



Justification

By ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy for the vilification of Herbert Diess (chairman of the management board), Hans-Dieter Pötsch (chairman of the supervisory board), Wolfgang Porsche (major shareholder / PORSCHE HOLDING SE) and Stephan Weil (major shareholder / prime minister of lower saxony) of the world's largest automaker VOLKSWAGEN (Germany) with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2018

Preliminary remarks

The two International ethecon Awards

Since 2006 ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economy has been awarding two international annual prizes– the International ethecon Blue Planet Award and the International ethecon Black Planet Award.

The International ethecon Blue Planet Award honours people, protecting and defending human ethics outstandingly and such campaign for the preservation and rescue of our Blue Planet.

The International ethecon Black Planet Award serves to pillory people who trample on human ethics in the conflict between ethics and economics in a shocking way and thus promote the ruin and destruction of our Blue Planet towards a Black Planet.

The International ethecon Blue Planet Award and the International ethecon Black Planet Award are one unit, two sides of the same coin. Both reflect the condition of our world. They honour the solidary campaign for environment protection, justice and peace on the one hand, and denounce inconsiderate environment destruction, injustice and war on the other hand. The prizes encourage resistance, change and involvement. In both cases, „Blue Planet“ describes the complete animate and inanimate world.

Each year in February an international call invites to pass in nominations for the International ethecon Blue Planet Award and the International Black Planet Award. During a thorough selection procedure the awardees will be appointed by the trustees until August.



Statement of the administrative board and board of trustees regarding the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2018

Via the international Black Planet Award the foundation will be denouncing:

**Herbert Diess (chairman of the management board) and
Hans-Dieter Pötsch (chairman supervisory board) as well as
the controlling stockholder Wolfgang Porsche (PORSCHE HOLDING SE)
and Stephan Weil (prime minister of lower saxony)
of the world's biggest automaker VOLKSWAGEN AG (Germany)**

The International Black Planet Award 2018 will be presented - as a consequent addition to the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2018 as well as referring to the aims of ethecon foundation ethics & economy - to the named awardees, because they spurn basic ethical principles in an outstanding way within the area of conflict about ethics and economy and such endanger the Blue Planet.

ethecon is naming and shaming them with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2018, as they have to account for oppression, exploitation, violations of human rights, destruction of nature and social misery.

These individuals – Herbert Diess, Hans-Dieter Pötsch, Wolfgang Porsche and Stephan Weil – act ruthless, sly, affected by low motives and only for their personal advantage. For their ambitions for power and profit they accept the planet's ruin into a Black Planet. They show what is generally called unscrupulousness and egotism.

In a world increasingly driven by profit as the only criterion for any decision and development this tiny powerful group is pitted against the interests of humanity. They are highly privileged, tied into global networks and supported by major capital interests. Always well secured and protected, they are autocratic and increasingly above any laws and jurisdictions. But they are the ones to be blamed for exploitation and environmental destruction.

The awardees are vilified with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2018 and personally denounced, representing all those endangering the "Blue Planet" and risking its demise to a "Black Planet". Their vilification is meant as a cautionary example to themselves and us all.



The International ethecon Black Planet Award sees itself as a mobilisation for the fight for peace, justice and environmental protection and against warmongering, exploitation and environmental destruction. It is meant to sensitise and alert the public, uncover the context and those responsible and strengthen the resistance against environmental destruction, exploitation and injustice.

Justification

for awarding the

International ethecon Black Planet Award 2018 to

Herbert Diess (Chairman of the Management Board), Hans-Dieter Pötsch (chairman of the supervisory board), Wolfgang Porsche (major shareholder / PORSCHE HOLDING SE) and Stephan Weil (major shareholder / prime minister of lower saxony) of the world's biggest automaker VOLKSWAGEN AG (Germany)

The board of trustees and the management of ethecon have based their decision on news reports, on publicly known facts, on information collected by journalists from all over the world, on publicly available documents, on investigations by government departments and environmental organisations in various countries and last but not least on material published by VOLKSWAGEN AG itself.

Generally, it is assumed that the justification for the decision would have been more forceful and comprehensive if all information had been fully available, including any internal and external, covered-up or destroyed information.

From the wealth of facts researched in the course of the selection process of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2018 to Herbert Diess (Chairman of the Management Board), Hans-Dieter Pötsch (chairman of the supervisory board), Wolfgang Porsche (major shareholder / PORSCHE HOLDING SE) and Stephan Weil (major shareholder / prime minister of lower saxony) of the world's biggest automaker VOLKSWAGEN AG (Germany) we now present only a few examples:

During World War II VOLKSWAGEN produced military vehicles and rockets for the Wehrmacht. The management of VOLKSWAGEN personally worked for the success of the german war of aggression and annihilation. They used forced labour of thousands of prisoners of war and inmates of concentration camps - and even ran their own concentration camp "Arbeitsdorf" in Wolfsburg. To this day VOLKSWAGEN refuses to pay adequate reparations to survivors or their families.



After the war VOLKSWAGEN has continued to produce in countries of the global south, taking advantage of fascist rule and anti-union conditions. In Brazil they even supported a military coup in 1964 and later cooperated in the monitoring, arresting, torturing and killing of union-members and fierce workers. Today VOLKSWAGEN still procures raw materials from the Congo extracted by child- and slave labour, and profits from massacres against miners by the hands of its South African suppliers.

VOLKSWAGEN stands for a corrupt corporate culture due to its intransparent transitions between the managing and the supervising board and due to its repeated scandals of bribing the supervisory management, the workers' council and politician. Managers and public major shareholders of VOLKSWAGEN enabled the takeover by the now controlling shareholder PORSCHE HOLDING SE and accelerated the concentration of power in private hands. Thereby they eroded the progressive „Volkswagen bill“, which used to ensure public control and workers participation in the company.

VOLKSWAGEN holds on to a model of mobility, which is based on individual traffic and internal combustion engines, although it is proven to cause disease and death by pollution and even climate change. The management of VOLKSWAGEN holds on to this destructive and fatal business model and even deceives the world public on the true outcome of this demolition.

By installing cheating-software in its Diesel-engines and also by its lobbying of politics, the management of VOLKSWAGEN prevents a successful legal approach to battle climate change and the pollution of the air. By paying hush-money to former executive employees and by the former CEO Ferdinand Piëch refusing to give evidence to the parliamentary commission of enquiry, the management absconds from justice up to this day. As a world market leader VOLKSWAGEN, especially the executive management and the major shareholders, are responsible for the global gridlock, the worldwide, lethal pollution of urban areas and even climate change.

At the same time they counter this responsibility with untenable propaganda, trivialize their history, silence irksome historians and green-wash their ugly chains of supply instead of investing this tremendous amount of money in a sustainable business model.

In their decision to pillory Herbert Diess (Chairman of the Management Board), Hans-Dieter Pötsch (chairman of the supervisory board), Wolfgang Porsche (major shareholder / PORSCHE HOLDING SE) and Stephan Weil (major shareholder / prime minister of Lower Saxony) of the world's biggest automaker VOLKSWAGEN AG (Germany) the board of trustees and management of ethecon expressly refers to the 1994 proposal of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) for an



international Charter on “Human rights and industrial risks” and the UN Charter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Declaration

of the board of trustees and executive committee of ethecon

Those primarily responsible for the decisions and actions of the automaker VOLKSWAGEN (Germany) are Herbert Diess (Chairman of the Management Board), Hans-Dieter Pötsch (chairman of the supervisory board), Wolfgang Porsche (major shareholder / PORSCHE HOLDING SE) and Stephan Weil (major shareholder / prime minister of lower saxony). They own the corporation. They run the company. They are responsible for the ruin of human health, the large-scale destruction of the environment and even the death of many people. They not only pose a threat for peace and human rights, but also for democracy, ecology and humanity as a whole. They act for personal power and private benefit. To this end they trample on moral and ethics and accept the ruin of the earth as black planet.

In ethecon's view the actions of Herbert Diess (Chairman of the Management Board), Hans-Dieter Pötsch (chairman of the supervisory board), Wolfgang Porsche (major shareholder / PORSCHE HOLDING SE) and Stephan Weil (major shareholder / prime minister of lower saxony) are a shocking contribution to the ruin and destruction of our blue planet. For this appalling disregard and violation of human ethics ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics vilifies the responsible persons of VOLKSWAGEN with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2018.

ethecon campaigns alongside national and international anti-globalization activists to bring Herbert Diess (Chairman of the Management Board), Hans-Dieter Pötsch (chairman of the supervisory board), Wolfgang Porsche (major shareholder / PORSCHE HOLDING SE) and Stephan Weil (major shareholder / prime minister of lower saxony) and all other responsible managers and controlling shareholders to justice. They should be held accountable for their financial and environmental crimes and the damages VOLKSWAGEN caused to the health of millions.

The International ethecon Black Planet Award 2018 to Herbert Diess (Chairman of the Management Board) and Hans-Dieter Pötsch (Chairman of the Supervisory Board) as well as the major shareholders Wolfgang Porsche (PORSCHE HOLDING SE) and Stephan Weil (prime minister of lower saxony) of the world's largest automaker VOLKSWAGEN (Germany) will be presented together with the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2018 to the



ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy
Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomie Fundación Ética & Economía

International ethecon Black Planet Award 2018

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peace activist Mary Ann Wright (USA) in a public ceremony in Berlin on 17th November 2018.

Berlin, 21st September 2018, International Day of Peace¹

¹ It is with full intention that Foundation ethecon chose 21st September for the declaration of the decision about the awardees of both the annual ethecon Awards: 21st September is International Day of Peace.



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The impending ecological and social disasters can only be avoided with the development and implementation of environmentally sound and decent economic and social models. Ethecon – a Foundation on Ethics & Economics works with a future vision and perspective, far more than just the change of generations ahead.

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