

# A solution for the demonized CO<sub>2</sub>

Christof von Branconi, Chairman of the Executive Board of Global Energy Solutions

## **Question: What is the goal of the association?**

von Branconi: Our association sees the challenge of securing, building and delivering prosperity to people in a climate-friendly way. To find a solution, we combine carbon neutral power generation, hydrogen production and the use of the energy obtained in this way in the form of methanol with the simultaneous recycling of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## **What does this mean in concrete terms?**

We create a solution by positively using the demonized CO<sub>2</sub>. For this purpose, we combine green hydrogen with recycled CO<sub>2</sub> to form methanol. On the one hand, we turn CO<sub>2</sub> into an economically attractive resource and on the other hand, we offset the remaining CO<sub>2</sub> that we cannot recycle.

## **What do we get out of it?**

We create solutions that enable us to continue to live in prosperity in the future because we make CO<sub>2</sub> a usable raw material.

## **Is this economically viable?**

The industry must address one question today and in the future: Can I afford my CO<sub>2</sub> emissions financially? Or how do I have to change my business model so that I can continue to manufacture my products competitively in the future even though I emit CO<sub>2</sub>? We use the CO<sub>2</sub> produced as a recyclable material in combination with hydrogen to produce methanol. And because afterwards my company uses methanol as input material again, I create a closed loop economy that solves a cost problem for my company.

## **What does your vision look like?**

The vision is that by 2050, when the human race will comprise ten billion people, we will still be able to live on earth under tolerable climatic conditions and at the same time everyone will have enough energy available to meet their needs.

## **The transformation you're talking about has to happen pretty quickly.**

In Germany, we first picked up pace through the federal government's hydrogen strategy. The private sector now has 7 billion euros at its disposal to create solutions. We believe that our proposed solution - consisting of green electricity, green hydrogen, methanol and the absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> - can be fully established and implemented within seven years – on such a scale that we can generate ten percent of the energy consumption of Germany through this.

**Why are you personally committed to the association?**

I get involved because I believe it is the most intelligent solution to the climate problem I have ever come across. I got involved because I have spent a good part of my professional life building chemical plants all over the world. In order to be able to use the solution proposed by the association, we have to generate electricity in the hot sunny places on Earth and then make the energy generated there available both locally and to the industrialized countries. To that end, I bring a lot of professional experience to the table.