



Global Energy Solutions

For Prosperity and Climate Neutrality

Hereby you are receiving the Global Energy Solutions newsletter for the month of June 2021.

Our topics:

Interview with Paul van Son, Desertec (Dii)

Expensive and inefficient climate nationalism

Nature-based Solutions - A Necessary Element for Solving the Climate Problem

Honour for Prof. Walter Leitner, member of the GES Board of Trustees



Paul van Son, Founding managing director, Desertec Industrial Initiative (Dii)
(Photo: Ruud Ploeg)

The global energy transition now has a chance

Hardly anyone has as much experience with renewable energy in North Africa and the Middle East as Paul van Son. He was the founding managing director of the Desertec Industrial Initiative (Dii) in 2009. Early on, he criticised the focus on exporting electricity from Africa to Europe - as too narrow and too early. First, he said, the local market in the producing countries must be developed. In the past ten years, there has been a rapid drop in the price of green electricity from the desert. This has made countries like Saudi Arabia re-think. Today, the country has become a significant driver of the global energy transition. In the meantime,

the export idea is once again coming to the fore at Dii. And this time, hydrogen and other energy-bearing molecules such as methane, methanol or ammonia play a decisive role. All in the spirit of Global Energy Solutions. Van Son, a market economist, is optimistic about the Middle East and North Africa. The region could become an "energy powerhouse" for the world.

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Expensive and inefficient climate nationalism

Global Energy Solutions comments on the Federal Constitutional Court's ruling on the Climate Protection Act. The court targets a lack of intergenerational justice and calls on policymakers to take measures that lead to the achievement of the 2°C or better even 1.5°C target. The central element of the argumentation is the so-called budget approach. GES finds all this unconvincing, also because it is not in the sole power of German politics to achieve the required target. Climate change is a global problem and can only be solved internationally. The court further argues that a lack of national efforts could be an incentive for others not to develop ambitions either. In view of the real situation, this argument is also unconvincing. China, for example, now emits more CO₂ than all other industrialised countries combined - and continues to export coal-fired power plants. The country promises climate neutrality by 2060. Expensive and inefficient climate protection measures in Germany weaken our competitiveness and will certainly not persuade China to change its own approach. German money could be used many times more effectively internationally. According to all historical experience, the solutions to the climate problem come from new technologies. The decisive question is to what extent we commit ourselves financially worldwide and what we contribute to the development and dissemination of these technologies, and not which reduction paths we take at home.

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Nature-based Solutions – A Necessary Element for Solving the Climate Problem

The potential of Nature-based Solutions is huge. A reduction of CO₂ in the atmosphere by 10 billion tonnes annually is possible. This is confirmed by a publication in the renowned journal nature. Reforestation, rain-forest protection or humus formation in agriculture bring positive development effects in the sense of the 2030 agenda and contribute to the preservation of biodiversity. Nature-based Solutions are an important component of the Global Energy Solutions approach. The storage of CO₂ in biomass such as wood comes into play when the climate gas cannot be managed in technical cycles. Unfortunately, Nature-based Solutions, once again, play no role in the German government's new climate protection law.

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Honour for Prof. Walter Leitner, member of the GES Board of Trustees

Prof. Leitner is nominated for the European Inventor Award of the European Patent Office for the development of a new technique for the use of CO₂. He is head of "Technical Chemistry and Petrochemistry" at RWTH Aachen University and director at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Energy Conversion in Mülheim/Ruhr. The new process he co-developed uses chemical catalysts to produce sustainable plastics from CO₂ together with conventional raw materials. Since CO₂ only forms chemical compounds to a very limited extent, this is a major breakthrough and a contribution to a CO₂ circular economy. Conventional oil as a carbon source is replaced by recycled climate gas. Global Energy Solutions is pursuing the same goal, primarily in the energy sector.

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Imprint: Global Energy Solutions e.V, Lise-Meitner-Straße 9, D-89081 Ulm, Germany |
+49 (0) 731-85071287 | office@global-energy-solutions.org | <https://global-energy-solutions.org> |
CEO: Christof von Branconi



global-energy-solutions.org