



To the point!

Cross-Asset- and Strategy-Research

Overtime in Dubai

The COP28 summit has found the right words. Now its time for action!

Alle Jahre wieder! No, I'm not trying to encourage you to sing German Christmas carols, although now would also be a good time to do so. "Alle Jahre wieder" means every year again, and that not only applies to Christmas but to the world climate conference. The "Conference of the Parties", or COP for short, convenes every year at this time in a similar manor. This time it was conducted, of all places, in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Under the leadership of Sultan Ahmed al-Jaber, the CEO of Abu Dhabi's national oil company. A poacher turned gamekeeper?

To be fair, the conference organizers kept their conflict of interest as a major oil producer somewhat in check. The role of the fossil dinosaur was rather played by Saudi Arabia. The pressure from Riyadh led to a draft of the final text that was so soft that the negotiations threatened to collapse earlier in the week.

Oil or no oil, that's the question

So the summit went into extra time and continued negotiations beyond its scheduled end. Alle Jahre wieder – just like every year. The main point of contention was whether the phase-out of fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) was explicitly demanded in the communiqué or merely proposed as an option (which is clearly what the Saudis wanted). After all, fossil fuels are responsible for around three quarters of all greenhouse gas emissions. In the end, a compromise was reached. In addition to tripling the capacity of renewable energies by 2030, a faster phase-out of fossil fuels is now also being called for.

The truth of an intention is the deed

Putting it on paper doesn't guarantee action. What is crucial now is that the transformation actually gains momentum. Because

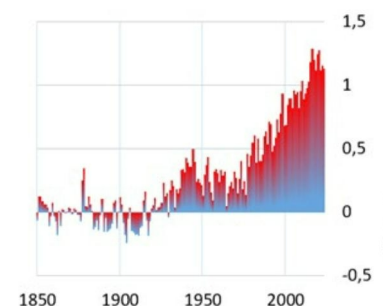
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December 15, 2023

Compromise at the climate summit

Global Air Temperature (Deviation from global mean surface temperature 1850 to 1900)



Data until 2022
Source: Met Office Hadley Centre und WMO

humanity is currently losing the battle against climate change. 2023 was another [record year](#): between January and November, the global temperature was 1.46 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial average and 0.13 degrees above 2016, the hottest year on record. The limit set at the Paris climate summit eight years ago of keeping the temperature rise below 1.5 degrees has therefore almost been reached. And as the chart shows, everything points to global warming continuing to accelerate. Has time already run out?

O dear, O deary, when the end comes sad and dreary

When we talk about climate protection, we actually mean human protection. Because the climate doesn't care. It will outlive us all, whether it's warmer or colder. We humans are in danger. Even here in the temperate climate zones. Droughts, forest fires and floods have once again been a permanent fixture on the evening news this year. And that's just the trailer.

But people in the so-called Global South will suffer the most. Not just the inhabitants of Pacific island states, whose habitats are in danger of being submerged by rising sea levels. But also those close to us, on the doorstep of Europe. The climatic conditions in the Sahel region, for example, are becoming increasingly incompatible with human existence. It is estimated that almost 200 million people will live in the six African countries sharing the Sahel alone by 2045. And the densely populated Middle East and North Africa are facing similar challenges.

If we do not stop climate change, we risk migration movements of dystopian proportions in the coming decades. That is why it was right and important to fight for every word in Dubai. But talk is cheap. It has become critical to finally put words into action. Time is of the essence!

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2023 is the
hottest year
ever measured

Entire regions
of the world
could become
uninhabitable
