

PRESS RELEASE**Car Claim Foundation fights in Europe for compensation victims of Dieselgate**

Rotterdam, July 16, 2020

Today the Webinar “Closing the Dieselgate Saga: Paving the Way for a Fair and Green Recovery of the European Car Sector” took place. Stichting Car Claim, through former National Ombudsman Marten Oosting, represented the interests of millions of aggrieved European car owners of the Dieselgate scandal during the Webinar.

The Webinar, chaired by MEP and Vice-Chair of the TRAN Committee István Újhélyi and supported by *The Parliament Magazine* and *PA International Foundation*, stems from a growing European movement that strives to achieve a comprehensive solution for the Dieselgate scandal through a constructive dialogue between all relevant stakeholders. As a representative of disadvantaged European consumers, Stichting Car Claim cooperates within this platform with, among others, environmental organization Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH) and patient organization European Public Health Alliance (EPHA). Jointly they are committed to repairing the tens of millions of diesel cars that emit too much harmful substances, thereby reducing risks to human health and the environment and compensating disadvantaged consumers.

In recent months, the President of the PA International Foundation, former Prime Minister of Belgium Mark Eyskens, has advised the European Commission and the European Council to allow the European Commission to play a facilitating role in establishing such multi-stakeholder discussions that must lead to a compromise. With more and more court rulings on the inadmissibility of defeat devices massively used by European car manufacturers, and the threat of a new wave of lawsuits, it is up to the European Commission, which is responsible for enforcing the applicable European rules, to take a leading role in this.

In his speech, Marten Oosting joined the appeal on behalf of Stichting Car Claim: *“An initiative endorsed and guided by the European Commission whereby representatives of the car industry on the one hand and representatives of the various stakeholders affected by the scandal on the other hand will negotiate a reasonable compromise to clean up the harmful effects of Dieselgate, would be an excellent way forward to achieve this. Stichting Car Claim – also speaking for its many partners all over Europe - is ready to participate in such initiative. We believe that such a solution is feasible.”*

Oosting emphasized the harmful role that car manufacturers such as Volkswagen still play to this day and the resulting burden on courts in European Member States. In these times of Covid-19, this has an extra disruptive effect.

Oosting further advised the representatives of the European Commission that were present, Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič (Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight) and Marie-Paule Bénéassi (Head of Enforcement of Consumer Law, DG Justice and Consumers), that European Union-funded programs that guarantee a healthy future of the European car industry can only succeed and the objectives as stated in the “Green Deal” advocated by the European Commission can only be achieved if a “Clean Deal” is also concluded with regard to the past. It is now up to the politicians in Europe to lay their cards on the table and to show whether they really care about the fate of European citizens or if they are mainly guided by the powerful lobby of the car industry. The European Parliament has assured that a follow-up discussion on this topic will be organized with input from the participants in the Webinar.

Media Contact

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