

VOLKSWAGEN

AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Principles and Guidelines for Public Affairs

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Preface

The Volkswagen Group and its brands operate in a complex and highly regulated environment. We regard it as our responsibility to actively help shape the framework for our economic activity, and its effects on society and the environment, in dialogue with our stakeholders.

Those responsible for our Public Affairs worldwide take on this task. Their objective is to establish and to maintain the company's scope of action and to keep stakeholders in politics and society informed.

It is our mission to create lasting values: Shaping Mobility for Generations to Come.



Dr Thomas Steg

Head of Public Affairs
Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft

In addition to the Volkswagen Group Code of Conduct, this document defines the principles and guidelines for Public Affairs.

Role

Public Affairs introduce the Group's positions into political decision-making processes by providing truthful and comprehensive information as well as reliable and competent advice. They can also contribute ideas for innovation strategies or for future-oriented regulatory approaches. Information about the Group's key positions is published yearly.

In dialogue with politics and stakeholders, Public Affairs contribute to sharpening and raising the Group's profile as a responsible company and increasing its reputation. The goal is to maintain stable and balanced relations with all stakeholders.

Within the Group, Public Affairs foster an understanding of political processes and a culture of open dialogue with politics. They examine and collect information, analyse its relevance, and draft differentiated strategies for the company. At Group level, a globally coordinated approach and aligned communication of the brands and companies is ensured via suitable structures and processes.

Networks

Public Affairs are represented on Group level, at the company's locations and in several capitals worldwide. Their tasks in dialogue with politics and stakeholders can also be taken on by those responsible for Public Affairs in brands and companies.

Public Affairs also maintain contact with political decision makers through Group memberships in national and international organisations, for instance memberships in associations. The same principles and guidelines are binding on them within the context of these memberships. They commit to introduce the positions of the Group used for the dialogue with political decision makers unchanged within these organisations whilst respecting competition and antitrust law. If the positions for the dialogue with political decision makers resolved upon by the members of these organisations deviate in their substance from the Group's positions, this is noted as dissent.

The basis of these memberships is the acceptance of their respective policies and rules by those responsible for Public Affairs. When a membership is taken up, these policies and rules must be reviewed for any contradictions to applicable regulations.

Information about key memberships is published yearly.

Transparency

Public Affairs act according to the principles of integrity, openness and responsibility. Information about the structures and resources of Public Affairs is published yearly.

As a general rule, the Group welcomes provisions for transparency in Public Affairs. Where binding or voluntary provisions issued by political bodies are already in force, Public Affairs abide them. The Group is registered in the transparency register of the European Union and complies with the associated guidelines. There, details of structures, resources and objectives of political lobbying at European level are disclosed.

Business partners who are to provide services for Public Affairs undertake to comply with legal regulations, internal rules and voluntary commitments made by Public Affairs, including the Principles and Guidelines for Public Affairs at hand.

Contact with political decision makers

Compliance with international conventions and the laws and regulations of the countries in which they operate is a matter of course for Public Affairs. All contacts with political decision makers strictly comply with the applicable laws and regulations and the corresponding Codes of Conduct, measures to prevent corruption, and competition and antitrust law.

When dealing with public officials and elected officials, Public Affairs pay particular attention to transparency, sincerity and objectivity in communication and cooperative behaviour.

Public Affairs act in a politically neutral manner, but are not indifferent. As a general rule, they represent the Group's positions in dialogue with political decision makers around the world, but reserve the right to refuse contact with individual stakeholders on the basis of the Group Essentials.

In contact with political decision makers, those responsible for Public Affairs ensure that Group sites are not used as stages by those campaigning for political office. In Germany, during the three months immediately preceding an election, we do not set any events with a public profile with the candidates.

Exchanges on topics of a technical character are central to each contact.

Events

Public Affairs engage in dialogue with politics in various exchange formats. Information on regular formats is published yearly.

Sponsoring and donations

The political system of the Federal Republic of Germany relies on a functioning party system. The Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany sets out principles of political party financing, which require the parties to generate their own revenues in addition to the reimbursement of election costs by the state.

On this basis, Public Affairs support parties across the democratic spectrum in Germany with sponsoring.

They combine their support with the intention to raise public awareness for the Group, its business models and product portfolios.

As a matter of principle, they ensure an appropriate balance between their own services and the contractually agreed consideration.

All sponsoring activities comply with legal requirements and internally applicable regulations.

Figures relating to support of political party events and to the advertising budget for party-affiliated publications are published yearly.

As a general rule, the Volkswagen Group does not make donations to political parties or political decision makers.

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