

AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT 2020



1. Introduction

On September 17th, 2020 the fourth AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT took place in the Spanish Riding School and the Climate Kirtag at Heldenplatz in Vienna. With a mixture of analog and digital elements, the summit set new standards - including the virtual participation of Arnold Schwarzenegger as host live from Los Angeles.

Due to the Corona Pandemic, many international environmental conferences were cancelled this year or postponed until 2021. Meanwhile, the destruction of our planet continues and climate change is not taking a break. Natural disasters, such as the forest fires in California and Siberia, have again shown very clearly that climate protection is still "a burning issue".

Therefore the SCHWARZENEGGER CLIMATE INITIATIVE decided to join forces and reinvent the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT in this extraordinary year as a hybrid event. The aim was to demonstrate the opportunities of a green economy and the need for climate-friendly reconstruction. To this end, various solutions were presented that serve the well-being of humanity and the entire planet. The hybrid format enabled a program with contributions from all over the world. Arnold Schwarzenegger was always actively involved in the discussions.

Forests for Future was another thematic focus. On the one hand, because of the essential role that forests play in the global climate and ecosystem, but also to remind the global audience that the civilized world needs nature as the basis of life. The trees in the Spanish Riding School symbolized that man and nature can and must live in harmony. The pandemic has highlighted the sensitivity of our biosphere and the consequences of the invasion of the last untouched habitats coming along with the destruction of the environment. Everything is interconnected and any disturbance within the system can result in unpredictable consequences. This is true for the global climate system, as well as for the ecosystem of a virgin forest.

In the second part of the event, various "CLIMATE ACTION STORIES" were presented: Inspiring stories of people and organizations that make a difference in the health care sector, the film industry, science, but also in politics, finance, construction and the water sector. In addition, representatives of cities, regions and countries from all over the world proved that everyone can be part of the solution.

2. AWS 2020 – At a glance

NUMBERS

3 hours livestream national & international

27 speakers from 12 countries

250 live guests

17 artists

300 trees in the Spanish Riding School

620,000 viewers for the livestream

Media reach: 1.3 billion people

TOPICS

Green Recovery post COVID-19

European Green Deal

Solutions to the climate crisis

Protection of forests, biodiversity and health

Sustainable buildings

Water, the resource of life

Cities and regions in the fight against the climate crisis

3. COVID 19 - Safety concept

Dr. Hans-Peter Hutter (MedUni Vienna) provided specialist medical support for the event at the Spanish Riding School. The safety of the 250 guests on site had the highest priority. The safety concept ensured risk minimization at all levels.

All seats were set up in compliance with the distancing rules and assigned in advance in a personalized manner. The wearing of mouth and nose protection was mandatory throughout the conference. The contact details of each guest were recorded in order to be able to immediately inform the responsible health authorities (MA15) in case of a suspected case after the conference and to support contact tracing with the existing data.



Other concrete measures included distance markings, organization of the flow of people through a control system, disinfectant dispensers, regular disinfection of the microphones and targeted ventilation. The experienced technical expert DI Peter Tappler was commissioned to optimize the air exchange and to evaluate the location. He examined the ventilation situation on site in order to optimize the air exchange. All persons involved in the realization of the conference (organization team, catering, technical staff, artists, speakers) received special training for the handling of the measures.

4. Opening Performance

The year 2020 was a difficult one, especially for the art and cultural scene. This made the involvement of artistic and musical elements for the opening performance even more important.

The music of the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT 2020 reflected the theme of this year's motto: "Be part of the solution". The focus was not on highlighting the problems but rather on tackling them and becoming part of the solution and actively contributing to the fight against the climate crisis.

With the opening music for the conference the "Bolero recycled" was developed. The main motif was the "Bolero" by Maurice Ravel. A piece of music which, due to its emotionality, took up the themes of this year's conference. From the fragments of a failed "civilization" new hope rises. Shoulder to shoulder, the community begins to get a grip on climate change and environmental destruction with increasing optimism. The power of acting together leads to greater confidence that inspires hope for a healthy future.



The instruments were partly made of waste and scrap metal. In addition to these "recycled musical instruments", costumes made of recyclable materials and fabrics were also processed into new works of art.

5. Keynotes

The Director of the SCHWARZENEGGER CLIMATE INITIATIVE **Monika Langthaler** opened the summit together with host **Arnold Schwarzenegger**. Both are deeply concerned that society may be overlooking the climate crisis, which is undoubtedly more threatening than the Corona crisis. For this reason the two decided to hold the Summit despite all the challenges. At the opening they reminded the audience that there are solutions to all challenges, even if they are not always easy to implement. However, the key message of the Summit was clear and positive: the climate crisis can be overcome together like any other crisis, the solutions are there - but time is running out! Therefore, everyone must become part of the solution.



After a personal welcome, host Arnold Schwarzenegger delivered his speech live from Los Angeles: "Climate change is the real pandemic of our planet. It has spread to all nations of the earth. And there is no vaccine except our own actions." In view of the economic recovery following the Corona crisis, he made an urgent appeal: "Forward-looking decisions are needed right now, as trillions of dollars and trillions of euros are being poured into rebuilding economies and infrastructures in the wake of the coronavirus. These funds are so massive they are capable of remaking societies. We have a tremendous opportunity. All we have to do is pick it up." As an example of the smart redirection of money flows, he praised the decarbonization strategies of successful companies and investors who are focusing on future technologies. In contrast, he pointed to fossil-based companies that are suffering enormous losses in value because they continue to insist on obsolete, dirty industries. He pointed out that we now need solutions such as an economy that functions in a sustainable way, the creation of green jobs, energy-efficient buildings, cars with alternative driving technologies and simple measures such as planting trees.



The Austrian Federal President **Alexander Van der Bellen**, who was the patron of the conference for the fourth time, emphasized that above all, those who had not yet recognized the seriousness of the situation, had to be convinced: "It is much more difficult to awaken the interest of someone who has no interest. And yet we must succeed. But how?" He pleaded - keeping with this year's motto "Be Part of the Solution" in mind - for a common, positive approach: "Of course it is important that we humans know about the terrible, frightening consequences of a climate catastrophe. But it is more effective to paint a positive picture of the future. Something that can be our common goal. For only a common goal will motivate us to do what is necessary: to preserve our one earth," he said.





The Prince of Wales formulated very clear messages in his contribution: He stressed the importance of recognizing and using the Corona crisis as a historic and valuable opportunity. "As we begin to move from crisis to recovery, we have the chance to shape the world we want - not only for ourselves, but also for future generations. This chance exists only for a very, very short time." He said it was crucial that strong and decisive international action happened to ensure social and economic stability. As an example he highlighted the bio-economy, which has the potential to

ensure innovation, sustainability and biodiversity.

In his speech, Federal Chancellor **Sebastian Kurz** emphasized that business and climate protection are not contradictory: "Business and climate protection go hand in hand. By promoting innovation, new business opportunities and new jobs are created. This is why we in Austria are massively promoting research and innovation in the field of climate protection. Moreover, the Paris Agreement must be implemented in Europe and worldwide in order to successfully combat climate change."



Antonio Guterres, U.N. Secretary General, delivered his keynote from the headquarters of the United Nations in New York. The main focus of his speech was on the topics: Climate justice, clean investments and climate protection solutions that must be rolled out as quickly as possible. As an example of the leitmotif "Build back better", he mentioned the renewable energy sector, which already provides three times more jobs than the fossil fuel industry - and that is just the beginning. He drew particular attention

to the people who live in developing countries and who have been severely affected by the pandemic but even more by the climate crisis. He called on Austria and other member states of the European Union to set a good example in implementing the EU Green Deal. Furthermore, he warned that COVID-19 should not be used as an excuse by industrialized countries to withdraw their development aid or climate financing commitments to developing countries. "This is the only way we can get the job done: through cooperation and solidarity with the weakest".

6. High-Level Panel

The European Green Deal and its role model for the rest of the world served as the thematic bracket of the high-level panel. The announcement made the day before by President of the EU-Commission Ursula Van der Leyen that the EU would increase its emission reduction targets and aim for a 55% reduction by 2030 (instead of the planned 40%) below the 1990 level was taken up and specified.

Participants in the panel were the Slovakian President **Zuzana Čaputová**, the President of Croatia **Zoran Milanović** and EU Vice President and Commissioner for Climate Protection **Frans Timmermans**, who was live from Brussels, as well as a video contribution by the Spanish Prime Minister **Pedro Sanchez**.



During the panel President **Zuzana Čaputová** highlighted the specific steps that Slovakia will take to solve the climate crisis. Slovakia aims to achieve CO₂ neutrality in electricity generation by 2030. Furthermore, a Green Recovery Plan is being set up to promote a sustainable economy, for example to provide funds for the ecological renovation of buildings. This will significantly reduce the CO₂ footprint and lower energy costs for the residents. The President also announced that her office is setting a good example and that it will become the first carbon-neutral office in Slovakia very soon.

The Croatian President **Zoran Milanović** shared his views on the energy turnaround and Croatia's adaptation to climate change. "Croatia is a small country, concentrating on the tourism economy, which is connected also with impacts on the environment. Under the given circumstances we pay a lot of attention to environmental protection and an ecological balance". He explained that Croatia uses more wind energy and other renewable energy sources than the European average.

Frans Timmermans addressed the ambitious EU climate goals and their implementation: "The member states have decided that Europe must be the first continent to be climate neutral in 2050. In order to get there, a step by step-plan up to the year 2050 was drawn up. It became clear that a 55% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030 is possible and feasible. All sectors are affected - from the automotive industry to buildings and the energy sector. Next year, concrete plans for implementing the climate targets must be submitted to the European Parliament. "If we don't put our planet on a different course,

what kind of planet will we have in 20 years if we don't take radical decisions right now? We have the technologies. We have the people. What we need is the political will!"

Spanish Prime Minister **Pedro Sanchez** brought in his input via video message. "Covid-19 has triggered an unprecedented crisis that could change the course of history. Profound transformations have been accelerated and it has become clear that we need to rethink our relationship with nature." The challenge, he said, is to adapt our society to climate change on the one hand, while at the same time ensuring sustainable growth in order to provide a livelihood for people. "We cannot wait until the pandemic is over, but must now implement a sustainable economic model as quickly as possible with the help of economic stimulus measures." For this reason, Spain has drawn up a Green Recovery Plan in accordance with the European Green Deal.

The Prime Minister made the direction of Spain clear. The presidents of Croatia and Slovakia were also both optimistic that the political will prevails in the EU to jointly achieve the ambitious climate targets for 2030. In the end it was all about justice and about preserving an environment and future worth living in.

As a conclusion, **Frans Timmermans** explained how the 27 EU member states can be persuaded to drive climate protection forward in such a way as to achieve goals within the time frame of just ten years. By mid-October, the EU states are required to complete their recovery plans, which comply with EU guidelines. Time and again, Timmermans emphasized unequivocally: "We need to act now, then the climate goals can be achieved."



Arnold Schwarzenegger finally commented that "Team Europe" was acting in an exemplary manner, but also reminded the audience that plans alone are not enough and referred to the Paris Agreement of 2015, which is still lagging behind in implementation.

7. One2One Talk: James Cameron und Arnold Schwarzenegger

Arnold Schwarzenegger also spoke with filmmaker and environmentalist **James Cameron** (Terminator 1, Titanic, Avatar,...) during the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT. The interview was recorded shortly before the conference.



James Cameron recounted how he has been a nature lover since his childhood in Canada and first became an environmentalist around 1970, when the environmental movement became popular with the first Earth Day. At that time, people began to realize the negative effects of environmental destruction such as deforestation and pollution of the oceans. He began to take an interest in these issues and became intensely engaged as an environmentalist. When asked what he does by himself - and what everyone can do against climate change - he suggested that one step is to stop eating meat, for example. On the one hand vegetable nutrition is healthy, whilst on the other hand it has a positive influence on the personal ecological footprint. He also arranged the installation of photovoltaic modules on the roofs of his production company in Los Angeles. As a producer of science fiction films, he says about the future: "Anyone who claims he can predict the future is lying. But what I can predict is that we have a choice - we are smart, we have the awareness to plan our future". Climate change is real, it is scientifically proven, and we must take action against it now. Politicians should make climate protection a top priority.

8. CLIMATE ACTION STORIES, Part I



As a keynote for the CLIMATE ACTION STORIES we received a video message from **Jane Goodall**, who has been a guest at the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT twice already: "We are going through such an unprecedented time with the pandemic. It is now important that people realize that we have caused this pandemic in large part by ourselves because we have not respected nature and animals. We have created conditions that make it easy for pathogens to jump from an animal to a human.

She spoke about the many losses that the pandemic has caused and then pointed out that "it is so important to think beyond the COVID-19 pandemic now because climate change has not gone away. During the lockdowns, wildlife came into the cities, the air became cleaner, and some may have seen the stars in the sky for the first time because there was less air pollution". She concluded: "We need to rethink our relationship with nature, we need to come together to develop a new green economy and maybe we need to redefine what it means to be successful in life".

FORESTS FOR FUTURE

Behind the strong headline "Forests for Future" and the trees that were draped as a symbolic forest in the Spanish Riding School is the commitment of **Herbert Waldner**, CEO of FOR FOREST and Leading Partner of the AWS 2020.

Last year he created a sensational art installation with far-reaching consequences. He had 299 trees planted in the Klagenfurt soccer stadium and presented this forest to the public as an exhibition. Media from all over the world reported on it and sparked a debate about climate change, but also on the relationship between human and nature. On the stage of the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT, he confirmed that this is exactly what he wanted to achieve. It caused a personal turnaround and so he founded the independent forest initiative "FOR FOREST-The Voice for Trees". He announced that his next concrete FOR



FOREST project would be to build a village of the future, with nature, not against it: "We already have all the necessary technology, knowledge and financial resources. I am burning for this project, and I want to help so that forests never burn again."

HEALTHY PLANET – HEALTHY PEOPLE

The links and dependencies between a healthy planet and human health were pointed out in an interview with **Maria Neira**, Director of Public Health at the World Health Organization (WHO). She argued that the destruction of natural ecosystems and poor management of wildlife has led to an increase in infectious diseases that originate in wildlife and spread to humans. In her opinion, the outbreak of a pandemic was only a matter of time. When asked what needed to change to address these developments, she made the following points:

- Harmonization of human and nature: The destruction of natural habitats must be stopped!
- Basic health care, access to safe water and sanitation for all!
- Sustainable energy supply: Stop burning and subsidizing fossil fuels!
- Responsible, sustainable consumption & production
- Sustainable planning of cities and health systems



Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of Costa Rica, explained in a short video statement the nature-based approach to climate protection: "Costa Rica's contribution to climate protection is based on our long-term, simple but effective strategy, which is based on the principles of nature: the conservation and preservation of high-quality land and marine ecosystems."

Arnold Schwarzenegger intervened here again, adding how important it is to establish the link between environmental destruction and human health. Only then will we become aware of the effects on each individual: Air pollution, for example, is responsible, for serious heart and lung diseases, killing seven million people around the world every year.

GREEN RECOVERY PLAN

Considerable financial resources are required for the practical implementation of the Green Recovery Plans. These are provided by the European Investment Bank (EIB), among others. Managing Director **Wilhelm Molterer** explained the role of the EIB in this context: "The EIB's mission is simple: to turn visions into reality and translate objectives into investments". The EIB Group aims to support investments in climate protection and environmental sustainability up to 1 trillion euros in the decade from 2021 to 2030. Furthermore, the EIB Group will base all its financing activities until the end of 2020 on the principles and objectives of the Paris Agreement. It is also important that more private funds are integrated into these financing arrangements. According to Molterer, for

successful implementation, clear targets and priorities are foremost needed from all EU countries, e.g. in the areas of sustainable transport, clean energy, digitalization or start-ups as a driving force for innovation.

The Austrian Federal Minister for Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, **Leonore Gewessler**, the first Green Minister in this office, also spoke on the subject of Green Recovery. With a rescue package of 2 billion euros, Austria will make targeted investments in measures for climate action and environmental protection. The infrastructure sector plays a decisive role in this because these long-term systems (such as buildings or train lines)



determine emissions for decades, even centuries. The money will flow specifically into the energy-efficient renovation of houses or the modernization of the railroad infrastructure. Minister Gewessler highlighted one aspect in particular: "It is crucial that we stop investing in the past. That is why investments in fossil infrastructure have been excluded". The goals for the next four years are very ambitious. Austria wants to become climate neutral by 2040 and produce 100% green electricity by 2030. Therefore also a tax reform is underway that aims to introduce a CO₂ price by 2022. In the mobility sector, the focus is on the 1-2-3 flat-rate ticket, an integrated public transport service for three euros per day. She concluded by pointing out that international climate justice must be taken seriously. For this reason, Austria has quintupled its contribution to the Green Climate Fund (25 million euros per year) in order to provide greater support for climate protection in developing countries as well.

9. One2One Talk: John Kerry und Arnold Schwarzenegger

Arnold Schwarzenegger asked **John Kerry**, former U.S. Secretary of State, for an interview. He is one of the architects of the Paris Agreement and a Democrat. Nevertheless, he has a long friendship with Arnold Schwarzenegger - a Republican. Even during his time as governor of California, they regularly exchanged ideas on climate and environmental protection across party boundaries.



John Kerry co-founded the climate initiative "WORLD WAR ZERO" last year. This initiative aims to help involve people around the world in the fight for truth; climate change is real and scientifically proven! The goal is to use unusual alliances between different parties, social groups, different nations and new voices to fundamentally change the public discourse on climate change.

Arnold asked John Kerry about the status of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, knowing that most countries have not yet fulfilled the promises they made in Paris in 2015. It was "more than disappointing," Kerry replied. It is "a threat to the sustainability of this planet." When the negotiations took place in Paris, it was clear that no binding greenhouse gas reduction targets could be adopted. But no one expected the US president to withdraw from the agreement shortly after COP21 (in Paris, 2015). This was a shock for all countries that fought for the agreement. However, it was still the case that there was no alternative to the Paris Agreement to fight the global temperature rise. This was also an enormous economic opportunity, a gain for health and millions of jobs would be created. "We know how to do it, but we were not yet ready to do it".

In addition to international agreements that follow top-down approaches, Kerry said it is important to push for bottom-up climate protection strategies. When US President Trump announced his withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, numerous US Governors appeared together the very next day to make clear that they were still part of the Paris Agreement ("We are still in" coalition). 38 states, representing 80% of the U.S. population, have already adopted action plans for renewable energies and ambitious climate targets, and climate protection is also taking place at the city level - for example in the energy, building and mobility sectors.

10. CLIMATE ACTION STORIES, Part II



Vanessa Nakate, climate activist from Uganda, reminded in her video message that the Congo rainforest is the basis of life for 80 million people. This represents the lungs of the African continent, but equally part of the lungs of the world. She called for the protection of this area: "Use your platforms to draw attention to the rainforest in Congo. Use your voice to speak about the rainforest, because the livelihoods of millions of people depend on it".

SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

Klemens Hallmann, Managing Director of a large, successful real estate company, was for the fourth time Leading Partner of AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT. HALLMANN HOLDING and its residential property developer, SÜBA AG, have decades of industry experience and form a strong partnership. The Group's core objective is to create high-quality living space planned according to sustainable criteria. A further goal of SÜBA AG is to avoid the use of fossil fuel heating systems in all current and future projects. New technologies such as the use of geothermal energy, building component activation, photovoltaics, wind power and intermediate energy storage make it possible to control the temperature of residential buildings with a minimum of energy input in the future. This reduces energy consumption, leads to significantly lower operating costs and increases the quality of life. Hallmann named a concrete project in this regard: "A milestone for climate-friendly construction is currently being planned: In Pilszgasse in Vienna's Floridsdorf district, the city's first Plus Energy Quarter is being built on 34,000 m² gross floor area (residential + commercial) in cooperation with the City of Vienna. Because you can only be strong together".



Arnold Schwarzenegger always emphasizes the power of cities and regions to drive climate protection forward (bottom-up approach). The province of Lower Austria is playing a pioneering role in this area, not least in the building sector. **Johanna Mikl-Leitner**, Governor of Lower Austria, explained how this role is to be continued. In this federal state, 100% of the energy demand is already covered by renewable energies. Ecological building is also an important solution, such as a new justice building, which is one of the largest passive houses. In the future, the state will continue to expand photovoltaics and to further promote the focus on e-mobility and the expansion of public transport. Political decisions must go hand in hand with personal decisions, from consumer decisions to vacation planning.

CITIES FIGHTING POLLUTION



Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles and Chairman of C40, spoke to kick off the thematic block "Cities Fighting Pollution". He stressed that after Corona "back to normal" is not an option, we need to go further for a healthy and sustainable future. He reported: "In Los Angeles we have agreed a Green New Deal with the goal of becoming climate neutral by 2050 at the latest. As Chairman of C40 Cities, I work with mayors around the world to equip our cities with the tools, knowledge, will and strategy to drive the green recovery,

protect our health, preserve our environment and get our people back to work!"



Next speaker, **Birgit Hebein**, Vice Mayor of Vienna, is responsible for mobility and climate protection, among other things, and came to the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT by bicycle herself. She emphasized that climate protection could not be successful without a change in mobility; mobility is the central challenge in cities. 40% of emissions are caused by traffic and Vienna has set itself the goal of halving this number by 2030. "We must always link climate protection with the social aspect, for example when it comes to

the question of who owns public space. I am convinced that it belongs to the people and not to the cars - so step by step we are recapturing the "car roads" because two thirds of the space still belongs to the cars." The goal remains that people can move freely and safely. To this end, thousands of trees have been planted in Vienna, creating shady, cool places that make an enormous contribution to the quality of life. In Vienna a lot is also invested in public transport, there is a special offer to use all public transport for 1 Euro per day. Arnold Schwarzenegger commented that the mayors are the real Climate Action Heroes, because they bring the projects to the ground. It is irrelevant to which party they belong, as long as they understand, implement and maintain the necessary measures.



Kevin Faulconer, Mayor of San Diego (U.S.), sent the following message to Vienna: "In San Diego, we brought Republicans and Democrats together to adopt a groundbreaking climate action plan to protect our air, water and environment. In just five years, we have managed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in San Diego by 24% and we are on our way to 100% renewable energy.

SAFE AND HEALTHY WATER

In this CLIMATE ACTION STORY a resource that is just as crucial to human life as air was the focus: water. More than two billion people worldwide still have no access to clean drinking water. **Andreas Weißenbacher**, CEO of the global water treatment company BWT, explained that this is not a knowledge problem, but an implementation problem. Billions of plastic bottles containing drinking water are transported around the globe every day, which further heats up the planet. BWT offers solutions to this problem. The most efficient technologies are used to produce local, safe drinking water from local resources, where it is consumed. He concluded by appealing to the audience: "We must act now, otherwise the climate will teach us a lesson, and this could lead to a real tragedy."



Afterwards **Imran Khan**, Prime Minister of Pakistan reported that 20 years ago people were not taken seriously when talking about climate change, but that today everyone can see that climate change is real: temperature records in Siberia, melting polar caps,



fires in Australia and California, more and more cyclones and hurricanes. "We in Pakistan realized about a decade ago that the glaciers in the mountains are melting faster and faster. The glaciers that feed our rivers with water, on which so many people depend. So seven years ago we set ourselves the goal of planting one billion trees, and we achieved that goal, so we set ourselves the next goal of ten billion trees," he also concluded with a call for more Climate Action.

11. Thanks to the Partners of the AWS2020

To express thanks to all the supporters of this year's AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT Arnold Schwarzenegger stepped forward again: "In this difficult year, it was particularly important for the successful implementation of the event to have strong and loyal partners at our side to give climate change a voice."



12. Decoration of honor for Arnold Schwarzenegger

At the end of the AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT, there was another special highlight: the first transatlantic presentation of honorary decorations. On behalf of the Republic of Austria, Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen presented Arnold Schwarzenegger with the Grand Decoration of Honor in Gold with the star for his services to Austrian - American relations and his internationally outstanding commitment to one of the central issues of mankind - overcoming the climate crisis.

