

R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT 2019: Arnold Schwarzenegger and Greta Thunberg team up

Governments should finally stop making empty promises and act now.

Vienna, May 28th - "It is time for all of our doubters and producers of pollution to join us and move forward together", this was Arnold Schwarzenegger's urgent appeal at the third R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT to all those who continue to deny climate change and its consequences. "We are asking you to stop lying to the people about climate change and pollution and to offer them solutions instead of 'Bullshit'. We ask you to see the trends and join the forward march of progress, instead of trying to hold us back at every opportunity," the former Governor of California continued. But he also let all sceptics know: "We are asking you to prepare yourselves so that you can continue to make your profits and create jobs, not by polluting the world, but in the clean economy of the future."

Arnold Schwarzenegger chose the motto for the R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT for a good reason- "less talk, more action". For too long there have been discussions, too long there were no concrete objectives, too long the effects of climate change were ignored. Now there is an urgent need for concrete measures and commitment to climate protection. Schwarzenegger was therefore particularly pleased that this year the Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg accepted his invitation to the R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT. After all, it was she who initiated a global movement with her school strike against climate change. At the climate conference Greta Thunberg took the opportunity to address an urgent wake-up call to the over 1,000 participants regarding the current situation: „We need to call it what it is: an emergency! We children are not leaders, nor are the scientists, but many of you here are. People listen to you, but most of you have failed to take this responsibility. We young people are waking up and we promise, we won't let you get away with it anymore."

The Austrian Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen, who held the patronage of the conference for the third time, was also very clear in his speech: "We know that the climate crisis is affecting global economic development, that it threatens agriculture, tourism, water and energy supply. And ultimately peace, security, social cohesion and prosperity for all of us. We know all this. So what needs to be done? We must reverse the trend in greenhouse gas emissions NOW!"

UN Secretary-General António Guterres agreed: " Climate disruption is upon us, and it is progressing faster than our efforts to address it. We need a post-carbon economy, a climate-smart development pathway that can provide inclusive prosperity for all on a healthy planet. I know we can do this – provided we have the political will." Guterres himself will hold a climate summit in New York in September, inviting leaders to come forward with concrete plans to promote the climate change measures that are so necessary. "My goal for the summit is to showcase a leap in national and collective

political ambition. I want the world to pull together to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees and fulfil the promise of the Paris Agreement."

The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT was not only a discussion, but also a demonstration of what is already possible in concrete terms. Best practice examples from all over the world were showcased. Because it is precisely these concrete implementations, the support of innovative projects for climate protection and the corresponding networking of companies and regions that are at stake. The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT thus showed that the climate conference has established itself as one of the most important platforms for important players in the climate field worldwide. The date of the next conference has already been set: 26 May 2020.

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