



Berlin, International Day of Peace, 21 September 2021 ¹

Part 1

Vilification of Markus Krebber (Chairman of the Board), Werner Brandt (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), Larry Fink (Major Shareholder/BLACKROCK) and Armin Laschet (Major Shareholder/State President NRW) of the coal and nuclear power company RWE AG (Germany) with the international ethecon Dead Planet Award 2021.

The Board of Trustees and Executive Board of ethecon Stiftung Ethik & Economy revile Markus Krebber (Chairman of the Board), Werner Brandt (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), Larry Fink (BLACKROCK) and Armin Laschet (Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia) of the coal and nuclear power company RWE AG (Germany) with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2021, because in the area of conflict between ethics and economics they trample fundamental ethical and moral principles in an outstanding manner and thus ruin the Blue Planet and put it in danger of degenerating into a dead, uninhabitable planet. They appallingly promote oppression, exploitation, human rights violations, destruction of nature and social misery,

Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet act ruthlessly, cunningly, shaped by base motives and solely concerned with personal advantage. For their power and profit interests, they unthinkingly take human lives and the decline of the earth to a dead, uninhabitable planet, into account, without hesitation. They show what is commonly known as unscrupulousness and egoism.

Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet stand against the interests of humanity in a world increasingly oriented towards profit as the sole criterion of all decision-making and development. Privileged many times over, tied into ruling networks and backed by big capital. Always well secured and protected, autocratic and increasingly not subject to any laws or jurisdiction. They are among those to whom humanity owes war, exploitation and environmental destruction.

Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet are criticized and personally denounced with the International Dead Planet Award 2021. Representative for all who endanger the "Blue

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The ethecon Foundation carefully chooses September 21 to announce the winners of the two annual international ethecon Awards: September 21 is the International Day of Peace.



International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2021

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Planet" or conjure up its demise to a dead, uninhabitable planet. Let their vituperation be a warning to themselves and their actions a cautionary tale to us all!

Accordingly, the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2021 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 raise public awareness, to name those responsible, to uncover the connections and to support resistance.

The vilification of Markus Krebber (Chairman of the Executive Board), Werner Brandt (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), Larry Fink (BLACKROCK) and Armin Laschet (Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia) of the coal and nuclear power company RWE AG (Germany) with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2021 is in line with the objectives of ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics in consistent complement to the honouring of the peace and human rights activist Aminata Dramane Traoré from Mali with the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2021.



Part 2

Justification of the award

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of ethecon Stiftung Ethik & Economy base their decision to vilify Markus Krebber (Chairman of the Board), Werner Brandt (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), Larry Fink (BLACKROCK) and Armin Laschet (Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia) of the coal and nuclear power company RWE AG (Germany) with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2021 on news reports, to the facts that have been known to the public for years, to the information gathered by journalists all over the world, to publicly available documents, to investigations by government agencies and activists of social movements in various countries and, last but not least, to the materials published by RWE AG itself.

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

From the abundance of facts researched in the nomination process for the presentation of the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2021 to Markus Krebber (Chairman of the Executive Board), Werner Brandt (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), Larry Fink (BLACKROCK) and Armin Laschet (Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia) from the coal and nuclear power company RWE AG (Germany), here are some examples:

Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet are responsible for the fact that RWE AG is a major contributor to the climate catastrophe. Against all protests and democratic interventions, they continue to generate electricity from lignite, sabotage moratoriums through lobbying and corruption, and promote sometimes lethal repression against environmental protests. They are accelerating climate change beyond its ecological tipping points, pushing the Blue Planet to the brink of uninhabitability.

Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet undermine and endanger environmental protection and democracy by lobbying inside and outside the Federal Association of the Energy and Water Industries in order to evade or soften state environmental protection measures.

Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet are forcing the destruction of villages and village communities, agriculture and nature reserves in the regions of opencast coal mining.



The lowering of the water table and the erosion of soils ruin farmers and fertile soils and increase the dangers from floods and fires.

Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet are , by using opencast lignite mining poisoning the soil and air of the affected regions through runoff and fine dusts containing pollutants such as sulfur oxides, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, lead and nickel. Thus causing considerable damage to the people of the affected regions and even measurably reduce average life expectancy by several years.

Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet are endangering the residents living near nuclear power plants and humanity as a whole by operating nuclear power plants against their better judgement. They are well aware of the threat posed by nuclear power, from the impossibility of safely storing its radioactive waste, to the threat of accidents and uncontrolled meltdowns, to the military dangers. Yet, in the service of profits, they impose the dangers of nuclear fission and eternal disposal on the world's population and especially on future generations.

Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet are responsible for the fact that RWE has not paid any compensation for the support of fascism by the company and its legal predecessors. The RWE Group, its shareholders and chairmen were among the biggest profiteers and most ardent supporters of Hitler's fascism, his war of extermination and slave labour. To this day, RWE suppliers in the Third World provide such inhumane working conditions.

Markus Krebber (Chairman of the Executive Board), Werner Brandt (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), Larry Fink (BLACKROCK) and Armin Laschet (Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia) stick to their destructive business models against their better knowledge and deceive the global public regarding the extent of the destruction and dangers. They counteract all these crimes with baseless propaganda and even stage their business as ecological, fair and sustainable.

It should also be mentioned that the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board of ethecon, in their decision to vilify Markus Krebber (Chairman of the Executive Board), Werner Brandt (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), Larry Fink (BLACKROCK) and Armin Laschet (Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia), also explicitly refer to the proposal for an international charter on "Human Rights and Industrial Health Hazards" adopted by the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) in 1994 and the United Nations Charter on Universal Human Rights.

Conclusion



Conclusion

The Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors declare:

Primarily responsible for the decisions and actions of the coal, natural gas and nuclear power company RWE (Germany) are Markus Krebber (Chairman of the Board), Werner Brandt (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), Larry Fink (BLACKROCK) and Armin Laschet (Minister President of NRW).

They decisively manage the company and represent the interests of its largest shareholders. They are responsible for the displacement and destruction of entire villages and village communities, the destruction of nature reserves, the ruin of farmers through the lowering and poisoning of groundwater, the increase in flood damage and fire danger through soil erosion, the endangerment of humanity through nuclear power, the exploitation of workers, especially in the Third World, and the subversion of democracy. They are responsible for the catastrophic damage caused by flood damage and the danger of fire through soil erosion, the endangerment of mankind through nuclear power, the exploitation of workers, especially in the Third World, and the infiltration of democracy, the poisoning of ecosystems with countless heavy metals and chemical waste, as well as the ruin of the earth's climate through the most greenhouse gas-intensive form of energy production: lignite-fired power generation. They are thus responsible for catastrophic damage to human health and inflict irreparable damage on ecosystems and the Earth's climate. Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet pose a threat to human rights and the environment, to democracy, peace and humanity as a whole. They act for the benefit of personal power and private gain and trample morality and ethics underfoot. They accept the demise of the earth as a dead, uninhabitable planet.

ethecon considers the actions of Markus Krebber (CEO), Werner Brandt (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), Larry Fink (BLACKROCK), Armin Laschet (Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia) and other managers and major shareholders of RWE a shocking contribution to the ruin and destruction of our Blue Planet. For this appalling disregard and violation of human ethics, ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics honors the aforementioned RWE executives with the International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2021.

At the same time, ethecon, together with national and international movements critical of corporations and globalisation, is actively campaigning for Markus Krebber, Werner Brandt, Larry Fink and Armin Laschet, as well as all other responsible managers and major shareholders, to be held liable, held accountable and punished, both as representatives of the corporation and



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personally, for their crimes against human ethics and for the social, financial, environmental and health damage caused by RWE.

The International ethecon Dead Planet Award 2021 to Markus Krebber (Chairman of the Executive Board), Werner Brandt (Chairman of the Supervisory Board), Larry Fink (BLACKROCK) and Armin Laschet (Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia) of the coal, gas and nuclear power company RWE (Germany) will be presented together with the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2021 to the peace and human rights activist Aminata Dramane Traoré (Mali) in a public ceremony in Berlin on 20 . November 2021.



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 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



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enables art to take a stand in resistance to exploitation, environmental destruction and war, or in commitment to peace, ecology and justice.

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 Toulouse 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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