

Unsparring scrutiny

The public is waiting impatiently to learn what made such grave misconduct possible. Comments on the ongoing investigation.

Text — Sascha Kummle Illustration — Mathis Rekowski

A year has passed since the notice of violation from the EPA, and it still isn't clear how the deception transpired in detail, or who was responsible for the development and use of the software.

Did Volkswagen thwart the quest for the truth? Is the company betting that customers will forget and the public will lose interest?

Such assertions are popular, but wrong.

Braunschweig public prosecutor

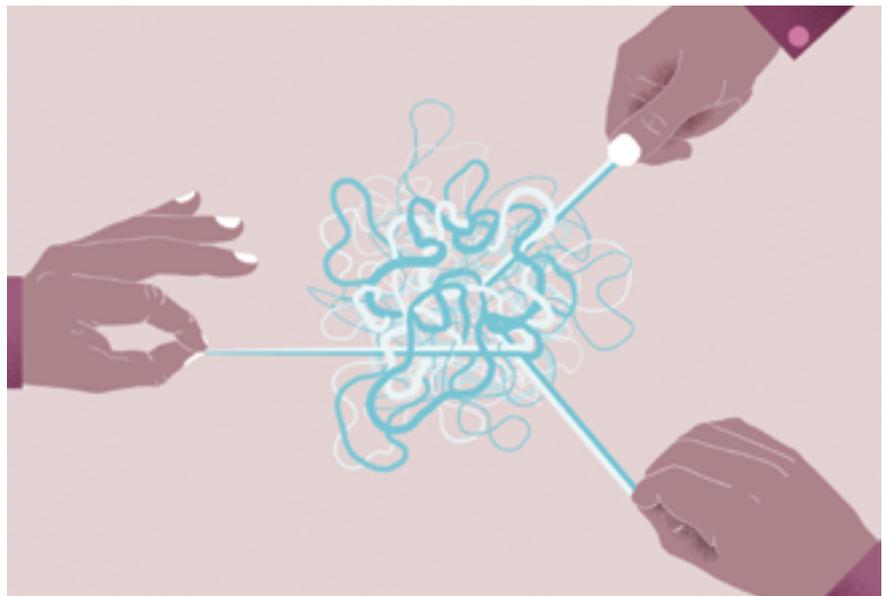
The public prosecutor's office in Braunschweig, Lower Saxony, is independently investigating the matter, including allegations of fraud. In September 2015, Volkswagen itself filed charges with the public prosecutor.

Searches were then carried out in Wolfsburg and elsewhere with the involvement of special agents from the State Office of Criminal Investigation.

Lawyers from Jones Day

The matter is also being investigated by the US law firm Jones Day. The Supervisory Board of Volkswagen AG commissioned the firm to conduct an external investigation – an independent and comprehensive probe. Jones Day is informing the company and the US Department of Justice of their findings as they emerge.

In other words, the course of action in clearing up the situation is determined largely by the investigative authorities.



“There is no alternative but to fully clear up the situation.”

Matthias Müller,
Chairman of
Volkswagen AG

Further efforts

With the help of an internal audit, Volkswagen is working intensively to shed more light on the situation. The company is focusing in particular on the processes of software development for the engine control unit. It is examining the legality of these processes in order

to expose any ineffectiveness, irregularities, or tampering.

The Supervisory Board and Management Board currently expect that a comprehensive statement of the facts uncovered by the investigation will be made public if and when a full settlement can be reached with the US Justice Department. Such a statement of facts customarily accompanies the settlement of a criminal investigation. The statement will present the facts of the case from the perspective of the US authorities, taking into account the findings of the Jones Day investigation.

An assessment of the results of all efforts to clarify the matter will be possible as soon as the investigations are complete. ◀