

Press release

## VDA founds the association Responsible Supply Chain Initiative RSCI e.V. together with manufacturers and suppliers

For more responsible supply chains – more sustainability,  
more environmental and occupational safety – 15 founding  
members

*Berlin, 28 October 2021*

The German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA) founded the association “Responsible Supply Chain Initiative RSCI e.V.” together with 14 other founding members. It aims to support all stakeholders in the automotive sector in establishing a high level of sustainability in the supply chains. For this, the RSCI will provide suitable instruments and offer practical support.

Together with manufacturers, suppliers and other associations the VDA is developing a standardized test procedure for evaluating the sustainability performance of companies in automotive supply chains. The results may be shared with relevant companies, while taking into account antitrust rules. This practice of mutual recognition also avoids multiple audits.

“Companies have a responsibility towards the environment and people - all over the world. In order to ensure more environmental and occupational safety and to promote sustainability the RSCI e.V. is of major importance. We are sure that the association faces a growth in membership very soon,” explains Dr Kurt-Christian Scheel, managing director of VDA.

The association focuses on the review and further development of the sustainability of companies in their supply chains. This will be achieved by on-site assessments and corresponding follow-up. With the specially developed program the effort, the cost and eventually the results can be shared. It thus offers added value for the client and the audited company. The aim is to create fundamental transparency about working conditions, which is why corresponding tests are carried out directly at the production site. The program promotes supplier development and contributes to the further development and constant improvement of sustainability.

The program also supports companies in fulfilling the requirements of customers, legislators and stakeholders. Thus it also contributes to the implementation of companies' human rights due diligence.

As part of the international orientation of the assessment program, the 15 founding members decided to found an independent association under the umbrella of the VDA: the Responsible Supply Chain Initiative e.V.

Also Non-VDA companies may obtain RSCI membership. There is already initial support from Drive Sustainability and CLEPA.

The jointly developed content and processes are implemented with an experienced program provider from the field of social auditing. The operational phase will start at the beginning of 2022, in which the founding members will carry out initial risk-based pilot audits. Information material will be available promptly on the VDA website.

**Founding members:**

- AUDI AG
- Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW Group)
- Brose Fahrzeugteile SE & Co. KG
- CLEPA AISBL
- Business Network for Corporate Responsibility AISBL
- Daimler AG
- Dr. Ing. h.c. Porsche AG
- Ford-Werke GmbH
- KIRCHHOFF Automotive GmbH
- Magna International (Germany) GmbH
- MAN Truck & Bus SE
- Robert Bosch GmbH
- Schaeffler AG
- Verband der Automobilindustrie (VDA) e.V.
- Volkswagen AG

**Contact**

German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA)  
Simon Schütz  
Spokesperson Politics and Society  
Phone: +49 160 95900967  
E-Mail: [simon.schuetz@vda.de](mailto:simon.schuetz@vda.de)