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Media information

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Astypalea: Kick-off for transformation to smart, sustainable island

- **First electric vehicles being used on Greek island with the aim of full transition to e-mobility**
- **Academic study to monitor transformation of Astypalea**
- **Green energy: Solar Park will provide 3 MW by 2023**
- **Volkswagen CEO Diess: "Astypalea is a future lab for Europe"**

Astypalea, June 2, 2021 – Astypalea is on course to become a smart, sustainable island. The first electric vehicles, including the first fully electric police car in Greece, were taken into service today in the presence of Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Volkswagen CEO Herbert Diess and Deputy Foreign Minister Kostas Fragogiannis. The first public and private charging points were also inaugurated. The event marked the launch of the transition to full electrification on Astypalea. In the coming years, the island wants to switch to smart sustainable mobility and completely modernizing its energy system. Volkswagen and the Greek government signed a memorandum of understanding to this effect last November.

Volkswagen CEO Herbert Diess and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis handover Greece' first electric police car in Astypalea.

Herbert Diess, CEO of the Volkswagen Group, said: "Astypalea will be a future lab for decarbonization in Europe. We will be researching in real time what motivates people to switch to e-mobility and which incentives are needed to transition to a sustainable lifestyle. The learnings will help to accelerate the transformation towards sustainable mobility and green energy in Greece. Worldwide, climate protection is gaining enormous traction. Volkswagen has been driving this change, offering the full range of sustainable mobility – from cars, to charging to sustainable energy solutions. Astypalea can become a blue print for a rapid transformation, fostered by the close collaboration of governments and businesses."

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said: "Greece is on a mission to transform our economy and society into "Greece 2.0", by leading the green revolution and harnessing the latest digital technology. Our plans are bold. Astypalaia will be a test bed for the green transition: energy autonomous, and entirely powered by nature. This beautiful island is a central pillar in that transition, and I am enormously

grateful to the local community for their continued support for the project. Our unique partnerships with Volkswagen, one of the world's most dynamic and innovative car companies, and with the brilliant research teams at the Universities of the Aegean and Strathclyde, will give us vital insights that will help us to create incentives for change on our journey to a cleaner, greener and more sustainable future. Together we will harness the wind and the sun to power that brighter future."

Transition to green energy from the sun

The first electric vehicles are being used by the police, at the airport authority and by the island's municipality. The sale of electric vehicles to private customers will start by end of June. Customers can choose from the Volkswagen e-up![1], the ID.3[2] and the ID.4[3] as well as the SEAT MÓ eScooter 125[4]. The Greek government is additionally supporting the switch to e-mobility with attractive subsidies. In a next step, new mobility services are to be launched. Preparations are already being made for a fully electric car sharing service and a ride sharing service. As a global mobility company, the Volkswagen Group provides the entire range of future mobility solutions, including cutting edge energy solutions by MAN SE.

The Hellenic republic also announced their plans for the transition to green energy. The energy system will be transformed to renewables in two phases: By 2023, a new solar park will provide about 3 megawatt of green energy, covering 100 percent of the energy needed to charge the electric vehicles and more than 50 percent of the islands overall energy demand. By 2026, the new energy system will be further expanded to more than 80 percent of the total energy demand. In addition, a battery storage system will help to balance the grid and make full use of the solar park. As a result, the CO_2 emissions of the island's energy system will be significantly reduced while energy costs could fall by at least 25 percent. Today, the island is supplied with energy from diesel-generators.

Kostas Fragogiannis, Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece, said: "This project symbolizes the realization of our vision for Greece in the years to come, a snapshot of the future before the future. Our country has become a reliable investment destination and the public and private sectors are working together in an exemplary way."

Academic study will monitor transformation

Scientists from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland and the University of the Aegean in Greece will be monitoring and systematically evaluating the transformation on Astypalea. The study will focus on the people of Astypalea and their attitudes towards the transformation. A series of surveys will examine the general views on e-mobility and the readiness to switch to an electric vehicle, providing a deeper understanding of the key levers and barriers of the transformation. The final results of the study will be made public and can help to accelerate the switch to e-mobility in other regions.

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Over the next five years, Astypalea will be transformed into a smart sustainable island. Mobility will be electric, powered by locally produced green electricity. New mobility services like car sharing and ride sharing will replace the existing basic bus service. The goal overall is not only to improve mobility but also to reduce the number of vehicles on the island by about one third.

1.) e-up (61 kW/83 PS) single-speed automatic gearbox, combined power consumption: 12.9 - 12.7 kWh/100 km (NEDC) and CO_2 emissions combined: 0 g/km, efficiency class: A+.
2.) ID.3: power consumption in kWh/100 km (NEDC): 15.4-13.1 (combined), combined CO_2-emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class: A+
3.) ID.4: power consumption in kWh/100 km (NEDC): 16.9-15.5 (combined); CO_2 emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class: A+
4.) SEAT MÓ eScooter 125: power consumption in kWh/100 km: 7; CO_2-emissions in g/km: 0; efficiency class: A+

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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. Some 662,600 employees around the globe manufacture products, are involved in vehicle-related services or work in other areas of business. The Volkswagen Group sells its vehicles in 153 countries.

In 2020, the total number of vehicles delivered to customers by the Group globally was 9.31 million (2019: 10.98 million). Group sales revenue in 2020 totaled EUR 222.9 billion (2019: EUR 252.6 billion). Earnings after tax in 2020 amounted to EUR 8.8 billion (2019: EUR 14.0 billion).