



Carbon sequestration: the non-utopian version of achieving climate neutrality

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In Europe, but especially in the European Union, there is ridiculous talk about "zero carbon emissions" (Pamucar et al 2021), which is utopian and absurd. For "zero carbon emissions" the total deindustrialization of Europe and a society that would live according to the model of the Stone Age would be necessary. But we can realistically discuss "zero net carbon emissions". This is achievable, but much more likely to be achieved by increasing the carbon sequestration capacity than by deindustrialization, "carbon footprint" and "human tracking" (which would be real attacks on the individual freedoms of the human being).

The acquisition of land by the state and its massive afforestation would increase the carbon sequestration capacity and achieve neutrality. This could be achieved through national programs coordinated by the European Union. Although massive afforestation would be much more efficient and less expensive than forced deindustrialization, "carbon footprint" and "human tracking", these large-scale afforestation policy initiatives are missing at the European Union level, which is incomprehensible. Why insist exclusively on policies to reduce emissions to absurd requirements, which drive manufacturers of electronic equipment, household appliances and motor vehicles out of the European market? Why?

Reducing energy consumption is a sound and justified principle, but it depends on how far these energy reduction policies extend. No matter how much the laws of the European Union would like to reduce energy consumption, the reduction will be stopped, because the laws of physics are above. The laws of physics make it impossible to endlessly reduce the energy consumption of equipment and machines, which the European political bureaucracy refuses to understand. Often, the forced reduction of energy consumption of equipment and household appliances is accompanied by a lower quality and lower efficiency of the product, so a necessarily prolonged use to achieve the goal for which it was created (which means higher consumption of energy) and a shorter lifespan, so faster scrapping (which means higher carbon emissions per unit of time). It should be borne in mind that real brands respect their coat of arms and often refuse to produce low-quality electronic equipment, household appliances and cars that have minimal consumption and would leave the European Union market, which would be a suicidal gesture for the European Union economy.

We all know the faunal abundance of planet Earth in the Jurassic and especially of carnivores (Farlow et al 2022) (Figure 1). It was the height of the age of giant sauropods, which emitted carbon and methane well above today's polluting potential of cows, which are blamed for global warming (Moss et al 2000). How was the quality of the atmosphere not out of control in the Jurassic with those giants dominating the planet both in diversity and in numbers and quantity? It's simple: the fern and gymnosperm forests neutralized the carbon emissions of the fauna through perfect self-regulation. In

conclusion, the problems of our planet today are: 1) deforestation, 2) lack of massive afforestation initiative through national or European policies, and 3) industry (which should be controlled and not totally strangled).



Figure 1. The Jurassic, imagined by Lucas Attwell (wikipedia.org).

Conflict of interest. Authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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