

Volkswagen Group Statement on MSCI ESG Report from 04.11.2022

The **MSCI ESG controversy**, as reported on Nov 4, 2022 citing “allegations of forced labor in its own operations” in connection with Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft **is factually incorrect and potentially misleading**.

Consequently, we have requested and are in continued dialogue with MSCI **with the aim to rectify the incorrect assessment**.

In said dialogue with MSCI, we have emphasized and **provided supporting, publicly available information** for the **following facts**:

1. **None of the sources cited by MSCI** in the controversy report to support the above conclusion, **and no other public source to date, has made the allegation that forced labor is being made use of in the Urumqi plant.**
 - The 2020 and 2022 reports (various media, UN HC Human Rights Xinjiang report) cited by MSCI in the controversies report do not make any forced labor allegations or even merely refer to Volkswagen or the automotive industry.
 - The 2021 ASPI report alleging forced labor **in supply chains of the SAIC Volkswagen shareholding** has been refuted by Volkswagen in its entirety upon official request by the UN HC Human Rights. The UN request as well as the response are publicly available here: https://www.volkswagenag.com/presence/investorrelation/publications/corporate-governance/esg-controversies/2021.05.10-UN_HCHR-answers-v.pdf
2. The Urumqi plant is operated by a 100% subsidiary of the non-controlled Volkswagen shareholding and parent SAIC Volkswagen Automotive. The name of the Urumqi subsidiary, SAIC Volkswagen (Xinjiang) Automotive Co., Ltd., may have led to **the false conclusion that it is a Volkswagen own operation**. This is not the case, for the reasons stated before. Information on the corporate structure is publicly available at [Anteilsbesitz 31.12.2021 en.pdf \(volkswagenag.com\)](#);
[SAIC VOLKSWAGEN and plants \(volkswagenag.com.cn\)](#)

Despite 1., several managing directors and Board members of Volkswagen AG and Volkswagen China have **stated repeatedly, as recent as June 2022, that no forced labor is being made use of in the Urumqi plant**.

NZZ Dr. Döss (30.06.2022): [NZZ Interview Dr. Döss](#)

FAZ Dr. Diess (14.02.2021):[paywall] [FAZ Interview Dr. Diess](#)

BBC Wöllenstein (12.11.2020): [BBC News Interview Mr. Wöllenstein](#)