



ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics P.O. Box 15 04 35 D-40081 Düsseldorf Germany

BP p.l.c.
C.-H. Svanberg, T. Hayward, B. Dudley
other members of the executive management
major shareholders of BP
1 St James's Square
London SW1Y 4PD
Great Britain

November 20, 2010

Open letter
to Chairman of the Board Carl-Henric Svanberg,
former CEO Tony Hayward, current CEO Bob Dudley,
other members of the executive management,
major shareholders of BP

Dear Mr. Svanberg,
Dear Mr. Hayward,
Dear Mr. Dudley,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the course of our public conference in Berlin on November 20, 2010, we presented the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2010. In a comprehensive nomination and selection procedure before the conference, we had chosen all of you as recipients of the „Black Planet Award 2010“. With this decision we aimed to expose and criticize you on an international scale.

Our foundation based its decision on news reports over many months about the environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico for which you were responsible, as well as on publicly known facts, information compiled world-wide by journalists over the course of many years, documents accessible to the general public, investigations by judicial and government authorities in various countries and not least, on information published by your own company.

In summary, ethecon - Foundation Ethics & Economics states the following reasons for its decision:

The BP company emerged from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, which was founded in 1909 to exploit Iranian oil fields. Renamed in 1935 to Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, it was owned completely by the British government for many years.

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Board of Directors
P.O. Box 15 04 35
D-40081 Düsseldorf
Germany
Street Address
Schweidnitzer Straße 41
D-40231 Düsseldorf
Germany
Phone +49 (0)211 26 11 210
Fax +49 (0)211 26 11 220
eMail aks@ethecon.org

Office
Wilhelmshavener Straße 60
D-10551 Berlin
Germany
Phone +49 (0)30 22 32 51 45
eMail info@ethecon.org

Internet
www.ethecon.org

Registry Court
Senatsverwaltung
für Justiz Berlin/Germany
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The name was changed to British Petroleum Company (BP) in 1954, one year after the coup d'état ousting democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq. This overthrow had been organized by the CIA, the British government and the Iranian military. It occurred just after Mossadeq had nationalized the oil industry, including BP. Directly after the overthrow, the nationalization of the oil industry was rescinded.

In regard to sales volume, BP is the third-largest oil- and energy distributor in the world and the fourth-largest of all multinational companies. With its seat in London, it is active in every corner of the world.

Of late, BP has been trying to give itself a green image of using environmentally-friendly energy under its new slogan "beyond petroleum". In reality, however, the company's main focus is still on oil and gas. In 2008 these areas of operation were the source of 93 percent of its total sales volume.

The history of the BP company is replete with an ongoing series of social, ecological, and economic crimes and transgressions. Examples include:

- > Cost cuts meant to increase BP's profits led in April 2010 to an explosion on a oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Eleven workmen were killed. Lacking a backup plan for such emergencies, the company was not able to repair the leak for months. Several hundred million litres of crude oil escaped, causing irreparable ecological damage in a region measuring several hundred square kilometres and more. It will take the environment decades to recover.
- > In 2005, fifteen people were killed and 180 injured in an explosion in the BP refinery in Texas City/USA. According to investigations by government agencies, routine maintenance and safety measures had been neglected in order to cut costs.
- > Instead of learning from this episode and improving conditions at the plant, BP ignored the official accusations. Therefore, in the same refinery in April and May 2010, a leak occurred whereby 530,000 pounds of - for a large part toxic and carcinogenic - chemicals polluted the city and the surrounding area.
- > BP has been repeatedly fined for sundry crimes against the environment. Even before the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico these fines amounted to several hundred million dollars.
- > Due to oil and propane price manipulation, BP had to pay fines in the USA and Russia amounting to several hundred million dollars.
- > As a result of an out of court agreement, BP paid Columbian farmers several million pounds. The farmers had planned to take BP to court because the company had profitted from terrorist actions of paramilitary groups, hired to "protect" a pipeline.

You, the major shareholders and the executive management, are the ones responsible for the decisions and operations of the BP company. You are accountable for the ruin of human health and the destruction of the environment on a grand scale as well as for the death of many people. Your actions and decisions pose a threat not only to peace and human rights, but also to democracy, ecology and humanity as a whole. You act solely for your

own personal gain. To reach this end, you flout morals and ethics and knowingly risk the transformation of our blue planet into a black one.

In your actions ethecon sees a flagrant contribution to the ruin and destruction of our blue planet. For this contempt and violation of human ethics, ethecon - Foundation Ethics & Economics - denounces you with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2010.

We cannot go without mentioning that the bestowal of the "Black Planet Award 2010" on you, the accountable people within the BP company, occurs in combination with the "Blue Planet Award 2010", which was conferred on human rights activist Elias Bierdel. In comparison to you, who irresponsibly endanger and ruin our blue planet, Mr. Bierdel promotes the preservation and rescue of our blue planet and its inhabitants in an exemplary manner.

We call on you to model your personal involvement on the example set by women and men such as Elias Bierdel. Put an end to the exploitation and the destruction of humanity and the environment through the BP company. Ensure social equality, safety and human rights within the company and throughout its whole field of influence. Preserve the environment and peace. Use your money for ethical investments and solidarity projects instead of using it to make even more profits, this last appeal representing the will of the vast majority of the world population.

This is the appeal, coupled with the "Black Planet Award 2010", with which "ethecon - Foundation Ethics & Economics" , addresses you, the accountable managers and shareholders of the BP company.

Yours sincerely,

Axel Köhler-Schnura
(Chairperson, Board of Directors)

Elke von der Beeck
(Chairperson, Board of Trustees)