

# Industry partners and companies

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

Herlyn: The idea of the association is to show that the energy and climate challenges can be solved - even under the boundary condition that ten billion people on earth can live in prosperity.

## **What are the next steps?**

We want to analyze what a carbon neutral system could look like overall, what technical options are available, how these should be evaluated in terms of economic and ecological aspects, and where they should be used. The idea of CO<sub>2</sub> recycling is not yet in people's minds at all. An important question is: How can the world's countless existing coal-fired power plants and those currently in planning be integrated into the solution? It is not at all to be expected that they will be shut down again in the short or even medium term. So, solutions must be found to capture the CO<sub>2</sub> so that it does not escape into the atmosphere. This is followed by another question: What happens to the CO<sub>2</sub>? If you think all of this through, you will come to the conclusion that the association has taken up as its cause. However, there is no single solution, but rather an approach that meets many requirements and opens up a viable path to a good future for many different industries. This also includes: solving the climate problem, maintaining prosperity and also creating wealth in developing and emerging countries.

## **What does that look like in concrete terms?**

We are not interested in implementing technical projects, that would be presumptuous. We are interested in proving that there are economically viable solutions that also meet the requirements of climate protection. And we do not want to do that alone but with industrial partners. These are all the energy-intensive industries we have today, for example steel, glass and cement. These are the industries we would like to elaborate on: What kind of solutions would these be? What would they cost? Above all: What do we do with the CO<sub>2</sub> captured?

If we combine the CO<sub>2</sub> with green hydrogen, we move, among other things, into the world of synthetic fuels, in which we believe methanol plays a key role.

## **Who is going to purchase that?**

This question also arises for various industries. What are the requirements? How high are the costs? Would it be profitable? And if so, under what regulatory conditions? The answers to all these questions then lead to a business case. And such a business case is important to win investors for the production of large quantities of renewable energy and hydrogen. Because in all cases, this is the beginning of the whole chain.

**You have already mentioned it, does it pay off?**

After all our preliminary investigations, yes. That depends crucially on whether it is possible to produce renewable energy in huge quantities at low cost. With such a necessary condition, one then almost automatically ends up in the sun deserts of the world. There it is already possible in isolated cases to achieve costs of less than 2 eurocents per kilowatt hour of electricity, for example in Chile. Drawing on all these elements, we have to put together a big picture that represents an opportunity-oriented scenario for the future for different industries and different business cases.

**In order to achieve the climate targets, this would have to happen fairly quickly. Is that realistic?**

We are actually always too slow. It is not the association that is too slow, but the world, all of us. We hear from climate scientists that the 1.5-degree target may be fallen short of within the next two or three years. And yet it is still worth starting, although it is actually already too late. Because any further warming will only make the problem worse. Even though we are too late, we still keep going - always as fast as possible.

**What is the vision of the association?**

Our vision is to show that it is actually possible to create an overall system of energy that is carbon neutral. In addition to the technical solution elements presented so far, so-called nature-based solutions play a central role. They make it possible to extract CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere again. The focus is on forests and soils and thus projects in the areas of forest preservation, reforestation, agroforestry and agriculture. At the same time, all of them open up a wide range of options for achieving further positive effects in terms of the 2030 Agenda, for example jobs, food security or the preservation of biodiversity. This makes it possible to promote development and environmental and climate protection at the same time. It is therefore a path towards an overall system that is compatible with prosperity and carbon neutral.

**What is your personal motivation for participating in this project?**

If you deal with the topic of sustainability, and in all its facets, as I do, then the climate and energy topic very quickly become a key issue. The availability of energy is a central issue, without which many other things do not even need to be discussed. And when you deal with the question of if there is a way to implement the 2030 Agenda, i.e. the UN's sustainability goals, then a key question is: Is there a solution to the energy question that is compatible with climate protection? In my opinion, this question precedes many others.

**Sometimes you get frustrated when things do not go on at all - what makes you want to go on?**

What keeps me interested in this topic is that I find it fascinating to observe things and, if possible, help shape them. I have been intensively involved with the role of companies in this context for about ten years. And I have observed a massive change in the behavior of companies, especially the big ones. Sustainability has long

been more than just a marketing issue in the sense of a 'green coat', namely one that plays a decisive role in shaping corporate strategy. The ability to successfully continue the business in the future depends crucially on whether we can overcome the current unsustainability of what we do. I believe that the companies can be a key factor in this. Many are very aware of this.