

# imagine energy

ENVISIONING ALPINE FUTURE



2012



## EDITORIAL

## DEAR CITIZENS OF OUR GREAT ALPINE REGION,

The Youth Parliament of the Alpine Convention is an institution for young people all over the Alps. Every year, 80 young people assemble in a different Alpine country to voice their opinion in the parliament. But YPAC is more than just a simulation of real politics; YPAC creates a small community of people from all over Europe. Each participant is part of something much bigger.

YPAC brings many different countries, opinions, schools and of course people together who try to find and discuss solutions for the problems of tomorrow. With giving the discussions a parliamentary structure, the YPAC gives not just an insight view on the parliamentary work but shows more clearly that there is no disenchantment of politics from young people as preached by the media.

Our political system and the cooperation between non-governmental-organisations and decision-makers are in a critical mood. As a result of this we are able to talk about a crisis of society's participation. Furthermore we know that our political parties, unions and other non-governmental-organisations have no more the capability to represent the different groups of our Alpine and European community. There is one dominant reason and also solution to overcome this period of democracy deficit. The confidence of young people in political processes is getting less. In order to re-integrate this important group of our society into decision processes and to make sure that democracy will work in future as good as it has been created in the times after the Second World War it is essential to amplify the

voice of youth! Youth Parliaments and non-governmental democratic youth organisations should be involved more in political procedures.

We show right here, right now that we are interested in politics and that we want to change things. A main interest the YPAC takes upon is the role of discussions of young people. We are the future generation, we are the ones who will have to deal with climate change and its outcomes but for us it is not too late! We want to have our say right now and voice our opinions.

Beside the delegates that are discussing about the topic in committees and in the general assembly the media group is also part of the YPAC. Instead of having a bunch of young people writing for the newspaper or the internal newsletter, like it has been the past years, the Media Group was split up into 3 parts. One part - the press team - wrote articles about the YPAC 2012 for the local newspaper and the second part - the web team - published little articles, pictures and videos for the website. Last but not least the Folio Group was introduced this year for the first time.

Supported by CIPRA International, the participants in the Folio group learned with different, creative workshops how to write a creative text or how layout works. The texts were mainly written in their mother language to support creative ideas and clever wordplays.

This documentation is the stunning outcome of their long work. The folio group has created something unique and this is a great chance to spread our motivation across the Alps.

We want to thank everyone who supported us for realizing this great week. Especially we want to express our thanks to the folio group which enabled the 7th session of the Alpine Youth Parliament to become an unforgettable event for every participant!

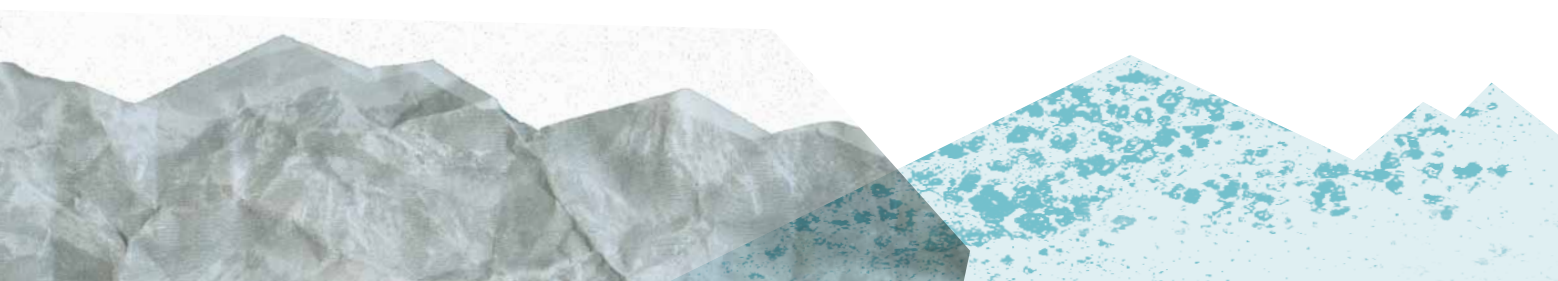
Liechtenstein, March 8, 2012

Judith Hasler

Abuzar Erdogan

Moritz Schwarz

YPAC presidency



# RESTART!

Pietro Baggio Italy

Da secoli, anche nei momenti più duri e difficili nella storia dell'umanità, gli uomini hanno trovato una speranza per guardare fiduciosamente al futuro nel progresso. E il progresso è stato sicuramente la direttrice lungo la quale si è sviluppato il mondo del secolo scorso, illuminato da una profonda fiducia nelle scoperte scientifiche e nella loro applicabilità: due elementi che hanno consentito di procedere ad un ritmo sorprendente.

Eppure oggi ci ritroviamo in una situazione di profonda crisi. E ci chiediamo com'è possibile che, a fronte di tecnologie che vengono continuamente raffinate, i prezzi delle bollette del gas diventino così insostenibili da costringere moltissime famiglie, in paesi avanzati come l'Inghilterra, a vivere tremando di freddo. O com'è possibile che siano sempre di più le persone a sostenere che un ritorno al passato, un regresso, sarebbe auspicabile, se non essenziale, per garantire un futuro agli uomini.

Siamo forse andati in una direzione sbagliata?

Evidentemente abbiamo costruito un edificio gigantesco su fondamenta instabili. Ci siamo lasciati trasportare dall'entusiasmo del progresso, correndo in avanti alla cieca, incapaci di renderci conto di tutti gli errori che si sono venuti ad accumulare. Attorno allo sfruttamento intensivo dell'energia fornitaci dalla terra si basa ogni dimensione dell'attività umana. L'economia di ogni paese, i commerci internazionali, i diversi sistemi politici, le relazioni tra gli

For centuries, even in the darkest and most difficult periods in humanity's past, people have always found hope to help them look forward to a future marked by real progress. And it was progress that shaped the path of world development in the past century, progress illuminated by a deep-rooted trust in scientific discoveries and their possible applications, two elements that have enabled a surprisingly fast rate of advance.

But today we are in deep crisis. And we are asking ourselves how it is possible that, with all these more and more sophisticated technologies, our gas bills are still shooting up and making many families live shivering with cold, even in developed countries like England. Or ask how it is possible that more and more people are arguing that a return to the past, regression, would be a wise, if not essential, move to ensure that humanity has a future.

Perhaps we've gone in the wrong direction?

It seems we have built an enormous building on unstable foundations. That we have let ourselves get carried away with enthusiasm for progress, running blindly ahead, unable to see, to notice, the errors that are building up. All aspects of human activity are built on intensive exploitation of energy taken from the earth. Every country's economy, international commerce, diverse political systems, relations between States, everything, rotates around a system of

stati, ruota tutto attorno a un sistema di sfruttamento, dell'energia le cui implicazioni oggi ci spaventano terribilmente.

Abbiamo preso, anzi ghermito, rapaci, tutto quello che ci si è presentato, come accecati, come mossi da una furia incontenibile. Ci siamo ridotti a parassiti e solo ora ci rendiamo conto di quanto stia diventando attuale la prospettiva di morire assieme al nostro ospite. Il nostro mondo, la nostra società, affondano le radici in un procedere goffo e avventato, in un progresso senza fondamenta, in un "contratto" scorretto e ingiusto con la terra che ci ospita. Viviamo in un edificio complesso sospeso sulla corda di un funambolo.

Ed è questo quello che stiamo scoprendo con sbigottimento, realizzando che i giacimenti di petrolio prima o poi finiranno, e che, finché ciò non sarà avvenuto continueremo a portare avanti un lento processo di depauperamento del nostro pianeta, l'ormai ben noto effetto serra, che ci costerà più di quanto vorremmo credere.

È fondamentale, perché ci possa essere un 2100 dignitoso per l'umanità, che l'intero sistema risultante da questo procedere sconsiderato venga abbandonato. È fondamentale riformare, risanare, ricostruire. E ogni riforma, anzi, ogni rivoluzione, perché possa divampare e diffondersi, necessita di un terreno fertile su cui poter fiorire. Ed è per questo che risulta essenziale sensibilizzare e rivolgersi prima di tutto ai giovani perché possano crescere portando avanti questo ambizioso progetto, senza ricadere negli stessi errori dei padri.

exploiting energy, whose implications, today, frighten us terribly. We have taken, or rather snatched, rapaciously, everything that has come before us, as if blinded, spurred by uncontrollable fury. We have been reduced to being parasites and, only now, are we beginning to realise how great a risk we are running of dying together with our host. Our world, our society, has its roots buried in a clownish and risky procedure, in progress that has no foundation, in an incorrect and unjust "contract" with the world we live in. We live in a complex building suspended from a tightrope-walkers wire. And this is what we are discovering with dismay, as we realise that petroleum deposits will, sooner or later run out, and that, until that happens, we will continue to carry on with the slow process of impoverishment of our planet, the well-known greenhouse effect, which will cost us more than we want to believe.

Thus, if humanity is to reach 2100 in a dignified state, the whole system supported by these careless procedures must be abandoned. We must reshape, repair and reconstruct. But every reform, indeed every revolution, needs fertile soil if it is to ignite and to spread. This is why it is so important to begin by making young people aware so that they can carry forward this ambitious project as they grow, without making the same mistakes as their parents.

»Just live with awareness now and tomorrow  
you'll be better.« Carlotta Maria Baggio Italy

# THE BLUE ONE

ICH BIN EUER BLAUER PLANET, EURE ERDE, EUER LEBENSRAUM.

Arzu Altintas Germany

I AM YOUR BLUE PLANET, YOUR EARTH, YOUR HABITAT. .

Liebe Menschen,  
ich bin – entschuldigt meine Überheblichkeit – ein Ort voller Schönheit und biete euch und allen anderen Lebewesen ein Dasein in meinen Landschaften und meinen Meeren.  
Jedoch seid ihr schon seit langem dabei, mich zu zerstören. Klimawandel und Umweltverschmutzung nennt ihr es.

Ihr habt es geschafft, mein ausgezeichnetes Ökosystem aus dem Gleichgewicht zu bringen und zwar durch ständiges Streben nach Wachstum, Fortschritt und Macht.

Große Städte, viel Industrie, Autos und Maschinen: ihr glaubt, ihr habt euch sehr weit entwickelt. Doch: Wohin geht eure Entwicklung? Macht ihr euch Gedanken über die Richtung? Seht ihr die Schattenseiten? Eure Häuser werden durch Erdbeben, Tsunamis und andere Katastrophen zerstört, Hungersnöte und Elend folgen. Ihr ahnt, dass euer falsches Handeln und Verhalten mir großen Schaden zufügt. Und jetzt fürchtet ihr um eure Zukunft. Wiedergutmachung ... aber wie? Meine Rettung seht ihr allein in neuen Technologien und in der Verantwortung anderer.

Aber ich gebe euch einen Rat: Bevor ihr anfangt, euch über innovative Technologien Gedanken zu machen, solltet ihr in euch gehen und euch fragen, was ihr jeweils zur Veränderung beitragen könnt. Ist es wirklich notwendig, jeden Tag mit dem Auto zur Arbeit zu fahren oder den Fernseher auf Stand-by-Modus zu lassen? Wisst ihr nicht, dass auch kleine Dinge eine große Wirkung haben können? Stellt euch vor: Wie viel Energie würdet ihr sparen, wenn jeder Mensch seinen Fernseher vollständig ausschalten würde?

Eine gigantische Menge, durch deren Verzicht meine Ressourcen nicht verbraucht werden würden. Überwindet euch dazu, die zwei Schritte zum Fernseher zu gehen.

Ich bitte euch: Rettet mich und somit euch, indem ihr euer Verhalten jetzt ändert.

In Liebe, voller Hoffnung und Zuversicht,  
Eure Erde

Dear Human Beings,  
Forgive me for saying so, but I feel I am a place of beauty, and I offer you and all other living creatures an existence among my lands and oceans.  
But sadly, for some time now, you have been doing your best to destroy me. Climate change and environmental pollution are the terms you use.  
With your constant striving for growth, progress and power, you have managed to upset my outstanding eco-system. With your mega-cities, large-scale industry, cars and machines, you think you've come a long way. The problem is: where are you going with this? Have you ever stopped to think where you're going with this? Can't you see the downsides? Your homes will be destroyed by earthquakes, tsunamis and other catastrophes, famine and poverty, will follow. Deep down, you know your actions and behaviour are doing me a great deal of harm. And now you're worried about your future.

You want to put things right ... but how? You believe the only way to save me is with new technologies and by shifting responsibility onto others.

But let me give you a word of advice. Before you start worrying about innovative technologies, you should stop and think about what each of you can do to bring about change. Is it really necessary to drive to work every day or leave the TV on standby? Don't you know that even little things can have a huge impact? Imagine how much energy would be saved if everyone switched off their TV completely?

A huge amount, and those savings would in turn help to ensure that my resources are not depleted.

So make the effort – and walk the couple of steps to the TV set.

I implore you: save me, and in doing so save yourselves: by changing your behaviour now.

Yours in love, hope and confidence,  
Your Earth

# THE RABBIT'S TALE

Florian Gstöhl Liechtenstein

Es wird einmal sein, in naher Zukunft, an einem fernen Ort...

Der brutale Wolf kommt erschöpft nach einer kurzen Jagd zurück. Ohne Beute. Da fragt der schlaue Hase den Wolf, warum er denn keine Beute erlegt hätte? Der brutale Wolf antwortet darauf gereizt, er hätte einfach keine Energie mehr, nach einer kurzen Pause würde er es noch einmal versuchen.

Der schlaue Hase, der allgemein für seinen scharfen Verstand bekannt ist, sagt zum brutalen Wolf, er solle sich doch zuerst an seine Beute heranpirschen. Eine gezielte Jagd würde ihn nicht so viel Energie kosten und wäre effizienter.

Der brutale Wolf ist von der Intelligenz des schlauen Hasen beeindruckt und doch macht es ihn wütend, dass er nicht selbst darauf gekommen ist. So sagt der brutale Wolf zum schlauen Hasen, er hätte eine bessere Idee: Der schlaue Hase solle von nun an für ihn das Essen besorgen, ansonsten wird er selbst gefressen.

Dieser ist empört über diesen Vorschlag und bittet die gerechte Krähe um Hilfe. Diese hält das Angebot ebenfalls für unmoralisch und ethisch auf keinen Fall vertretbar.

Aus diesem Grund beschloss man den hohen Rat der Tiere einzuberufen. Den Vorsitz über diesen Rat hatte der willkürliche Bär. Dieser pflegt bei schwierigen Entscheidungen einfach eine Münze zu werfen.

Die Münze wurde also geworfen und entschied zu Gunsten des brutalen Wolfs. Seit jeher muss der schlaue Hase, welcher von nun an als der gelemte Hase bekannt war, dem brutalen Wolf jeden Tag sein Essen bringen.

Wer also einem Hasen begegnet, der gerade dabei ist, ein Reh zu erlegen, denke stets an die Geschichte des brutalen Wolfes, der andere für sich Energie sparen lässt und an den hohen Rat der Tiere, ein Ort an dem jede Entscheidung mit Bedacht gefällt wird...

One day, in the not too distant future, in a place far, far away ...

The savage wolf returns exhausted from a hunting foray. Without prey. The clever rabbit asks the wolf why he failed to catch any prey. The savage wolf testily replies that he had simply run out of energy. And that, after a short break, he would try again.

The clever rabbit, known far and wide for his sharp mind, tells the savage wolf he would be better off stalking his quarry first. Hunting strategically wouldn't involve as much energy and would be more efficient.

And although the savage wolf is impressed by the intelligence of the clever rabbit, he is furious not to have thought of that himself. That's why the savage wolf then turns to the clever rabbit and says he has a better idea.

From now on the clever rabbit should go and fetch him his food; if not, the rabbit himself would be eaten.

The rabbit is outraged by this suggestion and turns to the fair-minded crow for help. The crow, too, thinks the offer is immoral and also ethically unjustifiable.

And so it is decided that the high council of animals should be convened. The council is chaired by the arbitrary bear who, when faced with difficult decisions, often chooses simply to toss a coin.

And so the coin is tossed, and the decision goes the way of the savage wolf. Ever since the clever rabbit, now known by all as the tricked rabbit, is forced every day to bring the savage wolf his food.

So if you ever come across a rabbit busy stalking a deer, always remember the story of the savage wolf who got others to save energy on his behalf, and also the high council of animals, a venue where every decision is considered most judiciously. ...



# RUSHHOUR

Tjaša Špindler Slovenia

Jutro je. Odpravljam se v šolo v Maribor z avtomobilom. Tudi večina ostalih ljudi, ki so doma na obrobju mesta gredo v isto smer s svojimi avtomobili. Vsi čakamo pri semaforjih, se zatikamo v križiščih in preklinjamo. Kolona se vije od predmestja v sam center mesta, kjer je vožnja seveda dovoljena. Kako bi vendar lahko pričakovali od velikih gospodov, da bodo do službe pešačili? Zakaj vsaj tisti, ki nismo veliki ljudje, ne uporabljamo javnega prevoza po središču mesta in se raje in prerivamo za parkirne prostore? Preprosto: ker našega javnega prevoza tako rekoč ni. Med poukom še naprej razmišljam o tem. Razmišljam, kako bi lahko izgledal Maribor čez nekaj let, ko bi že našli rešitve za naš problem s prometom. Vidim lepe, urejene, delujoče avtobuse, ki vozijo redno in točno. V mestu so kralji le oni in kolesarji ter pešci, ki imajo sedaj več prostora. Za kolesarje so narisali več kolesarskih poti. Ni več problemov z ignorantskimi vozniki, ki te skušajo »obriti« za nagrado, ker si drzneš iti na pot s kolesom in ne z avtomobilom. V centru mesta so zaživeli trgi, ki so prej bili polni zaparkiranih avtomobilov. Več je dreves in s tem tudi dobrega vzdušja, saj vse deluje naravno. Sliši se kar preveč popolno, a mogoče je uresničljivo.

It is morning. I'm on my way to Maribor by car. Most people who live on the outskirts of the city are driving in the same direction. We are all waiting at traffic lights, getting stuck at crossroads and swearing. There is one long line of cars from the outskirts to the centre, where driving is of course permitted. How could we expect the noble gentry to walk to work? But why don't at least those of us who are not so noble use public transport in the city and prefer to fight for parking instead? It's simple: there is no public transport to speak of. In class I continue thinking about it. I'm trying to picture Maribor after we have found solutions to our traffic problem. I see pretty, neat and functioning buses, which come regularly and on time. They are kings of the city, along with cyclists and pedestrians, who now have more space. More bicycle lanes have been made for cyclists. There are no more problems with ignorant drivers who try to »shave« you for daring to ride a bike instead of driving. Squares that used to be full of parked cars have come alive. There are more trees and the atmosphere in the city is better because everything is more natural. It sounds almost too perfect but maybe it's possible.



The Folio Group working on this magazine, March 2012



# DREI WÜNSCHE KÖNNEN VIEL VERÄNDERN THREE WISHES TO CHANGE SO MUCH

Klara Putz Austria

Es war ein gewöhnlicher Samstag in Innsbruck. Julia wollte in den Wald gehen. Schon die ganze Woche über freute sich das Mädchen auf diesen wöchentlichen Ausflug. Doch heute schien alles schief zu laufen.

Zuerst, als Julia ein heißes Bad nehmen wollte, war das Wasser nicht geheizt und sie musste wohl oder übel auf ihr Bad verzichten. Anschließend beim Frühstück erfuhr sie, dass ein Atomkraftwerk angegriffen worden war. Die Folge: viele Menschen mussten um ihr Leben fürchten. Frustriert und schockiert verließ die Jugendliche die Wohnung. Auf der Straße erwartete sie der Innsbrucker Großstadt-Verkehr. Autos so weit das Auge reicht. Mit ihrem Fahrrad kämpfte sie sich zwischen den Autos hindurch und als sie schließlich den Wald erreichte, atmete sie erleichtert auf. Missgestimmt ließ Julia sich auf einem Stein nieder.

Plötzlich ließ sie ein dünnes Stimmchen erschrocken auffahren. Was war das? Das Mädchen traute ihren Augen kaum! War das tatsächlich eine Fee? „Du hast drei Wünsche frei!“ erklärte das kleine grüne Wesen mit Flügeln der freudig Erstaunten. Julia überlegte kurz und berichtete dann von den unangenehmen Geschehnissen des Vormittags. „Ich weiß genau, was du brauchst“ rief da die Fee überzeugt aus. „Eine Solaranlage wird dir gewiss dein Badewasser warm halten, Wasserkraftwerke können Tragödien wie die genannte verhindern und Fahrräder sowie auch öffentliche Verkehrsmittel können dazu verhelfen, den Autoverkehr wesentlich zu verringern.“

Julia war begeistert von diesen Vorschlägen und meinte „So soll es sein!“ Gesagt, getan.

Diese drei Wünsche verhalfen Julia und der Stadt Innsbruck zum ressourcen-schonenden Erzeugen von Energie, zum täglichen Energie-Sparen und zu einer gesunden Umwelt.

Ein Wunsch bleibt noch offen: wir brauchen noch viele dieser Energiefeen in unseren Städten und Landschaften ...

It was a Saturday like any other Saturday in Innsbruck. Julia was planning to go to the forest. All week long the young girl had been looking forward to her weekly outing. But on this day everything seemed to be going wrong.

First, when Julia went to take a hot bath, the water had not been heated and she was forced to do without it. Then, during breakfast, she heard on the news that a nuclear power plant had been attacked. Lots of people were now in fear of their lives as a result. Frustrated and shocked, the young girl left home. Out on the street she was greeted by Innsbruck's heavy traffic. Cars as far as the eye could see. She bravely cycled her way among the cars, and when she finally reached the forest, she breathed a sigh of relief. Still upset, Julia sat down on a stone.

Suddenly, she gave a shriek of surprise. What was that? The girl could hardly believe her eyes. Was that really a good fairy? "You can have three wishes," explained the tiny green winged creature to Julia's astonished delight. Julia thought for a moment and then told the fairy about that morning's unpleasant events. "I know exactly what you need," said the fairy resolutely. "A solar installation will certainly keep your bath water hot; hydroelectric power plants will prevent the sort of tragedies you mentioned; and bicycles and public transport will help to drastically reduce car traffic."

Julia was delighted with the suggestions and said: "Then let it be so!" No sooner said than done.

The three wishes helped Julia and the town of Innsbruck to a more resource-friendly form of energy generation, daily energy savings and a healthy environment.

Only one wish remains: we all need lots more of these energy fairies in our towns, cities and countryside ...

# OUR RESOLUTION

YPAC 2012 was held in Liechtenstein from March 6th to March 9th. The youth parliament is an institution for young people from different Alpine countries to voice their opinions in parliament. This year's topic was the reduction of energy consumption. The resolution is the final product of the YPAC in which there are 10 postulations included that passed by vote on the last day of the parliament. Therefore they are the most important in the view of the delegates. Some measurements, that are included in the resolution, are in test status or already put in execution in some regions but we demand that these measurements are put into execution all over the Alps. The aim of the Youth parliament is to voice their opinion on this topic.



## 10 Postulates to **Reduce the Energy Consumption** in the Alpine area

### POSTULATION 1

#### **Local products and labels**

*Local products should be subsidized by governments in order to support local economies and reduce unnecessary transport that wastes fuel and increases costs. Additionally consumers should be able to distinguish between non-local products those that are not energy-friendly.*

### POSTULATION 2

#### **Using solar power**

*A huge amount of energy is used for water heating and the energy used for this purpose could be used for something else or even saved, if we heat water some other way.*

### POSTULATION 3

#### **Transportation law**

*Governments should pass a law establishing specific days on which fuel-based private transportation is banned in urban areas.*

### POSTULATION 4

#### **Housing**

*In order to help families financially, we propose a modern strategy to insulate old houses. Other than the fact that they are saving money, they become more energy independent, and resources are getting scarce. One of the best ways to be more efficient is renewing and modernizing the households.*

### POSTULATION 5

#### **Renewable Energy for public buildings**

*Utilization of renewable energy sources as a means of decreasing energy consumption and the environmental impacts of public buildings.*



**POSTULATION 6****Tax on excessive energy consumption**

*We propose a tax on excessive energy consumption. Based on current average European energy use, annual energy consumption should be reduced from 6000 to 4000 watts per person.*

**POSTULATION 7****More attractive public transport systems**

*Public transport systems must be improved in order to make people shift from individual to public transport. In consideration of previously analyzed travel behavior measures must be taken.*

**POSTULATION 8****ESS test for public buildings**

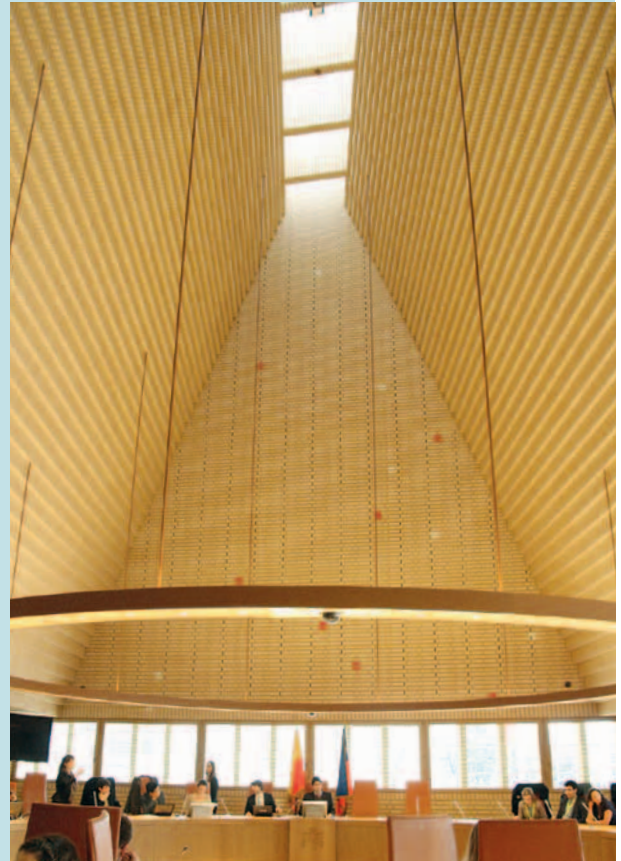
*The “ESS-Test” implies a certain level of energy self-sufficiency and conservation that can be achieved by proposed suggestions.*

**POSTULATION 9****Electric Cars**

*We want to encourage the population and industry to use electric vehicles for medium and short distance journeys.*

**POSTULATION 10****„Green Week“**

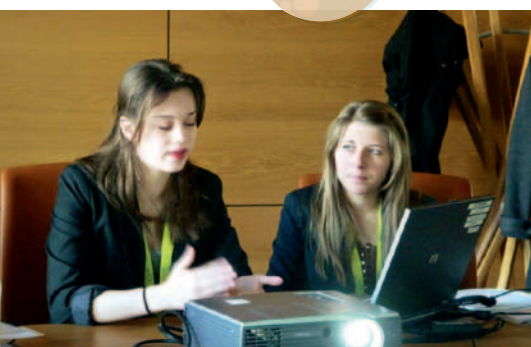
*In order to inform students during their education, we would introduce an annual “Green Week”. The aim of this week would be to raise awareness of energy saving in society.*



**Detailed Informations:**

[WWW.YPAC.EU/PRODUCTS/RESOLUTIONS](http://WWW.YPAC.EU/PRODUCTS/RESOLUTIONS)

Ludivine Budria & Anouck Duchosal France



## MERCREDI 07 MARS 2012, COMITÉ 1 – 8H30/9H30 WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH 2012 COMMITTEE 1 – 08:30/09:30

Les autres la regardaient attentivement, guettant sa réaction. La proposition faite par la jeune Slovène la laissait sans voix. Cependant, elle devait réagir vite, puisqu'on ne l'avait pas nommée Présidente pour rien :

« Donc, par rapport à la mesure Say bye to standby! », tu proposes d'exclure en plus des ordinateurs et des portables, les tablettes électroniques ? ».

Après mûres réflexions et l'accord de l'ensemble du comité, la Présidente ajouta cette idée au reste de la postulation. C'était en effet à elle que revenait la tâche de tout mettre en forme et elle l'accomplissait avec foi et conviction. Le débat devait avancer et elle décida de passer au Website. L'un des trois garçons pris la parole pour déclarer que le moyen le plus rapide et performant d'informer les citoyens était internet. Voulant en savoir en plus, elle lui demanda d'argumenter, puis se rendit compte que tout le monde était d'accord. Ils allaient donc proposer la création d'un site internet dédié à la consommation d'énergie, rempli de renseignements et de changements applicables au quotidien par tous.

En dernier lieu, avec son assurance habituelle, elle leur donna quelques conseils pour la General Assembly de la fin de semaine, en parlant de sa propre expérience.

The others were watching her closely, waiting for her response. The proposal tabled by the young Slovenian had left her speechless. And yet, she had to respond quickly; after all, she hadn't been appointed President for nothing.

– “So, with regard to the Say bye to standby! measure, you're proposing that we exclude tablets as well as PCs and mobiles?”

After careful consideration and with, on the whole, the agreement of the committee, the President added the idea to the rest of the proposal. It was her duty to put everything in order, and she proceeded to do so with both faith and conviction. With the debate needing to progress, she moved on to the question of the web. One of the three boys took the floor to claim that the internet was the quickest and the most effective way of keeping citizens informed. Wanting to know more, she asked him to expand on his argument.

There was then total silence as everyone listened approvingly to what he had to say. The President, convinced by the arguments put forward by the young man and backed by the committee as a whole, approved the proposal to set up a dedicated website for energy consumption. It will provide not only information but also everyday changes in behaviour that anyone can make.

With her usual assurance, the President drew on her own experience to give the young people some advice for the General Assembly at the end of the week.

As with ordinary parliaments the YPAC also consists of an amalgamation of different characters, one of the reasons why molehills can quickly become mountains. This item features impressions gathered during brief attendances at the meetings; they are not lacking in humour and irony.

Eva Balantič Slovenia

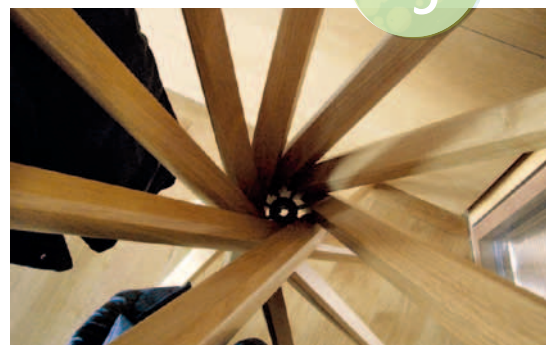
## SREDA, 7. MARCA 2012, KOMITE ŠT. 3 – 10:30/11:30 WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH 2012 COMMITTEE 1 – 10:30/11:30

Vstopila sem v komite številka 3. Sproščeno vzdušje, ki je dvignilo moje razpoloženje. Debatirali so o javnih prevozihi, ki so v Sloveniji trn v peti. Mešala so se mnenja o visokih cenah avtobusov in vlakov, saj imajo nekatere države s tem večjo srečo, kot pa mi. Najglasnejši je bil naš delegat, ki je s svojo tekočo angleščino izbojbal vse neargumentirane izjave o uvedbi električnih avtomobilov in izrecno trdil, da pravzaprav v mesto sploh ne spadajo. Edina možnost je, da pri vstopu v center plačajo carino, in s tem se prav tako poveča uporaba javnih prevozov. Pa jih imamo, dve muhi na en mah! Večji del debate so posvetili tudi tovornjakom, ki vsak dan hrumijo in prašijo ceste v mestih in s tem povzročajo gnečo. Predlagali so, da bi izdelke v notranjost uvažali od 4h do 7h zjutraj in tako ne bi mašili prometnega toka, bolj pa se niso ustavljali pri tej temi, saj njihov namen ni bil posegati v ekonomijo.

Zanimivo je, kako zelo se razlikujejo. Nekateri zmajujejo z glavo, medtem ko drugi navdušeno pripovedujejo. Kar pa je najpomembnejše; dajejo občutek energičnosti, in želje po spremembi. Pripravljeni so se truditi in imajo ideje. Z idejo se pravzaprav vsaka stvar začne.

As I entered Committee no. 3, I was greeted by a relaxed atmosphere, which lifted my spirits. Public transport, a thorn in Slovenia's side, was being debated. There were mixed opinions on high prices of bus and train fares; some countries are luckier than others in this regard. Our delegate was the loudest, refuting in his fluent English all ill-argued statements on the introduction of electric vehicles and expressly claiming that they have no place in cities. The only option would be that they have to pay a fee when entering the centre, which would also increase the use of public transportation. Here we go, two birds with one stone! Most of the discussion was devoted to lorries, thundering down roads in cities, raising dust and creating congestion. It was proposed that goods be taken into cities between 4 and 7 am to avoid congesting the roads. The delegates did not dwell on this topic, as their purpose was not to intervene in the economy.

It is interesting how different they are. Some shake their heads, while others talk animatedly. What is most important: they give the impression of energy and desire for change. They are prepared to make an effort and they have ideas. And after all, ideas are where everything begins.





# GLÜCK HAPPINESS

Patrick Tobler Schweiz

Er war so richtig glücklich. Eine Weile lang. Aber so richtig glücklich. Bis zum Moment, als er's nicht mehr war. Wegen des Unfalls. Wegen des Unfalls, den seine damalige Freundin gehabt hatte. Sie war zum ersten Mal mit seinem nagelneuen BMW gefahren. Auf der Kreuzung hatte sie den von links kommenden Wagen nicht gesehen, welcher auf der Fahrerseite eine üble Delle hinterlassen hatte. Er war nicht mehr glücklich. Wegen des Unfalls. Aber vor allem wegen dem Totalschaden. Wie konnte sie so achtlos sein und das seinem BMW antun? Er hatte es schon immer gewusst, dass Frauen nicht Auto fahren können und noch weniger seine Freundin! Er hätte sie nicht ans Steuer lassen dürfen! Aber wie hätte er ihr klarmachen sollen, dass sie nicht fahren sollte?

Den BMW hatte er sich von seinem mühsam ersparten Geld gekauft. Sein Herz war mit dem Motor auf Hochtouren gelaufen, als er zum ersten Mal so richtig aufs Gas drücken konnte. Das Grün zog an ihm vorbei, der Motor heulte, es drückte ihn in den Fahrersessel, aus den Boxen wummerte irgendeine Discomucke...

Daran erinnerte er sich noch genau. Aber das machte ihn nicht mehr glücklich. Weil sein Auto jetzt ein Schrotthaufen war! Und zudem konnte er seine Wut nicht an seiner Freundin auslassen. Weil sie im Koma lag! Es machte ihm nichts aus, dass sie im Spital war. Sollte sie doch da bleiben! Es geschah ihr recht!

Er war richtig aufgebracht. Aber so richtig. Es war wie in der ersten Zeit mit seiner Freundin, als die Schmetterlinge in seinem Bauch nicht zu flattern hatten aufhören wollen. Nur hatten jetzt diese Schmetterlinge scharfe, kantige Flügel, welche ihn bei jedem Schlag weiter verwundeten.

Nachdem ihr Herz zu schlagen aufgehört hatte, wurde sie eingesargt und regungslos in ihr kaltes, nasses Grab hinuntergelassen. Er war traurig. Und wütend. Ja, vor allem wütend, das war er. Warum hatte er ihr den Wagen ausgeliehen? Und warum hatte sie nicht besser aufgepasst?

Eines Tages verschwanden die Wut und die Trauer und liessen Platz zum Nachdenken. Der Mann resümierte oft das Vergangene. Resigniert stellte er fest, dass er auch vor dem Kauf des PKW glücklich gewesen war, es aber nicht gemerkt hatte. Das Fahrzeug hatte ihm nur noch einen Kick gegeben. Aber den Spass war es nicht wert gewesen. Er hätte das Auto besser nicht gekauft. Dann wüsste er zwar nicht, wie glücklich er gewesen war. Aber seine Freundin würde noch leben.

He really was genuinely happy. For a while. But really genuinely happy. Until the moment he no longer was. Because of the accident. The accident his girlfriend at the time was involved in. It was the first time she had driven his brand new BMW. At the crossroads she had failed to spot the car coming from the left and it left a massive dent on the driver's side. So he was no longer happy. Because of the accident. But mainly because of the write-off. How could she have been so careless and do that to his BMW? He'd always known that women can't drive – and especially not his girlfriend. He should never have let her get behind the wheel. But how was he supposed to make it clear to her that she shouldn't drive?

He had bought the BMW with his hard-earned savings. And the first time he put his foot down, his heart was beating as fast the engine's revs. The countryside was a blur; the engine roared; and he was pressed right back into his seat as disco beats came blasting out of the speakers...

He could remember it all so clearly. But none of it made him happy now. Because his car was a scrap heap. And he couldn't even take it out on his girlfriend. Because she was in a coma. He didn't care she was lying in hospital. Best place for her. Served her right.

He really was genuinely in turmoil. But really genuinely in turmoil. Like the early days with his girlfriend when the butterflies in his stomach just wouldn't settle down. Except that now those butterflies had really sharp wings that cut into him with every beat.

And when her heart stopped beating, she was placed inside her coffin and lowered lifelessly into her cold damp grave. He was sad. And furious. Yeah, furious is probably what he was. Why had he lent her the car? And why hadn't she been more careful?

One day the anger and the grief disappeared and gave way to reflection. Often the man would sum up the past. He realised with resignation that he'd also been happy before he bought the car; he just hadn't noticed. All the car had done was give him an extra kick. But the fun hadn't been worth it. He would have been better off not buying the car. But then he wouldn't have known how happy he had been. But at least his girlfriend would still be alive.

Sandra Appelt Germany

*Liebe Anna,**My dear Anna,*

2072

März/March 2072

Oft hast du mich gefragt, ob ich dir davon erzähle, wie die Welt früher war. Dass ich immer verärgert abgeblockt habe, konntest du nie verstehen. Doch heute habe ich mich zu diesem Brief entschlossen, damit du endlich weißt, warum.

In der Zeit, in der ich groß geworden bin und mein gesamtes Leben verbracht habe, war die Welt wunderschön. Wir hatten immer mehr als genug zu essen und zu trinken, die köstlichsten Sachen: Bananen, Erdbeeren, Schokolade, Limonade, Kaffee. Die Landschaft war fantastisch, Wiesen und Wälder überall, mit allen möglichen Tieren, wie große Vögel oder kleine Käfer. In den Sommerferien sind wir jedes Mal weggefliegen, nach Spanien, Thailand oder in ein anderes sonniges Land und im Winter sind wir massenweise zum Skifahren in die Berge, unsere wunderschönen Alpen, gereist. Wieder zuhause, wurden in der Weihnachtszeit die Städte mit tausenden kleinen Lämpchen zum Glühlen, Leuchten und Strahlen gebracht! Im Haus war natürlich immer gut geheizt, dicke Pullover konnte man draußen lassen, und wenn es einen doch fror, konnte man ja jederzeit ein heißes Bad nehmen.

Jetzt verstehst du schon, warum ich dir nichts erzählen wollte: Mit unserem Lebensstil damals haben wir deine Welt zugrunde gerichtet: Obst, Schokolade oder Kaffee kennst du gar nicht, wo sollte man denn noch etwas anbauen in dem verseuchten Heute? Oder Limonade zu trinken, unvorstellbar, du jubelst, wenn ausreichend Trinkwasser vorhanden ist! Tiere kennst du auch nur aus einem der wenigen noch bestehenden Zoos. In den Ferien fährst du nie ins Warme, das Öl ist aus, die Luftfahrt gibt es nicht mehr, außerdem ist es hier glühend heiß im Sommer. Und Skifahren in den Alpen? Unvorstellbar. Woher soll denn der Schnee kommen? Nicht einmal künstlichen gibt es, Wasser ist eine bedrohte Ressource. Bei strahlenden Weihnachtsleuchten denkst du nicht an Glühwein, sondern an einen weiteren Unfall im Atomkraftwerk. Geheizt werden muss im Winter nicht, das hat ja die globale Erwärmung schon erledigt.

Ich muss mich bei dir entschuldigen, meine Generation hat deine Welt zerstört, das sehe ich – heute, zu spät – kann ich dich nur um Verzeihung bitten, denn wir hätten aufstehen und handeln müssen, um die Zerstörung aufzuhalten!

You have often asked me to tell you what the world used to be like. You could never understand why I always refused to and why it made me angry. But today I've decided to write you this letter so that, finally, you would know why.

As I was growing up and living my adult life, the world was a wonderful place. We had more than enough to eat and drink, the most delicious things you can imagine: bananas, strawberries, chocolate, lemonade and coffee. The countryside was fantastic, meadows and forests everywhere, with all kinds of animals such as large birds or tiny beetles. Every summer we would fly off on holiday, to Spain, Thailand or another sunny destination, and in winter we all went skiing in the mountains, in our beautiful Alps. Back home, over the Christmas period, all the towns and cities would be illuminated with thousands of little lights, shining and sparkling! At home the heating was always on of course; you could leave your thick jumper outside and, if you were ever cold, all you had to do was take a hot bath.

So perhaps now you understand why I never wanted to tell you about it. With our lifestyles back then we managed to destroy your world. You've never known fruit, chocolate and coffee – where on earth would you cultivate such things nowadays with all the pollution and contamination? Even drinking lemonade is unthinkable; you're just happy when there's enough drinking water around. The only animals you've ever known are those in the few zoos that are left. During the holidays you never travel to where it's warm; there's no oil left; air travel doesn't exist anymore; and anyway it's roasting hot here in summer. As for skiing in the Alps, that's inconceivable. Where would you get the snow from? There's not even any artificial snow left, now that water is so scarce. When it comes to bright lights at Christmas you don't think of mulled wine, but of the next accident at a nuclear power plant. And there's no need to heat your home in the winter either, global warming has taken care of that.

So I have to apologise to you; my generation destroyed your world, I can see that – now.

But it's too late – I can only ask you to forgive me; we should have stood up and taken action, and put a stop to all the destruction!

*Deine Großmutter*

Your Grandma

## PLASTIKFLASCHE HAT TODESANGST

### A PLASTIC BOTTLE FEARS FOR ITS LIFE

Sandra Dalvai ITALY



Plastik, Plastik, Plastik ... Ich kann es bald gar nicht mehr hören. Ja, ich weiß, ich bin eine Plastikflasche und bestehe nun mal aus Kunststoff und was ist dabei so interessant? Warum bin genau ich das Gesprächsthema Nummer Eins bei den Menschen? Ich ein kleines unscheinbares Ding, dessen Lebensaufgabe das Aufbewahren von Flüssigkeit und die Bereitstellung für den Durst der Menschen ist. Kaum ist diese Lebensaufgabe erledigt, bin ich eigentlich überflüssig. Und doch muss ich mir anhören, wie rund um mich herum über mein Schicksal diskutiert wird. Mich zu entsorgen, scheint für die Menschheit ein riesiges Problem zu sein.

Hier in Liechtenstein sind die Leute recht streng mit mir, in Süditalien darf ich noch am Strassenrand rumlungern.

In Deutschland sammeln sie mich und verkaufen mich für Müllverbrennungsanlagen ins Ausland. Normalerweise ist doch die Erhaltung eines Lebens kostspieliger als die Entsorgung. Ich kann nichts dagegen machen, ich muss mit der Tatsache ein Wegwerfprodukt zu sein leben, zumindest solange ich noch die Möglichkeit dazu habe.

Was ich so von außen mitbekomme, ist, dass es einfach zu viele von mir gibt. Aber das eigentliche Problem ist, dass die Menschen keine Lösung für eine umweltbewusste und nachhaltige Entsorgung haben. Mehrmalige Wiederverwendung ist auch keine Lösung, da wir Flaschen nach einiger Zeit toxische Substanzen ausscheiden und die wiederum schädlich für den menschlichen Körper sind. So bleibt das Problem ein Problem und wenn die Menschheit nicht bald aufwacht und ein umweltbewussteres Leben führt bedeutet dies für mich vielleicht sogar ein ewiges Leben?

Plastic, plastic, plastic ... I'm fed up hearing it. So I happen to be made of plastic – what's so interesting about that? Why am I the No. 1 talking point for people? My purpose in life is to store liquids and make them available to people when they're thirsty; once they've quenched their thirst, I'm redundant.

But disposing of me appears to be a huge problem for mankind – you would think preserving a life would be more important. Here in Liechtenstein people are really strict with me; in southern Italy I'm still allowed to kick around the streets. In Germany they collect me and sell me to waste incineration plants abroad. There's nothing I can do about it; I have to live with the fact that I'm a throw-away product.

It seems there are simply too many of us!

But the real problem is that people don't actually have a viable idea for eco-friendly, sustainable disposal. Multiple recycling is no solution either: after a while we bottles begin to release toxic substances, and they in turn are harmful to the human body. And so the problem remains – and if mankind doesn't wake up soon and adopt a more environmentally aware life, it might even mean that I'll live forever.





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