



ethecon Stiftung Ethik & Ökonomie
Fundación Ética & Economía Foundation Ethics & Economy

International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020

Justification

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Berlin, International Day of Peace, 21 September 2020

Part 1

Vilification of Jeffrey Preston Bezos

ultra-rich major shareholder, company founder and CEO of the world's largest mail order company AMAZON (USA)

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics name and shame Jeffrey Preston Bezos, the ultra-rich chief executive director, company founder and major shareholder, of the world's largest mail-order company AMAZON and the space company BLUE ORIGIN from the USA, with the international ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020. Jeffrey Preston Bezos tramples on fundamental ethical and moral principles in an outstanding manner, thus ruining the blue planet and putting it in danger of declining into a dead, uninhabitable planet. He promotes oppression, exploitation, human rights violations, destruction of nature and social misery in a frightening way.

Jeffrey Bezos acts ruthlessly, cunningly, driven by primitive motives and solely intents on personal gain. He accepts and the decline of the earth to a dead, uninhabitable planet for his power and profit interests. He shows what is commonly called unscrupulousness and egoism.

Jeffrey Bezos stands for a world increasingly focused on profit as the sole criterion of any decision and development as one of the powerful against the interests of mankind. Often preferred, integrated into ruling networks and supported by large capital, always well secured and protected, autocratic and increasingly not subject to any laws and jurisdictions. He belongs to those to whom mankind owes war, exploitation and environmental destruction.

Jeffrey Bezos is named and shamed with the International Dead Planet Award 2020. On behalf of all those who endanger the "blue planet" or provoke its demise into a dead, uninhabitable planet. May his denunciation be a warning to himself and his actions be a deterrent to us all!

Accordingly, the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020 also sees itself as a mobilization for the commitment to peace, justice and environmental protection or for resistance against warmongering, exploitation and environmental destruction. It is intended to sensitize the public, name those responsible, uncover the connections and support the resistance.



The insult to Jeffrey Preston Bezos, the ultra-rich CEO, company founder and major shareholder of, among other corporations, the world's largest mail order company AMAZON (USA), with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020 is in line with the goals of the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy and is a logical complement to the honor of the environmental and human rights activist Phyllis Omido from Kenya with the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2020.

Part 2

Justification of the award

In their Decision to vilify Jeffrey Preston Bezos, the ultra-rich Chief Executive Director, company founder and major shareholder of the world's largest mail-order company AMAZON (USA) with the International Dead Planet Award 2020, the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of the ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics rely on news reports, on facts known to the public, some of which have been known for years, on information gathered by journalists around the world, on publicly available documents, on investigations by government agencies and social movement activists in various countries, and last but not least on the materials published by AMAZON and his other corporations like BLUE ORIGIN and the WASHINGTON POST.

In principle, it can be assumed that the reasons for the decision would have been even more consistent and comprehensive if all information, including information kept under lock and key, both within the company and elsewhere, had been made available in full, and possibly even destroyed.

From the abundance of facts researched during the nomination process for the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020 to Jeffrey Preston Bezos, we would like to mention just a few examples:

Jeffrey Bezos is responsible for the fact that AMAZON destroys millions of retailers' livelihoods, increasingly controls the retail trade, systematically worsens working conditions in trade and logistics, prevents union organization and evades taxes.

Jeffrey Bezos, as a pioneer of monopolization and the destruction of social securities and other achievements of workers, ascribes to the profit interests of the largest financial groups (BLACKROCK, VANGUARD and others), banks and monopolies, which support him with unlimited credits and investments.



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Jeffrey Bezos uses up resources with AMAZON on a gigantic scale through kerosene-intensive airfreight, the destruction of undamaged returned goods and by accustoming consumers to door-to-door deliveries, undermines international environmental standards, sabotages all efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gases and to avert the incipient climate collapse.

Jeffrey Bezos uses AMAZON to monitor his customers, business partners and employees and shapes large parts of the Internet for his profit interests. In the process, personal rights are violated, industries are spied on and prepared for takeover, public opinion is manipulated and the insurance and health care sectors are pushed to a social Darwinian, inhuman system of separating customers by their state of health.

With AMAZON, Jeffrey Bezos worsens the already inhumane working conditions in the Third World, especially in the extraction of rare earths and minerals such as lithium, coltan or cobalt for the production of robots, automated warehouses or Internet-capable household appliances, but also in the processing and disposal of electronic waste.

With his space company BLUE ORIGIN and lavish space tourism for the ultra-rich, Jeffrey Bezos endangers humanity even far beyond the borders of the Blue Planet: He fills the orbit with a variety of new satellites for AMAZON and dedicates his obscene private fortune as the richest person to the rescue of profit-driven capitalism into space.

Jeffrey Preston Bezos, against his better judgment, holds on to his destructive business models and deceives the world public about the extent of the destruction and dangers. He counteracts all these crimes with unfounded propaganda, buys politicians and media that gloss over his business with AMAZON and the other companies as ecological, fair and sustainable.

It should also be mentioned that the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of ethecon, when deciding to vituperate Jeffrey Preston Bezos, also explicitly refers to the proposal for an international charter on "Human Rights and Industrial Health Threats" adopted by the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) in 1994 and the Charter of Universal Human Rights of the United Nations.

Conclusion

Board of Trustees and Executive Board declare:

Primarily responsible for the decisions and actions of the world's largest online mail order, cloud services and monitoring group AMAZON (USA), as well as the space company BLUE ORIGIN (USA),



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are the executives and major shareholders*, above all Jeffrey Preston Bezos, the executive director, company founder and largest shareholder of both.

Jeffrey Preston Bezos, alongside the major shareholders of BLACKROCK and VANGUARD, own a significant part of AMAZON. They decisively manage the company. They are responsible for the worldwide reduction of labor rights, the surveillance of customers, business partners, suppliers and employees on a large scale, incalculable damage to human health and massive destruction of nature and the earth's climate. All this with irreparable consequences for humanity, the blue planet and even the universe. Jeffrey Bezos not only poses a threat to human rights and the environment, but also to democracy, peace and humanity as a whole. He acts for the benefit of personal power and private enrichment. For this he tramples morality and ethics underfoot and accepts the downfall of the earth as a dead, uninhabitable planet.

ethecon sees the actions of Jeffrey Preston Bezos and other managers and major shareholders of AMAZON as a shocking contribution to the ruin and destruction of our blue planet and the universe. For this shocking disregard and violation of human ethics, ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy reviled the aforementioned responsible persons at AMAZON with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020.

At the same time, ethecon, together with the national and international movements critical of the corporation and globalization, is actively working to ensure that Jeffrey Bezos and all other responsible managers and major shareholders are held accountable and punished for their crimes against human ethics and for the environmental, health, financial, social and other damage caused by AMAZON, both as representatives of the Group and personally.

The International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2020 to Jeffrey Preston Bezos, ultra-rich CEO, founder and largest shareholder of the world's largest mail order company AMAZON (USA), will be presented together with the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2020 to the environmental and human rights activist Phyllis Omidó in a public ceremony in Berlin on November 21, 2020.



Part 3

Background

The two international ethecon Awards

Our Blue Planet is in serious danger. This can no longer be denied by politics and science. Wars, social misery and environmental ruin are spreading. The collapse of ecological systems is an imminent danger.

However, the cause is being denied. Responsible for the dangerous development for humans and the environment is the principle of profit, which is inextricably linked to the globally prevailing capitalist economic system. The destruction of fundamental ethical principles by the economy goes hand in hand with that disastrous economic law. The compulsion for the highest profit, inherent in economic law, systematically and inevitably promotes injustice, exploitation and ecological ruin. All the more so, as the profit principle is increasingly becoming the only criterion for the organization of society and environment.

ethecon is committed to anchoring ethical principles in economy and society, to shifting from the system of profit to a system of solidarity. Saving the planet will only be possible by overthrowing the profit principle.

Already in 2004, the year when ethecon was founded, the idea was born of awarding a foundation prize to promote efforts to preserve and save fundamental ethical principles. There have been and still are many prizes that honour achievements in the diverse areas of society, but there are far too few prizes that honour resistance to the abuse and the ruin of ethics and morals, both resulting in environmental destruction, war and exploitation.

The incipient discussion process about this prize, however, quickly showed that it is not enough to honour deeds in the struggle for ethics and morals, but that it is equally important to denounce misdeeds against ethics and morals. The idea of two interconnected ethecon prizes was born: The ethecon Positive Prize Blue Planet Award and the reciprocal ethecon Negative Prize Dead Planet Award. They form a unit, they are two sides of the same coin. Together they reflect the state of ethical principles that shape our world. And at the same time, they conjure up the vision of ethics and morality that makes a world without exploitation and oppression possible.

Thus, the two ethecon awards outlaw exploitation, war and environmental destruction and follow the ideals of peace, environmental protection and justice. They call for resistance, change and commitment in the spirit of these ideals; they stand up for a future worth living for this, our world. While one prize, the International ethecon Blue Planet Award, honours the commitment to the preservation or rescue of the



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blue planet and draws attention to the urgent possibilities for action and the chances of change, the other, the International ethecon Dead Planet Award, denounces the violation of our earth, that is the danger of a dead, uninhabitable planet, and stigmatizes indifference and ignorance.

Together, the two International ethecon Awards show: There is hope. The strength lies within us, in each and every one of us.

Basically, only individuals and not institutions are awarded with the two prizes. This is to counteract the increasing and determined anonymity of decisions. Particularly in the case of negative developments, those responsible are only too happy to hide behind the facades of institutions and point to those alleged constraints to which the decisions are supposed to be owed, as it were, on their own. In the positive as well as in the negative, however, it always remains the same: it is always people who make decisions and bear responsibility.

In 2006, the two international ethecon prizes were awarded for the first time. Since then as a rule, the awards have been presented annually. While the elite who determine the global economy meet in each January in Davos, Switzerland, for the Economic Forum, ethecon calls for nominations for the two ethecon awards in an internationally distributed call for nominations. In a thorough selection process, the winners are chosen by the Foundation by August each year and are announced to the public on Peace Day, 21st September.

The two prizes are awarded each November in a large public ceremony in Berlin. Only the winners of the positive prizes are invited to attend, while the winners of the negative prizes are informed about their prize in an "open letter" published on the date of the award ceremony. Whereas the winners of the International ethecon Blue Planet Award receive their trophies of honour in person during the ceremony, the winners of the International Dead Planet Award are confronted with their trophies in the months after the award ceremony in the context of public activities.

As many civil society actors from all over the world as possible are being involved in the awarding activities. Not from the ruling circles and institutions, but from the resistant movements for peace, ecology and justice. This is to emphasize and make visible the inseparable connection between the two awards and the social movements and the importance of the awards concerning the commitment to these goals.

The trophies of the positive prizes are always designed by artists*. While art and culture are also increasingly subject to the dictates of profit, ethecon's artistic design of the ethecon Blue Planet trophies enables art to take a stand in resistance to exploitation, environmental destruction and war, or in commitment to peace, ecology and justice.



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When the two International ethecon Awards were born in 2005, the world-famous Otto Piene spontaneously agreed to create the annual prize trophies for the respective International ethecon Blue Planet Award as unique and valuable glass-wood sculptures.

After Piene last created the prize trophy in 2009 – then 82 years old - Katharina Mayer, the great photographic artist and Becher student (born in 1958), created the trophies from 2010 to 2018 and gave them a new unique character.

In 2019, ethecon chose a completely new way with the design of a mural as part of the trophy of the Blue Planet Award 2019. With the support of the Düsseldorf artist Klaus Klinger and the street art collective "Farbfieber", we brought the winner of the International ethecon Award 2019, her life's work and the International ethecon Honour Award into public space in a special way with a mural design on Toulouser Allee in Düsseldorf. The trophy itself showed an art print of the "Blue Planet" by Otto Piene and a photo of the mural signed by Klaus Klinger.

The respective prize trophy of the International ethecon Dead Planet Award is created completely differently. It is an industrially produced globe made of plastic. It is produced under exploitative and environmentally hostile conditions and subsequently alienated. The alienation of this object is deliberately not carried out by an artist* who creates the annual positive prize, but by an anonymous young person chosen for this purpose. In this way the defamatory trophy of the International ethecon Dead Planet Award is avoided being a work of art of a certain quality. It is guaranteed that no new value is created in our world, oriented towards usability. Especially for someone who - in the best sense of the word - has not deserved this appreciation. At the same time, as a representative of his generation, the young person stands symbolically for the endangered future of the blue planet or for all those who are threatened by a dead, uninhabitable planet. It is the youth whose future is being destroyed by the ecological, social and military ruin of the world.

It is typical that those denounced by the International ethecon Dead Planet Award tend to disregard the prize trophy awarded to them. To this day, not one of the reviled persons has personally received the abusive award and has faced up to the criticism in public. At best, the prize trophy could be handed over to a representative, such as a member of a press office. In most cases, ethecon witnessed the destroying of the reviling trophy by security staff.



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Only by developing and implementing environmentally sound and humane economic and social models will it be possible to avert impending ecological and social catastrophes. ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economy works with vision and perspective, far beyond the generational transition.

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