

## **Big win for Euroconsumers' Belgian organisation Testachats/Testaankoop: At last, Volkswagen group pays Belgian consumers the price for the Dieselgate scandal**

**15th April - Belgian consumers celebrate a landmark victory as the Volkswagen group will finally compensate consumers for manipulating emissions testing, better known as the Dieselgate scandal. After a legal battle that began in 2016 and landmark ruling on July 27, 2023 by the Brussels Court of First Instance in favour of consumer compensation, Euroconsumers' member Testachats/Testaankoop triumphs as both parties have now agreed not to appeal the judgment. This leads the way for affected consumers in Belgium to finally claim a compensation they have long been waiting for through a platform hosted by Testachats/Testaankoop.**

The now infamous Dieselgate scandal has shaken Europe to its core, becoming the most significant controversies in the automotive industry. Since 2015, Euroconsumers has fought for a quick resolution and fair compensation of all affected consumers. After rigorous negotiations, Euroconsumers' member Testachats/Testaankoop has successfully secured an agreement from VW group to comply with court ruling of July 2023 and compensate 5% of the purchase price of the car equipped with "rigged software" or 5% of the difference between the purchase price and the resale price if the buyer is no longer the owner. This applies not only to Volkswagen vehicles but also to other brands such as Skoda, Seat and Audi whose vehicles are equipped with EA 189 engines produced by the VW group.

*"It's been a long road, but we've finally reached the finish line with justice winning in Belgium. Congratulations to Testachats/Testaankoop with this victory. It proves that persistence pays off, consumer protection means nothing without enforcement, and ultimately, justice will always catch up."* – **Marco Scialdone, Head Litigation and Academic Outreach, Euroconsumers**

### **A track record of victories, with more needing to come**

This isn't the first victory for Euroconsumers' members in holding the VW Group accountable. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2024, Euroconsumers' Italian organisation, **Altroconsumo** and VW Group reached a [ground-breaking agreement](#), providing over €50 million relief to over 60,000 Italian consumers affected by the emissions fraud scandal, bringing an end to an eight year long legal battle. Years earlier, in 2021, the Spanish Commercial Court reached a decision in Euroconsumers' Spanish member, **OCU's** long-running legal dispute against VW Group, ruling that the company must compensate affected consumers with €3,000 per individual. However, Volkswagen successfully appealed, leading to a referral of the case from the trial court of Madrid to the one of Barcelona to restart proceedings from scratch. The case is currently still pending.

*"Euroconsumers was the first European consumer cluster to launch collective actions against Volkswagen. After almost 10 years of relentless pursuit, we urge the VW group to stop playing legal games, finally show up for all affected consumers and pay them the compensation they rightfully deserve. All Dieselgate victims are equal and should be treated with equal respect."* – **Els Bruggeman, Head Policy and Enforcement, Euroconsumers**

While the circumstances have always been shared in all the countries, the outcomes of the legal battles [have varied significantly](#).

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**About Euroconsumers**

Gathering five national consumer organizations and giving voice to a total of more than 1.5 million people in Italy, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, and Brazil, Euroconsumers is the world's leading consumer cluster in innovative information, personalized services, and defense of consumer rights. Our European member organizations are part of the umbrella network of BEUC, the European Consumer Organization. Together, we advocate for EU policies that benefit consumers in their daily lives.