

THE PLURALIST ECONOMIST

NEWS FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE WORLD

TRANSFORMATION OF GERMANY'S TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE



COLOGNE – Ever since the German government has significantly altered its transportation investment policy over the course of the last five years, the majority of Cologne's streets have seen quite a remarkable transformation, financed significantly through revenues from an elevated wealth tax. An increase of green areas by about 40 %, a reduction in pollution-related illnesses by 60 % and a higher climate change adaptation capacity are the products of a strict limitation policy for private vehicles, as well as at the same time, the large-scale expansion of affordable, functional and dependable public transport services. "Cologne's inner city is now more family-, climate- and health-friendly than ever. One could say that the focus has shifted from serving the interests of the manufacturing industry to primarily meeting human and societal needs. This marks the beginning of a bright, livable and just future", says mayoress Annalena Fiellmayer (Green Party).

ABANDONED HOTEL TRANSFORMED INTO CO-HOUSING COMMUNITY

NEW YORK – Unused for over 10 years, the New Sun Hotel has been refurbished and transformed into a co-housing community that will house 40 families. Beyond the familial housing units, the residents will enjoy shared resources such as a courtyard, makerspace, bike shed, and a community garden. Ownership of the buildings will reside within a community land trust, ensuring the perpetual affordability of the units. This project is part of the City Council's "Right to Housing" scheme, which aims to transform underused buildings in order to increase the housing stock.



DEGROWTH AND CO2 TAXES HAVE TIPPED THE SCALES:

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCED BY 80%

DAKAR – Much has changed since the 2016 Paris Agreement regarding carbon emission reduction: The involuntary downsizing of economic activity triggered by the Corona crisis and the emissions saved as a result were an initial signal. Nevertheless, the extreme weather events have tipped the scale: the so-called former industries have finally realized that the climate crisis cannot be stopped without downsizing the economy. After initial hesitation, the global community has achieved a saving of 80% of CO2 emissions compared to 2016 by establishing ambitious CO2 taxes and a new economic system based on degrowth.

SPAIN'S FOOD SYSTEM GAMBLE



MADRID – This morning the Spanish minister of agriculture talked in a press conference about the historical landmarks in state of Spanish rural production. Minister Diaz Arevalo remarked: "Today we are proud to announce that the Spanish government has surpassed the Sustainable Development Goal of dedicating 25% of total farmland to agroecological production". Recent numbers indicate that after extensive agricultural policy reform, Spain has reached an exemplary 35%. The switch can be attributed to a change in public opinion following the grain shortages caused by war and climate change and the political rise of the Green Party (Los Verdes) as a social reaction to the recent ecological developments. The ecological impact of the so-called "Agroecological Revolution" can already be felt across the country. Biodiversity has increased by .5% measured by researchers of the Complutense University of Madrid. Food production and transportation emissions have been reduced by a third in just 5 years; this is a consequence of the Spanish bet towards local and seasonal food production. Diaz Arevalo closed the press conference with the promise of duplicating the subsidies to agroecological farms by reducing the monoculture farmer's tax benefits.

HOW THE YEAR 2030 WAS SHAPED BY GEN ALPHA

MANILA – Generation Alpha, also known as Gen Alpha, is comprised of children born from 2010 to 2025. They are the first generation to be born entirely within the 21st century. While some might instinctively label their legacy as the most technological-infused demographic to date, what has come to define them is their commitment to fighting climate change.

Gen Alpha were born in the midst of a climate crisis, biodiversity crisis, deteriorating natural ecosystems, food insecurity, and escalating climate emergency. For both Gen Z and Gen Alpha, the environment is a key issue of concern.



Below are some of Gen Alpha's most impactful actions that shaped 2030:

- 67% of gen Alpha are employed in jobs that involve saving the planet, building a care and wellbeing economy and careers based on fighting climate change.
- 50% of them have participated in climate change strikes and blocking pipelines.
- 20% have petitioned their countries to increase their climate and renewable energy commitments
- Gen Alpha leaders took on 20 governments to court for violating their human rights by perpetuating climate change
- Gen Alpha leaders were instrumental in the recognition of a habitable planet as a human right

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CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST CRITICIZES GROWING DEMAND FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES

BERLIN - Matteo Pérez, the speaker for the Chilean human rights NGO Justicia Ambiental Para Todos, met on Monday with German opposition politicians from the Left and Green party. He discussed and demonstrated the eco-social consequences of the stark worldwide increase of raw materials utilized for the manufacturing of private electric vehicles, specifically lithium in the case of Chile, whose production has quadrupled between 2020 and 2030 from 345,000 tonnes in 2020 to 2 million tonnes in 2030. He warned about the consequences of lithium mining, stemming from its high water consumption, with a dramatic sinking of the groundwater level, endangering the local ecosystem and thus also the indigenous population. Pérez ended his speech with a call to the German government: "The dark side of electric vehicles lies in the fact that on a planet with limited resources, it is becoming simply impossible to provide each citizen with an individual car. We must therefore urgently transform our transportation infrastructure towards significantly less individual and more public transport."

SWEDEN MAINTAINS THE HIGHEST CARBON TAX RATE IN THE WORLD

STOCKHOLM - Since the implementation of the carbon tax 40 years ago, Sweden has not only reduced its national carbon emissions but also maintained solid GDP growth. The country was able to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels to less than 2% of its electricity generation while growing at roughly the same rate as Germany's. Furthermore, carbon taxes on transportation fuel have reduced carbon dioxide emissions from transportation by 11%. The country's high carbon tax has successfully made businesses more competitive by lowering climate-related risks and hastening the development of greener alternatives. Some groups, however, continue to advocate for a more progressive income distribution and more effective compensatory measures.

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NO MORE WINE FROM BURGUNDY

PARIS - The last wine producers from world famous Burgundy, France had to leave the area to search for a new climate that suits their grapes. Because of growing heat waves and wildfires, wine from Burgundy has become a luxury item with prices skyrocketing up to 300,000 Dollars. German businessman Paul Wolz has therefore invested in hundreds of vineyards in Scotland, which due to an unprecedented increase in hotter temperatures is set to become the new hotspots for the delicate grapes. "Climate change is the best thing that could happen for my shareholders" Gibson tells us, pointing towards the increase of profits since he has relocated capital towards making wine in Scotland. What Gibson prefers to be quiet about, however, is the high use of water needed to produce his wine. Furthermore, Scotland's new vineyards will push away regional farmers from the land. One comment by a local resident puts it bluntly: "We live in a rich man's world after all".

REPORT PAINTS GLOOMY PICTURE OF "GENERATION ALPHA'S" FUTURE

NAIROBI - A recently published report published by Oxfam summarizes the current living conditions and degrees of wellbeing of "Generation Alpha" (born between the years 2010 and 2025) in light of the increasingly threatening climate and biodiversity crises. The said generation faces a noticeably lower life expectancy as well as an increase in mental health issues compared to their preceding generations. The underlying causes are due to severe climate change impacts. On a global average, Generation Alpha experiences more than double the number of droughts and river floods, and three times as many crop failures, than the generation born in the 1960's. The report also points to the severe global inequality of climate change impacts. Generation Alpha members that live in Sub-Saharan Africa experience five times as many extreme weather events, while their European and Central Asian peers see a significantly lower rise of extreme meteorological impacts (a four-fold increase), compared to their grandparents' generation.

SETTING GLOBAL MINIMUM CARBON PRICE

DAKAR - A global agreement on minimum carbon prices have been reached in the climate conference in Senegal 2030. Minimum prices differ by country groups in recognition of differential historical responsibilities and levels of development. Still, the missing redistribution of tax revenue towards the promotion of green development, especially supporting developing countries is subject to criticism.



WORLD'S YOUNGEST BILLIONAIRE PURCHASES 100,000 HOUSING UNITS IN NYC

NEW YORK - Ted Tennant, the founder and CEO of Underground Labs, known for its influencer-only social media platform, finalized the purchase of over 100,000 housing units in Manhattan. "I'm going to connect these units and transform them into a giant living space. I may not need 100 entertainment rooms and 498 rooftop pools, but I want them," he said, "and I always get what I want."