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ŠKODA AUTO creates External Sustainability Council

- › Newly appointed, independent panel of experts advises the car manufacturer on sustainability issues and the implementation of concrete sustainability measures
- › Members are environmental, social affairs, economics and governance specialists with international experience
- › ŠKODA AUTO is one of the first companies in the Czech Republic to call on the expertise of an External Sustainability Council

Mladá Boleslav, 1 December 2021 – To implement its ambitious sustainability goals, ŠKODA AUTO has established an External Sustainability Council. The independent panel – which is not subject to any directives from the business – is made up of five international experts who will bring new ideas to the table, as well as suggestions for current and future sustainability measures. This will allow more diversified talks on sustainability issues to take place between the car manufacturer and its stakeholders. The panel were introduced at a round table held at ŠKODA AUTO headquarters in Mladá Boleslav.

Thomas Schäfer, ŠKODA AUTO CEO, says: “I’m delighted that we are one of the first companies in the Czech Republic to set up an External Sustainability Council, and I’m looking forward to working with such a high-calibre panel. It is a great opportunity to get a fresh perspective from this external team, engage in open dialogue with each other and discuss topics controversially. I am confident they will help us to take ŠKODA AUTO to the next level in terms of sustainability.”

ŠKODA AUTO has set up the External Sustainability Council, an independent panel, which is not subject to any directives from the business. The five experts will have the scope to advise on the implementation of planned sustainability measures. In doing so, the car manufacturer is placing additional emphasis on the importance of sustainability and social responsibility. The internationally experienced team will bring new perspectives, ideas and approaches to sustainability issues.

High-calibre panel of international sustainability experts

The panel members include Ladislav Miko, former Deputy Director-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Union. Soňa Klepek Jonášová, another member of the panel, founded an institute devoted to the circular economy as well as several hubs and platforms, and she set up an agency that advises companies on sustainability issues. Hans Reitz is also on the panel, founder and CEO of the Grameen Creative Lab – an incubator for social businesses. Reitz also works as an advisor to Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. Jan Bureš brings additional expertise in investment banking and financial market analysis to the table. Bureš is the chief economist of Patria Finance, a Czech investment bank founded in 1994. ŠKODA AUTO was also able to recruit Sandra Feltham to join the team. She is the founder of Flagship – a Czech-British CSR consultancy – and president of the Business Leaders Forum, the oldest Czech association for socially responsible companies.

Leading the way with an External Sustainability Council

In the Czech Republic, ŠKODA AUTO is one of the first companies to appoint an External Sustainability Council and to seek advice on sustainability issues from an independent panel of experts. At today’s round-table talks with media representatives at its headquarters in Mladá



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Boleslav, the company presented the new committee and also provided a comprehensive overview of its other sustainability activities.

Maren Gräf, *Board Member for People & Culture*, Michael Oeljeklaus, *Board Member for Production and Logistics*, Karsten Schnake, *Board Member for Purchasing*, Michal Kadera, *Head of External Affairs*, and Christian Schrader, *Head of Corporate Strategy and Innovation Management*, all provided insights into their areas of responsibility.

With its NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030, the Czech car manufacturer has once again raised the bar for its ambitious sustainability goals. In addition to the ‘Green Future’ strategy with its three pillars ‘Green Factory’, ‘Green Product’ and ‘Green Retail’, ŠKODA AUTO fully commits to being a good corporate citizen by making substantial contributions to society.

The carmaker reached several major sustainability milestones in the past year. At the end of 2020, the [components plant in Vrchlabí](#) became the first ŠKODA site to have CO₂-neutral production. At the beginning of 2021, the carmaker also started building and operating the Czech Republic’s [largest photovoltaic rooftop installation](#) at its main plant in Mladá Boleslav. Since 1 October, the company has been testing [two electric trucks](#) units there for internal transports. And for ŠKODA, its measures for increased sustainability do not end at the factory gates: around the globe, the company promotes [biodiversity](#) in the areas surrounding its plants, applying a wide range of measures including the ‘[One car, one tree](#)’ initiative launched in 2007 – the millionth tree was planted in October 2021. The #ŠKODAAUTOhelps initiative has raised more than 100 million Czech korunas for social and healthcare services as well as the ŠKODA regions. Following the tornado that hit Moravia in June 2021, the company, its employees and the KOVO union donated almost 10 million Czech korunas for emergency aid.

More information about ŠKODA AUTO’s sustainability measures, including outcomes and progress to date, can be found in the company’s [sustainability report](#) which is published every two years.

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ŠKODA AUTO creates External Sustainability Council

ŠKODA AUTO held round table talks for media representatives and gave an overview of its activities relating to sustainability at its headquarters in Mladá Boleslav. From left to right: Michal Kadera, *Head of External Affairs*, Michael Oeljeklaus, *Board Member for Production and Logistics*, Maren Gräf, *Board Member for People & Culture*, Karsten Schnake, *Board Member for Purchasing*, and Christian Schrader, *Head of Corporate Strategy and Innovation Management*, all provided insights into their areas of responsibility.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five bestselling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in India, Russia and North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV and KUSHAQ.
- › delivered over one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs more than 43,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.