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## Media information

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## Volkswagen do Brasil signs agreement on historical reappraisal of the military regime

- Volkswagen is the first foreign company to reappraise its history during the military regime in Brazil
- In addition to the settlement agreement signed with the public prosecutor's office, Volkswagen donates money to support special fund and association of former employees
- Settlement agreement and donations sum up to a total amount of around 36 million Brazilian Real (approx. 5.5 million euros)
- Hiltrud Werner, Board Member for Integrity and Legal Affairs, at Volkswagen AG: "We sincerely regret the violations that have occurred in the past. For Volkswagen AG, it is important that we deal responsibly with this negative chapter in the Brazilian history and foster transparency."

**Brazil, Wolfsburg, September 24, 2020 – Volkswagen do Brasil signed a Conduct Adjustment Agreement (CAA) today, as part of the historical reappraisal of its history during the military dictatorship regime in Brazil. With this agreement Volkswagen aims to promote the commemoration and establishment of the truth regarding human rights violations during that time.**

The settlement agreement was signed by the Federal Attorney's Office in São Paulo, the Public Prosecutor's Office of São Paulo State and the Labor Attorney in São Bernardo do Campo, a Public Ministry of Labor division.

Hiltrud Werner, Board of Management member of Volkswagen AG for Integrity and Legal Affairs, said: "We sincerely regret the violations that have occurred in the past. We are aware that it is a joint responsibility of corporates and the broader society to respect human rights and foster their observance. For Volkswagen AG, it is important that we deal responsibly with this negative chapter in the Brazilian history and foster transparency."

Under the agreement Volkswagen do Brasil committed itself to paying R\$ 9 million into the Federal and State Funds for the Defense and Reparation for Diffuse Rights (FDD). Furthermore, the company decided to donate R\$ 10.5 million to projects promoting the memory and the truth in relation with the human rights violations happened in Brazil during the military dictatorship.

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The Federal University of São Paulo - Unifesp will receive R\$ 4.5 million. From this amount, R\$ 2.5 million of it will go to the Forensic Anthropology and Archeology Center (CAAF) to support the identification of victims who are buried in mass graves. The other R\$ 2 million will be directed to the development of new researches to investigate the complicity of companies in human rights violations during the military government.

The Fight for Justice Memorial, an initiative promoted by the Brazilian Bar Association São Paulo's Section (OAB/SP) and by the Political Memory Preservation Center (NPMP), will receive R\$ 6 million. This memorial is being implemented at São Paulo's old Military Audit headquarters and is aimed to promote the memory of the defense of justice in its multiple dimensions. The amount will be used to conclude the implantation of the Memorial.

The company will also donate R\$ 16.8 million to the Volkswagen Workers' Association - Henrich Plagge Association. Most of this sum will be directed to former Volkswagen do Brasil's workers - or their legal successors- who did manifest violations of human rights during the dictatorship. The Conduct Adjustment Agreement will become legally effective once the Supreme Council of the São Paulo Prosecutor's Office and, within the scope of Federal Attorney's Office, the Operational Support Center of the Federal Prosecutor's Office for Civil Rights of the 3rd Region have approved the completion of the relevant investigations.

Volkswagen is the first foreign company to transparently come to terms with its past during the military dictatorship in Brazil. In 2016, the company commissioned an independent scientific study, which was presented by the historian Professor Dr. Christopher Kopper of the University of Bielefeld in September 2017. In light of the scientific evaluation of the available sources, Professor Kopper concludes in his independent scientific study that there was cooperation between individuals of site security at Volkswagen do Brasil and the former military regime but no clear evidences were found indicating that this cooperation was institutionalized in the company. At that time employees could have been exposed to human rights violations. As a result, coming to terms with the company's history and the investigation of the incidents during the military regime is also an important concern for Volkswagen's workforce. The European and Global Works Council initiated the change in corporate culture at VW do Brasil from 1979 onwards.

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AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT



## Volkswagen AG

Head of Corporate Communications

Contact Nicole Mommsen

Phone +49-5361-9-344 74

E-mail [nicole.mommsen@volkswagen.de](mailto:nicole.mommsen@volkswagen.de) | [www.volkswagen-newsroom.com](http://www.volkswagen-newsroom.com)

Corporate Communications | Head of Heritage Communications

Contact Dieter Landenberger

Phone +49-5361-9-746 30

E-mail [dieter.landenberger@volkswagen.de](mailto:dieter.landenberger@volkswagen.de) | [www.volkswagen-newsroom.com](http://www.volkswagen-newsroom.com)



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### About the Volkswagen Group:

The Volkswagen Group, with its headquarters in Wolfsburg, is one of the world's leading automobile manufacturers and the largest carmaker in Europe. The Group comprises twelve brands from seven European countries: Volkswagen Passenger Cars, Audi, SEAT, ŠKODA, Bentley, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Porsche, Ducati, Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, Scania and MAN. The passenger car portfolio ranges from small cars all the way to luxury-class vehicles. Ducati offers motorcycles. In the light and heavy commercial vehicles sector, the products range from pick-ups to buses and heavy trucks. Every weekday, 671.205 employees around the globe produce on average 44,567 vehicles, are involved in vehicle-related services or work in other areas of business. The Volkswagen Group sells its vehicles in 153 countries.

In 2019, the total number of vehicles delivered to customers by the Group globally was 10.97 million (2018: 10.83 million). The passenger car global market share was 12.9 percent. Group sales revenue in 2019 totaled EUR 252.6 billion (2018: EUR 235.8 billion). Earnings after tax in the fiscal year now ended amounted to EUR 14.0 billion (2018: EUR 12.2 billion).

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