

**VOLKSWAGEN GROUP**

# Principles and Guidelines for Public Affairs

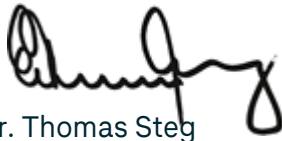
<b>Responsible:</b>	Torsten Briam, K-GAP
<b>Status:</b>	final
<b>Version:</b>	2.1
<b>Date:</b>	May 2025

# Foreword

The Volkswagen Group and its brands operate in a complex and highly regulated environment. We see it as our responsibility to actively help shape the framework for our economic activities and their impact on society and the environment through dialogue with our stakeholders – as a global technology leader in the automotive industry.

This task is carried out by our Public Affairs representatives worldwide. Their goal is to define the Group's scope for action and inform stakeholders in politics and society.

Our aspiration is to create lasting value: Mobility for Generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Steg', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr. Thomas Steg

General Representative of Volkswagen Group

Head of Public Affairs

This document outlines the principles and guidelines for Public Affairs that apply in addition to the Group's Code of Conduct.

## Self-Understanding

**Public Affairs integrates the Group's positions into political decision-making processes** by providing truthful, comprehensive information and offering competent, reliable advice. They may also provide impulses for innovation strategies or forward-looking regulatory approaches. Key positions of the Group are published annually.

**Through dialogue with politics and stakeholders,** Public Affairs help sharpen the Group's profile as a responsible company and enhance its reputation. The goal is to maintain stable and balanced relationships with all stakeholders.

**Within the Group,** Public Affairs promote understanding of political processes and a culture of open dialogue with policymakers. Public Affairs gather and analyze information, assess its relevance, and develop distinguished strategies for the company. At Group level, a globally coordinated approach and consistent communication across brands and entities are ensured through appropriate structures and processes.

## Networks

**Public Affairs is represented within the Group, at company locations, and in several capitals worldwide.** Their tasks in dialogue with politics and stakeholders may also be carried out by Public Affairs representatives of brands or subsidiaries.

**Public Affairs also engage with politics through the Group's memberships in national and international organizations, such as associations.** Within these memberships, they are bound by the same principles and guidelines. They commit to presenting the Group's positions in political discussions within the bounds of competition and antitrust law. If the positions adopted by the organization differ substantially from those of the Group, this is recorded as a dissent.

Memberships are based on the recognition of the respective rules by Public Affairs. Upon joining a membership, these are reviewed for compliance with applicable regulations.

Key memberships are published annually, including in the German [Lobby Register](#).

# Transparency

**Public Affairs act according to the principles of integrity, openness and transparency.** Information on structures and resources is published annually.

**The Group supports transparency regulations for Public Affairs.** Where mandatory requirements exist, they are followed. Volkswagen is registered in the transparency registers of the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany and complies with the associated requirements. Structures, resources, and objectives of political advocacy at the European and national levels are disclosed there.

**Business partners providing Public Affairs services** must comply with legal requirements, internal regulations, and voluntary commitments, including these principles and guidelines.

## Contact with Politics

**Public Affairs strictly adheres to international conventions, laws, and regulations in all countries where the Volkswagen Group operates.** All political contacts comply with applicable laws, internal codes of conduct, anti-corruption measures, and competition and antitrust law.

**In Contact with public officials and elected representatives,** Public Affairs ensures transparency, honesty, objectivity, and cooperative behavior.

**Public Affairs act politically neutral but not indifferent.** They represent the Group's positions globally but reserve the right to decline contact with certain stakeholders based on Group values.

**Public Affairs ensures that Group locations are not used as platforms for political candidates.** In Germany, no meetings intended for public attention with candidates are held at Group locations during the three months prior to elections.

**Each contact always focusses primarily on professional issues.** Public Affairs engages in dialogue with politics through various formats.

**Volkswagen AG does not make donations to political parties or politicians.** Societal sponsorships are part of the Group's corporate responsibility. Volkswagen AG provides sponsorships only for local engagement or to support key socio-political topics such as remembrance culture, education, science, culture, sports, environment, social projects, or humanitarian aid in disaster situations.

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Status 05/2025