



**mouvement  
écologique**

## How will the debate on growth proceed: "Subjective" conclusions .

**More and more actors, far beyond the ecological movement, economists and various scientific councils .... are questioning the sustainability of the current economic system based on growth and share the following analysis, among others:**

- Infinite growth is neither possible nor sensible on a limited planet;
- The increase in gross national product has long since ceased to be per se welfare-promoting and "happiness-enhancing";
- Technical progress alone will not make it possible to reconcile constant growth and ecological necessities.
- (Global) distributive justice must be brought into focus.

But: it is obvious that no serious economist can claim to be able to present a detailed model of an economic system that is no longer based on growth and can also outline all the intermediate steps and effects. Turning the growth screw triggers consequences on many levels of the system ... there are numerous interconnected cogwheels.

**Among other things, this results in the following suggestions on how the issue should be approached:**

- **Conduct a fundamental, technically sound social debate** on the issue of growth: Is exponential growth still the ultimate social goal? How do we define "well-being"? What effects are associated with today's growth logic, what control instruments and what view of distributive justice are there?
- **No further "perpetuation" of the growth imperative:** For example, no increase in the dependence of the social system on growth, etc;
- **No extension of economic activities that are in conflict with a more "sustainable" economic system:**  
For example, industries that exceed the capacity limits of a country's natural resources (e.g. Google);
- **Analysing all economic and socio-political decisions to determine the degree to which they are compatible with an economic policy** that respects ecosystem boundaries: Among other things, systematic implementation of the "sustainability check" / "compatibility check" for businesses;

- **The aim is to achieve growth only in future-oriented sectors, fulfil the criteria of sustainable development and represent a transition to a climate-neutral and biodiversity-friendly economy;**
- **Development of a programme to finance the economic transition:** climate neutrality, etc;
- **Taking immediate, targeted measures that are known to make a key contribution to the sustainable transformation of the economic system,** in particular
  - Implementation of a sustainable tax reform
  - Analysing and reducing government subsidies that have a negative impact on biodiversity and the climate ("harmful subsidies")
  - **Implementation of a stress test** to analyse what the real social gain of this growth is, who benefits from it and to what extent - under realistic conditions - it is compatible with the goals of biodiversity and climate protection, the limited water resources and the resulting infrastructures.
  - - Valorisation of the "**PIB du bien-être**" (well-being gdp)
  - - **Ensuring a debate on distributive justice with all stakeholders and implementing concrete measures.**

**Would you like to participate as a member in the discussions on the issue of growth? Would you be interested in an exchange or in joining the Mouvement Ecologique economic group? Then please let us know: [blanche.weber@oeko.lu](mailto:blanche.weber@oeko.lu).**

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