

TEN PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

We, Hungarian researchers and professionals, are alarmed by one of the great global problems of our time: the fact that world leaders want to subordinate all socio-economic tasks to climate policy. Feeling responsible for the future, we want to conduct honest scientific discussions about the real challenges and provide them with wide social publicity. For this purpose, we recommend in good conscience to consider the following:

1. Let's clarify the basic concepts!

Around the world, many common concepts in the field of environment and energy are inherently confusing or have become confused. In the words of Count István Széchenyi, the founder of the Academy of Science in Hungary, we have a duty to “*spread clear concepts, and clean confused ones from their dross as much as possible...*” Here is an example: according to the UN definition of “climate change” in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992; in Hungary: LXXXII Law of 1995), its cause has been reduced to activities of man causing changes in atmospheric composition.

2. Our home is a wonderful Earth

The lack of clarity of concepts even makes us forget that the Earth is an open system; its wealth is greater and its functioning is far more imaginative than it has been made up to be.

3. The basis of our civilization is energy

The Earth is also a place with dangers, but man has created a home and a civilization within the harsh conditions of nature. The natural basis of all of these is energy. Thanks to the most efficient types of energy sources accessible today (nuclear, water, natural gas, oil, coal), everyone in the world could get out of poverty if this process were not artificially inhibited.

4. The essence of the energy transition

Energy transition has always taken place continuously, and its essence has been the involvement of increasingly concentrated types of energy. The continuous transition could progress on its natural path today (with the spread of nuclear energy and by other ways invented by human creativity, eventually perhaps by fusion), but the aggressive green policy has diverted the energy transition in an unnaturally short time, and exactly in the opposite direction to what is desirable, towards “thin” (low energy density) types of energy.

5. Energy is also the basis of sovereignty

The basis of our sovereignty is the existence of adequate domestic energy sources. If we were to judge our natural resources on the basis of reality and not on an ideological basis, it would turn out that we are not poor. Regarding the so-called renewables (hydro, solar, wind, biomass, geothermal energy): in the field of hydropower, a complete, non-political rethinking is offered as the most important possible objective, since hydropower plants are also energy storage. In the field of other renewable energies, their use as local supplementary energy source should be promoted. It is only justified to connect capricious wind and solar energy to the electricity grid to the extent of the capacity of the hydropower reservoirs.

6. Climate policy leads dangerously astray

In the Western world, and especially in the European Union, the range of questions concerning the natural prerequisites of civilization (energy, mineral raw materials, water, soil, nature) is now dominated by climate policy. Forcing a renewable-based green transition is technically unfeasible, attempting it is extremely destructive to nature, and its implementation has consequences which

may destroy civilization. “Switching” away from carbon-containing energy carriers, accounting for four-fifths of the global energy supply, is reasonable only partially, and only after the construction of nuclear power plants.

7. Severe economic-social consequences

The rush of the EU towards decarbonisation and the European climate policy are equivalent to a significant economic decline, it is synonymous with losing competitiveness. The energy and agricultural policies of the European Union have been turned upside down irresponsibly, creating climate anxiety among young people, in severe conflict with the value system of normal people. The European green policy goes against the realities of physics, chemistry, biology, economy, and geopolitics, and even elementary logic.

8. Adaptation and mitigation

Even today, Nature works properly in its own way, there is no so-called “climate emergency”. There should be a stop to the globally organized disinformation of society. We cannot change the natural processes which are of global proportions. We should try to change only what is possible to change and needed to be changed.

For example, environmental damage and waste are possible to reduce, and should be reduced, water management can and should be solved. At all spatial scales, H₂O does moderate weather and climate extremes.

9. Even the road to hell is paved with good intentions

It is time to notice: the fashionable deep green view, to which so many have succumbed, never solves anything. The deep green politics is a part of the problem and not of the solution. In the global consumer society, the hedonistic view of the individual-focused ideologies, serving the profit-oriented production systems, has diverted the normal consumers, which are the majority of human beings, from the path of temperance, however, now the same ideologies blame these very people for succumbing to those temptations.

10. Back to science!

Serious scientific doubts have arisen regarding the basic assumptions of climate policy. Namely: the climate policy not only follows false illusions regarding the desirable path, but already its reference base is shaky; CO₂ is the nutrient for plants, the basis of all life on earth, and the climate policy is based on false models. For the clarification of most questions, unbiased and fact-based scientific research, as well as open scientific debates are necessary. Consensus as argument and the principle of authority: do not exist in real science, capable of progress.

All participants of scientific life must maintain in their judgements their capacity for critical thinking and mutual respect.

Prepared by the Energy Working Group of the Batthyány Society of Professors

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