even been labelled "immoral" by the German Court.

The case was brought by the owner of a Volkswagen Sharan who stated he would not have purchased his diesel car in 2014 had he known how polluting the car actually was. He, therefore, demanded the full purchase price of his car back. Volkswagen stated that the man was not entitled to a refund of the purchase amount at all because he drove a good car for years and would not have suffered any damages.

The Supreme Court ruled that the owner of the Sharan had indeed been misled and determined that the man may return his car to Volkswagen. He will not, however, get the full purchase price back because the Court considers it reasonable that a deduction be made for mileage incurred.

DEJF Director, Femke Hendriks, welcomed the news noting: "That Volkswagen is liable has long been established, it is now only a question of the type of compensation that owners can claim: in addition to standard financial compensation for the depreciation of the car, for example, there is also the option of returning the car and having the purchase price repaid, possibly with a deduction for usage.

According to Femke Hendriks, this decision makes it more and more likely that Volkswagen will eventually have to pay large amounts of compensation to many people. "The net is closing around Volkswagen. We do not understand why Volkswagen's management continue to put their heads in the sand. Last month, Volkswagen also received a fierce blow from The High Court of England and Wales. This ruling in Germany again creates a precedent, because the underlying legislation is very similar in all member states of the European Union. "

The Foundation considers this outcome another important milestone in its mission to obtain fair compensation for all affected European diesel owners.

The findings of the BGH reinforce the Foundation's position in the WAMCA proceedings that it has initiated against VW in the Netherlands, to achieve compensation for affected car owners both within and outside the Netherlands.

[Click here](https://www.emissionsjustice.com/en_eu/progress-en-eu/) to view our March 16 press release on the start of our proceedings against VW before the Amsterdam District Court, or view the Progress section on our website:

https://www.emissionsjustice.com/en_eu/progress-en-eu/



Participation in our pan-European initiative to hold VW accountable is still open for a short period of time. Visit our website www.emissionsjustice.com and join in!

About Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation

The Diesel Emissions Justice Foundation is an independent non-profit organization, based in the Netherlands, representing the interests of current and former owners of European vehicles affected by Dieseldate, produced and sold between 2009 and at least 2018.