Disclosures Required Under Takeover Law

This section contains the Volkswagen Group’s disclosures relating to takeover law required by sections 289(4) and 315(4) of the HGB.

CAPITAL STRUCTURE
Volkswagen AG’s share capital amounted to €1,283,315,873.28 on 31 December, 2017. It was composed of 295,089,818 ordinary shares and 206,205,445 preferred shares. Each share conveys a notional interest of €2.56 in the share capital.

SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS
The shares convey pecuniary and administrative rights. The pecuniary rights include in particular the shareholders’ right to participate in profits (section 58(4) of the Aktiengesetz (AktG – German Stock Corporation Act)), the right to participate in liquidation proceeds (section 271 of the AktG) and preemptive rights to shares in the event of capital increases (section 186 of the AktG) that can be disapplied by the Annual General Meeting with the approval of the Special Meeting of Preferred Shareholders, where appropriate. Administrative rights include the right to attend the Annual General Meeting and the right to speak there, to ask questions, to propose motions and to exercise voting rights. Shareholders can enforce these rights in particular through actions seeking disclosure and actions for avoidance.

Each ordinary share grants the holder one vote at the Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting elects shareholder representatives to the Supervisory Board and elects the auditors; in particular, it resolves on the appropriation of net profit, formally approves the actions of the Board of Management and the Supervisory Board, and resolves on amendments to the Articles of Association of Volkswagen AG, capitalization measures and authorizations to purchase treasury shares; if required, it also resolves on the performance of a special audit, the removal before the end of their term of office of Supervisory Board members elected at the Annual General Meeting and the winding-up of the Company.

Preferred shareholders generally have no voting rights. However, in the exceptional case that they are granted voting rights by law (for example, when preferred share dividends were not paid in one year and not compensated for in full in the following year), each preferred share also grants the holder one vote at the Annual General Meeting. Furthermore, preferred shares entitle the holder to a €0.06 higher dividend than ordinary shares (further details on this right to preferred and additional dividends are specified in Article 27(2) of the Articles of Association of Volkswagen AG).

The Gesetz über die Überführung der Anteilsrechte an der Volkswagenwerk Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung in private Hand (VW-Gesetz – Act on the Privatization of Shares of Volkswagenwerk Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung) of July 21, 1960, as amended on July 30, 2009, includes various provisions in derogation of the German Stock Corporation Act, for example on the exercise of voting rights by proxy (section 3 of the VW-Gesetz) and on majority voting requirements at the Annual General Meeting (section 4(3) of the VW-Gesetz).

In accordance with the Volkswagen AG Articles of Association (Article 11(1)), the State of Lower Saxony is entitled to appoint two members of the Supervisory Board of Volkswagen AG for as long as it directly or indirectly holds at least 15% of Volkswagen AG’s ordinary shares. In addition, resolutions by the Annual General Meeting that are required by law to be adopted by a qualified majority require a majority of more than four-fifths of the share capital of the Company represented when the resolution is adopted (Article 25(2)), regardless of the provisions of the VW-Gesetz.
SHAREHOLDINGS EXCEEDING 10% OF VOTING RIGHTS
Shareholdings in Volkswagen AG that exceed 10% of voting rights are shown in the notes to the annual financial statements of Volkswagen AG, which are available online at www.volkswagenag.com/ir. The current notifications of changes in voting rights in accordance with the Wertpapierhandelsgesetz (WpHG – German Securities Trading Act) are also published on this website.

COMPOSITION OF THE SUPERVISORY BOARD
The Supervisory Board consists of 20 members, half of whom are shareholder representatives. In accordance with Article 11(1) of the Articles of Association of Volkswagen AG, the State of Lower Saxony is entitled to appoint two of these shareholder representatives for as long as it directly or indirectly holds at least 15% of the Company’s ordinary shares. The remaining shareholder representatives on the Supervisory Board are elected by the Annual General Meeting.

The other half of the Supervisory Board consists of employee representatives elected by the employees in accordance with the Mitbestimmungsgesetz (MitbestG – German Codetermination Act). A total of seven of these employee representatives are Company employees elected by the workforce; the other three employee representatives are trade union representatives elected by the workforce.

The Chairman of the Supervisory Board is generally a shareholder representative elected by the other members of the Supervisory Board. In the event that a Supervisory Board vote is tied, the Chairman of the Supervisory Board has a casting vote in accordance with the MitbestG.

The goals for the composition of the Supervisory Board are described on page 61 of the Corporate Governance Report. Information about the composition of the Supervisory Board at the end of the reporting period can be found on pages 85 to 87 of this annual report.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION WITH REGARD TO THE APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS AND TO AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
The appointment and removal of members of the Board of Management are governed by sections 84 and 85 of the AktG, which specify that members of the Board of Management are appointed by the Supervisory Board for a maximum of five years. Board of Management members may be reappointed or have their term of office extended for a maximum of five years in each case. In addition, Article 6 of the Articles of Association of Volkswagen AG states that the number of Board of Management members is stipulated by the Supervisory Board and that the Board of Management must consist of at least three persons.

The Annual General Meeting resolves amendments to the Articles of Association (section 119(1) of the AktG). In accordance with section 4(3) of the VW-Gesetz as amended on July 30, 2009 and Article 25(2) of the Articles of Association of Volkswagen AG, Annual General Meeting resolutions to amend the Articles of Association require a majority of more than four-fifths of the share capital represented.

POWERS OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, IN PARTICULAR CONCERNING THE ISSUE OF NEW SHARES AND THE REPURCHASE OF TREASURY SHARES
According to German stock corporation law, the Annual General Meeting can authorize the Board of Management, for a maximum period of five years, to issue new shares. It can also authorize the Board of Management, for a maximum period of five years, to issue bonds on the basis of which new shares are to be issued. The Annual General Meeting also decides the extent to which shareholders have preemptive rights to the new shares or bonds. The maximum amount of authorized share capital or contingent capital available for these purposes is determined by Article 4 of the Articles of Association of Volkswagen AG, as amended.
The Annual General Meeting on April 19, 2012 resolved to authorize the Board of Management, with the consent of the Supervisory Board, to increase the Company’s share capital by a total of up to €110.0 million (corresponding to approximately 43 million shares) on one or more occasions up to April 18, 2017 by issuing new ordinary and/or nonvoting preferred bearer shares – including with shareholders’ preemptive rights disapplied – against cash and/or noncash contributions. This authorization was partially exercised in June 2014 by way of a capital increase through the issuance of 10,471,204 new preferred shares from authorized capital against cash contributions, while disapplying shareholders’ preemptive rights. This increased the share capital by €26.8 million and generated gross proceeds of €2.0 billion.

At the Annual General Meeting on May 5, 2015, a resolution was passed authorizing the Board of Management, with the consent of the Supervisory Board, to increase the Company’s share capital by a total of up to €179.2 million (corresponding to 70 million shares) on one or more occasions up to May 4, 2020 by issuing new nonvoting preferred shares against cash contributions.

Further details of the authorization to issue new shares and their permitted uses may be found in the notes to the consolidated financial statements on page 256.

Opportunities to acquire treasury shares are governed by section 71 of the AktG. The Board of Management was most recently authorized to acquire treasury shares up to a maximum of 10% of the share capital at the Annual General Meeting on April 19, 2012. This authorization applied until April 18, 2017 and has not been exercised.

MATERIAL AGREEMENTS OF THE PARENT COMPANY IN THE EVENT OF A CHANGE OF CONTROL FOLLOWING A TAKEOVER BID

A banking syndicate granted Volkswagen AG a syndicated line of credit amounting to €5.0 billion that runs until April 2020. The syndicate members were granted the right to call their portion of the syndicated line of credit if Volkswagen AG is merged with a third party or becomes a subsidiary of another company. However, this call right does not apply in the event of a merger by absorption of Porsche Holding SE, one of its subsidiaries, or one of its holding companies and Volkswagen AG in which Volkswagen AG is the acquiring legal entity.

In addition, Volkswagen AG agreed a supplementary syndicated line of credit of up to €20.0 billion with a banking syndicate, initially running until December 2016 and since extended until June 2017. The syndicate members were granted the right to call their portion of the syndicated line of credit if Volkswagen AG is merged with a third party or group of third parties, or becomes a subsidiary of another company or group of other companies. Exceptions to this call right were agreed with regard to various combinations involving the current majority shareholders. This line of credit was terminated in June 2017 as per the contractual agreement.