



**mouvement  
écologique**

*The Mouvement Ecologique cordially invites you to a conference with two prominent speakers:*

## Constant growth: a fallacy, no alternative or are there “new future visions” after all?

**On Thursday, 29th February at 8 pm  
at the Hotel Parc Belle-Vue, 5, av. Marie-Thérèse, Luxembourg**



**Mathias Binswanger** is one of the most influential economists in Switzerland. He is a professor of economics at the University of Applied Sciences North-East Switzerland, a private lecturer at the University of St. Gallen, a visiting professor at Qingdao University of Technology in China and at the Banking University in Saigon (Vietnam), author of various books (including „Die Tretmühlen des Glücks“, „Sinnlose Wettbewerbe - Warum wir immer mehr Unsinn produzieren“, „Der Wachstumszwang“). His thesis can be roughly summarised as follows: „Is it possible for today’s economies to operate over the long run without growth?

*An in-depth analysis of the economic monetary cycle shows that this is not possible in the long term. Modern economies cannot function without growth in gross domestic product, as they would otherwise fall into a downward spiral.“*



**Ulrike Herrmann** is a historian, philosopher and economics editor at the Berlinbased newspaper taz, sought-after speaker and bestselling author (including Spiegel bestseller: *Das Ende des Kapitalismus* [The end of Capitalism]). She received the Keynes Society Prize for Economic Journalism for her articles in the taz and the Otto Brenner Prize Special „for her critical and trenchant economic journalism with a good feel for the welfare state“.

*Her analysis: „There is a nice saying: „Infinite growth is the logic of the cancer cell“. Tumours proliferate until they have killed the organism and thus themselves. Exactly this mechanism can also be observed in capitalism, which is expanding unchecked“. In rich countries, the goals of capitalism have long since been achieved: People do not become happier if prosperity continues to increase.*

For many years, economic growth increased the well-being of many people, especially in the materially wealthier countries. However, the dramatic effects of this system on the ecosystem are obvious. Despite growth, the gap between rich and poor has not narrowed, nor has global prosperity for all been secured.

So what now?

Continuous growth in a world with finite resources is not possible, according to a central thesis in the ecological field, but also among an increasing number of economists. But what is the answer?

- Can an economy function without constant growth?
- Does “green” growth exist and is it “the” solution? Or is this also a fallacy?
- How can material prosperity be distributed (more) fairly?
- Does the economy even have to shrink or is an exit from dependency on growth sufficiently expedient?
- And is an economic model that is not based on growth even conceivable? If so, what could it look like? If not, how can the ecological limits of the planet really be taken into account?
- Which view is considered realistic? Which one is perhaps radical, but nevertheless essential?

**Ulrike Herrmann and Mathias Binswanger will discuss these and other key issues in a moderated discussion and outline their “solutions“.**