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DOW CHEMICAL
Andrea L. Liveris
James R. Ringler
the major shareholders
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USA

Berlin, November 21, 2015

Mr. Liveris,
Mr. Ringler,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, on 21st November 2015, as part of a public event in Berlin, the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2014-2015 was presented by ethecon - Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomie.

This shaming award serves to "stigmatize persons who have trampled particularly prominently on ethical principles when faced with the conflicting priorities of ethics and economics, thus endangering our Blue Planet - the Blue Planet being the entire animate and inanimate world. ... (The award) pillories persons who are prominent bad examples of profiting from war, exploitation, violations of human rights, destruction of nature, and misery, and are thus, intentionally or unintentionally, driving forces of these disastrous developments. These people are the ones who are provoking the danger that the Blue Planet will become a Black Planet." (Das Internationale ethecon Blue Planet Project, Düsseldorf 2011, 15th edition, pp. 13-14)

The International ethecon Black Planet Award for 2014/2015 was awarded today, together with the International ethecon Blue Planet Award for 2014/2015. This "honors individuals who have shown extraordinary commitment to ethical principles when faced with the conflicting priorities of ethics and economics, thus fighting to protect and save our Blue Planet - the Blue Planet being the entire animate and inanimate

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Axel Köhler-Schnura
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world. ... (The award) honors people who ... are prepared to engage in civil resistance in defense of peace, justice, and the environment ... to stand up for the ideals and interests of humanity without concern for any disadvantages this may bring them. They are the guarantors who tend, care for, and defend the delicate new growth of ethics." (Das Internationale ethecon Blue Planet Project, Düsseldorf 2011, 15th edition, pp. 10-12)

As the result of an extensive worldwide nomination and selection process, you, Mr. Liveris and Mr. Ringler, and you, the major stockholders of DOW CHEMICAL, were selected on 21 September 2015, International Peace Day, for the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2014/2015.

We based our decision on news reports, on those facts known to the public, some for years now, on information collected by journalists throughout the world, on publicly available documents, on investigations by government bodies and environmental groups in various countries, and last not least, on the materials published by your corporate group. Basically, it can be assumed that the grounds given for our decision would have been even more extensive and thoroughgoing, if all the information had been available, including the items kept under lock and key or covered up, or possibly even destroyed, in your firm and elsewhere.

On the basis of the information that is thus accessible, the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy justifies its decision to pillory you, Mr. Liveris and Mr. Ringler, and you, the major stockholders of DOW CHEMICAL, internationally by means of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2014/2015 as summarized below:

In 2001, DOW CHEMICAL acquired the pesticide manufacturer UNION CARBIDE. Thus the responsibility for the world's worst chemical accident, in the big Indian city of Bhopal, passed to DOW CHEMICAL. With the former member of the Union Carbide board of directors, James M. Ringler, one of those directly responsible for the disaster is currently on the board of DOW CHEMICAL. In 1984, Union Carbide's pesticide plant in Bhopal exploded, and a cloud of poisonous gas spread across the densely-populated region. Within a few days, 8,000 people died from the poison; to date more than 20,000 have died in consequence, and more than 150,000 are chronically ill. Even today, in the third, upcoming generation, tens of thousands are poisoned, and people still die. The toxins were never removed, but instead accumulate in the soil over a large area, and contaminate the groundwater and surface waters. Even the hospitals to care for the victims the people had to erect themselves, and finance by donations year after year. While Union Carbide abandoned the people to their fate after the catastrophe, never compensated them reasonably, and

did not correct the situation at the location, DOW CHEMICAL took over the pesticide manufacturer entirely, but simply denies any legal responsibility, does nothing to remedy the consequences of this industrial catastrophe, and leaves the people in Bhopal without any help and assistance.

The chemical company's exclusively profit-oriented activities continue to this day. Asbestos, a very harmful substance, has long since been banned throughout the world. But the U.S. corporation DOW CHEMICAL is still using this substance in production in Europe's largest chlorine plant in Stade, near Hamburg. Dow is the only firm in the EU still operating with a corresponding exemption. This will expire in 2017, but DOW CHEMICAL is demanding an extension until 2025. This means deliberately accepting the risks of possible harm to health and the environment.

Whether it be financing political parties in elections, tax evasion, environmental destruction from support for genetic engineering to radioactive contamination, falsifying readings, warmongering, manipulating prices, or bribery - DOW CHEMICAL is involved in countless crimes against people and the environment. From the founding of the firm in 1897 on, the structural hazards began, with the start of the extraction of the extremely toxic bleaching agent bromine from brine. The radioactive contamination near Denver from 1953 to 1975, the contamination of the Tittabawassee River in Michigan with dioxin since the 1980s, the current careless handling of experiments with genetically manipulated plants and seeds in Kaua'i, Hawaii, of asbestos in Stade, Germany, and the responsibility as the biggest water polluter in Texas, are only a few of the corporation's best-known crimes. Since 2004, the hundred most important air polluters in the U.S.A. have been named for risk assessment of chronic health burdens (Toxic 100 Air Polluters), and the company is regularly near the head of the list. The commercial collaboration between Dow and the U.S. Army represents the company's warmongering. At the same time, DOW CHEMICAL deceives the public with its sponsoring of the Olympic Games and the 2012 Paralympics, seeking to present itself as a socially and environmentally concerned corporation. In view of the endless list of its crimes, this can only be called cynical.

In their decision to pillory you, the managing board and the board of trustees of ethecon also explicitly refer to the proposal adopted by the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) on 1994 for a human-rights "Charter on Industrial Hazards", and to the United Nations Declaration of Human Right.

Mr. Liveris,
Mr. Ringler,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is you who are primarily responsible for the decisions and actions of DOW CHEMICAL. You own or direct the firm. It is you who are to blame for ruining human health and destroying the environment on a large scale, and indeed for the death of many people. You are a danger not only to peace and human rights, but also to democracy, the environment, and humanity as a whole. You act for the sake of personal power and private enrichment. For this, you trample on morality and ethics, and accept the ruin of the Earth as a Black Planet.

Ethecon sees in your actions, Mr. Liveris, Mr. Ringler, and major stockholders, "a shocking contribution to the ruin and destruction of our Blue Planet. For this frightful disregard and violation of human ethics, the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy denounces you, Mr. Liveris and Mr. Ringler, and you, the major stockholders of DOW CHEMICAL, by means of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2014-2015.

As mentioned above, the awarding of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2014/2015, to you, who own and are responsible for DOW CHEMICAL, is combined with the awarding of the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2014/2015. This is being awarded to the peace and human-rights activist, director, and journalist Tomo Križnar. In contrast to you, who are endangering and ruining our Blue Planet irresponsibly, Tomo Križnar champions the preservation and rescuing of our Blue Planet and its inhabitants in an outstanding fashion.

We call on you to follow the example of people like Tomo Križnar for your personal involvement. Put an end to the exploitation and ruining of people and the environment by DOW CHEMICAL. Ensure social justice, safety, and human rights in the corporation itself and its purview. Preserve the environment and peace. Instead of in the pursuit of profit, use your money for ethical investments and solidary projects, such as the vast majority of the world's population demand.

And above all, we call upon you to finally compensate the thousands of victims of the Bhopal disaster in India, and the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam, and their families. Decontaminate the environment you have poisoned on a large scale in those countries.

This is the appeal to you, the responsible managers and owners of DOW CHEMICAL, from the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy that accompanies the pillorying by the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2014/2015.

At the same time, we demand and advocate, along with the national and international movements critical of corporations and globalization, that you be held liable, called to account, and where applicable punished, both in the framework of the corporation and personally, for your actions and for all the environmental, health, financial, social, and other damage caused by your corporation.

Yours,

Axel Köhler-Schnura
(Chairman of the Managing Board)

Wolfgang Teuber
(Chairman of the Board of Trustees)