

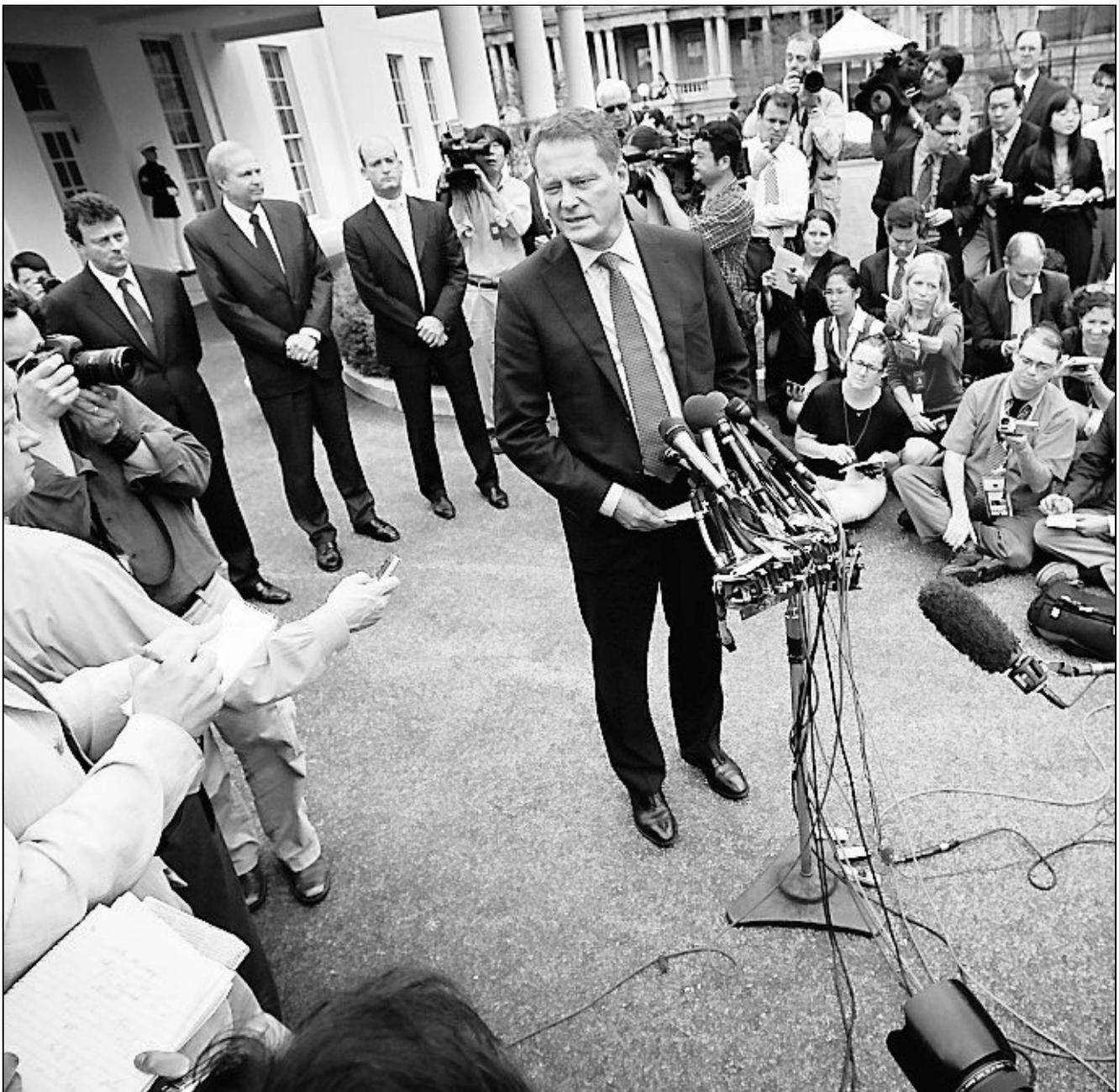


ethecon

Foundation Ethics & Economics

ethecon **Black Planet Award 2010**

On the bestowal of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2010 on Tony Hayward, Bob Dudley, Carl-Henric Svanberg, other responsible executives and the major shareholders of the oil- and energy corporation BP/Great Britain



Cover Photo

The photo depicts a BP company press conference covering the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in the summer of 2010 which took place in front of the seat of the US government, the White House in Washington. At the microphone is chairman of the board Carl-Henric Svanberg, behind him former CEO Tony Hayward (left) and the CEO-designate Bob Dudley (second from left).

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The International ethecon Awards 2010:
Blue Planet Award 2010 (right)
Black Planet Award 2010 (left)
(Picture: Johannes Nies)





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Axel Köhler-Schnura¹

**The International ethecon Blue Planet Project²
and the two International ethecon Awards**

**Speech on the occasion of the bestowal of the two
International ethecon Awards 2010 on November 20, 2010 in Berlin**

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Since 2006 ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics has bestowed two international awards annually. Today we are here to present the awards for 2010.

What are these awards? What are the ethecon awards all about?

In order to answer these questions, I must expand a bit.

My fellow founders of ethecon, the sustaining members, donors and of course myself, along with Mrs. Rehmann, both of us founding sponsors of ethecon, established the foundation in 2004. As individuals who are not willing to sit back and watch fundamental ethical principles be trampled upon, who resolutely take a stand against the fact that profit is increasingly the sole motivating force in our society and in managing the environment - for the sole purpose of making the rich richer, to the detriment of mankind and society with the risk of complete human, social and ecological ruin. We are looking at the social and ecological destruction of the planet caused by the disintegration of fundamental ethical principles on the part of those responsible for the economy.

The idea to encourage efforts to save and preserve ethical principles and respectively to pillory those who have contempt for the same, matured in our founding year 2004. There are and have been many

¹ Axel Köhler-Schnura, Dipl.Kfm., Düsseldorf/Germany, born in 1949, married, four children (one deceased); studied business administration, sociology, computer science, various languages: Until 1976 economic sociology research within the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft/DFG (German Research Institute). After that various positions in private industry, the last position in the executive management of a polygraphical company. Since 1988 owner of companies in the field of ecology. Substantially involved in the founding of organizations as Dachverband der Kritischen AktionärInnen (Association of the Critical Shareholders), Pestizid Aktionsnetzwerk (Pesticide Action Network Germany/PAN) and the Coordination gegen BAYER-Gefahren (Coalition against BAYER-Dangers/CBG). Active as a volunteer on the board of Edition Kunst gegen Konzerne (Edition Art against Corporations), the Alternative Savings and Solidarity Fund ProSolidar and the international network of the Coalition against BAYER-Dangers. Founding donor and chairperson of the board of directors of the International ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics; formerly in the German Coordinating Circle of the European Social Forum. Frequent publications. Awarded with the Prize for Civil Courage 2000; in 2008 nominated for the Alternative Nobel Prize. (Quoted from inter alia Who's Who/Edition for Germany on Wikipedia/Germany)

² Detailed information about the International ethecon Blue Planet Project in the form of a brochure may be ordered free of charge from ethecon.



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awards honoring "achievements" in various areas of society, but far too few prizes acknowledging resistance against the abuse and ruin of ethics and morals, and the subsequent environmental destruction, war and exploitation.

Our idea coincided with the art cycle "Blue Planet" created by the artist Otto Piene. Otto Piene – born in 1928 – is one of the major artists of the 20th century. Art connoisseurs well know that together with Heinz Mack and Günther Uecker he founded the epochal ZERO-Kunst (the art group ZERO) and is the creator of Sky Art.³

Piene's message in his blue planet cycle: "Keep the Blue Planet green!" His creed is as simple as it is amazing: "Yes, I dream of a better world. Why would I dream of a worse one?"

With their main focus on an international award, Piene and ethecon launched the "International ethecon Blue Planet Project". During the ensuing discussions it became apparent that it is not enough to acknowledge ethically and morally sound actions intended to bring about a better world. It is equally important to condemn misdeeds and dealings which violate and ignore ethics and morals and which are therefore responsible for the ruin of our "Blue Planet." The idea of two complementary prizes was born: the international ethecon-prizes, the positive "Blue Planet Award" and its negative counterpart, the "Black Planet Award".

The two awards are an entity, two sides of the same coin. Together they mirror the status of the ethical principles that define our world. At the same time they illustrate a vision of ethical and moral principles which make possible a world without exploitation and oppression. They denounce ruthlessness, greed, war and environmental destruction; pursue the ideas of solidary, freedom, environmental protection and justice; call for resistance, change and commitment in the interest of these ideals; strive for a sustainable future for our world.

One prize commends commitment to the preservation and rescue of the "Blue Planet" and points out prospects and possible actions, the other condemns the desecration of our world, points out the imminent dawn of a "Black Planet" and exposes complacency and ignorance.

Together, the two international ethecon awards show one thing: there are grounds for hope. Or, in the words of Piene: "More light, more green!"

³ More about Otto Piene and his work may be found in the brochure "The International ethecon Blue Planet Project" (may be requested free of charge from ethecon).



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As a matter of principle, the international ethecon prizes are awarded only to individuals and not to institutions. This is to counteract the increasing systematic anonymization of decision-making for, in a positive as well as a negative sense, it is always individuals who carry responsibility. Especially in the case of negative developments, personal responsibility is gladly hidden behind the facade of institutions and excused by alleged practical constraints which serve as grounds for decisions.

Another important feature of the "Black Planet" trophy is that it is not a valuable piece of art. Instead, it is a cheap disposable product, created by a teenager. Because it is the younger generation whose future is being destroyed. It is the intention of ethecon to show young people that there are adults who take responsibility for their welfare, who care about their future and who make all efforts necessary to assure that the planet is not left to our children and grandchildren as a barren desert.

The international ethecon prizes are awarded annually, within a ceremony open to the public, like today. We invite as many socially active personalities as possible to take part. At today's ceremony members of the Anti-Castor (nuclear transport) movement are present, as well as Stuttgart21 (a controversial construction project) activists; we have statements from Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Pro Asyl and other groups from Germany and abroad.

The recipient of the "International ethecon Blue Planet Award" is invited to attend the ceremony and has the opportunity to give a short speech. After a statement by an ethecon representative, explaining the reasons for the choice of the recipient, he or she is then presented with the award. As a guest of the foundation we also offer him or her the possibility to co-operate with the foundation or within our network. The bestowal of the "International ethecon Blue Planet Award" is documented in a dossier, which is translated into three languages and distributed internationally.

The process differs for the "International ethecon Black Planet Award": during the ceremony the bestowal is simply announced. The award winners are informed by means of an open letter circulated internationally in three languages. The detailed justification statement is published in a brochure, which is also distributed in three languages throughout the world. Within six months the recipients are presented with the award during a public demonstration, staged as sensationally as possible. Included in this protest gathering are as many individuals and organisations from international social movements as possible.

It is a telling fact that, as a rule, the individuals "honored" with the international ethecon Black Planet Award" disdain the trophy. Not one of these censured persons has personally accepted the award and thereby stood up to public criticism. Up until now, only once – in the case of Peter Brabeck-Letmathe,



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Liliane de Bettencourt as well as other executives and major shareholders of the food industry giant Nestlé in 2006 – was the trophy voluntarily accepted by the recipients. And then by a representative of the press department in front of the main gate to the corporate headquarters in Switzerland. We have no knowledge of what happened to it after that.

In the case of the bestowal of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2009 onto the major shareholders and executives of the Taiwanese chemical and genetic engineering firm Formosa Plastics Group we were witnesses to the destruction of the trophy by security forces, who in a very angry and demonstrative manner threw the award into the rubbish bin.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

"ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics" is a grass-roots foundation within the world-wide anti-corporate and anti-globalisation movements for environmental protection, peace and justice and sustained by activists against corporate power, exploitation, war and environmental destruction. It is connected to world-wide networks and committed to the principles of international solidarity.

The "International ethecon Blue Planet Project", with its two international ethecon prizes, sees itself accordingly as a symbol of this solidarity and these principles. This is expressed not only through the nature of the project and the awards and through the character of the award recipients, but also in the selection procedure for the annual prizes.

The award winners are not selected by the foundation boards alone, but rather in a process of international solidarity. Each spring, thousands of individuals and groups who work actively throughout the world in the fight for peace, justice and environmental protection are asked to suggest award nominees. Later, the names of the award winners and information about the bestowal ceremony are conveyed back to these critical groups.

The integration of the foundation in international movements for peace, environmental protection and justice may be clearly seen in the increasing participation of other groups in the presentation "ceremony" for the "International ethecon Black Planet Award", the networking among these groups becoming consistently better and better. The award is presented in the recipient's city of residence, accompanied by visible protests staged by an increasing number of activist groups. The public flogging of the "Black Planet Award" recipients has become more and more effective through the power and energy of these international movements. In Taiwan, for example, the "International ethecon Black Planet



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Award 2009" was the object of widespread media coverage for weeks. The defaming of the executives of Formosa Plastics was reported without exception by all the regional media at least twice.

The selection of the annual award receivers on these basic principles, the annual bestowal ceremony in the course of a conference with varying themes pertaining to our responsibility for the preservation of a liveable world, the presentation of the "International ethecon Black Planet Award" - accompanied by international publicity actions - this is the essence of the "International ethecon Blue Planet Project".

When the Blue Planet Award was born in 2005, we needed an accompanying trophy. Otto Piene agreed to cooperate with us and starting in 2006 he created a new trophy each year, the "International ethecon Blue Planet Award", as a valuable and unique glass and wood sculpture.

That is, until the year 2009. Then he asked us – having in the meantime reached the age of 82 – to be relieved of this role. In the person of Katharina Mayer, the great photographic artist and Becher pupil, born in 1958, we found someone who will worthily continue the Blue Planet Project, founded by ethecon and Piene. We are proud to have Katharina Mayer on our team. We will learn more about her later in the programme.⁴

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

I know we are all curious about this year's award winners, but also about Katharina Mayer, who will speak to us today about the new "International ethecon Blue Planet Award" trophy. In this spirit I wish all of us an engrossing afternoon.

Thank you very much.

⁴ More about Katharina Mayer and her work may be found in the brochure International ethecon Blue Planet Project (may be requested free of charge).



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Excerpt from the statement justifying the censure of Tony Hayward, Bob Dudley, Carl-Henric Svanberg, as well as further executives and major stockholders of the oil- and energy company BP/Great Britain through the bestowal of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2010.

.....

Responsible for the decisions and actions of the BP company are the major shareholders and the executive management. They are accountable for the ruin of human health and the destruction of the environment on a grand scale, as well as for the death of numerous people. They pose a threat not only to peace and human rights, but also to democracy, ecology and humanity as a whole. They act solely in their own interest, for personal power and private wealth. To these ends, they flout morals and ethics and knowingly risk the downfall of the Earth as a "Black Planet"

ethecon sees in the actions of the major shareholders, former CEO Tony Hayward, his successor Bob Dudley, board chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg and the rest of the executive management a flagrant contribution to the ruin and destruction of our Blue Planet. For this shocking disdain and violation of human ethics ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics condemns the accountable people at the BP company with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2010.

....."

Berlin, September 01, 2010⁵

⁵ The ethecon Foundation has deliberately chosen September 1st as the date for the announcement of the winners of the two annual International ethecon Awards. September 1st is World Peace/Anti-War Day in Germany.



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The winners of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2010

Regarding the history of the name British Petroleum: in 1904 the German Petroleum Stock Corporation (Deutsche Petroleum-Aktiengesellschaft - DPAG), was founded in Germany and merged into the European Petroleum-Union (EPU) in 1906. In the same year EPU founded the British Petroleum Company to manage the distribution of its products in Great Britain. At the beginning of World War I this company was confiscated by the British government and ceded in 1917 to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (APOC)⁶ which became the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC) in 1935 after Persia's name was changed to Iran.⁷ In 1954 the company's name was changed to BP.

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company was founded in 1909 to exploit the oil recently discovered in Iran. The fees paid by the oil companies to the government were at first much less than those later paid by the US oil companies. After the nationalist Mohammed Mossadeq became Prime Minister in 1951, the Iranian parliament nationalized the entire oil industry. The National Iranian Oil Company replaced the AIOC. The AIOC withdrew its management from Iran and organized the boycott of Iranian oil. As the owner of AIOC, the British government tried to contest the nationalization at the International Court of Justice in Den Haag, but was unsuccessful.

In the spring of 1953 US president Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized the CIA to organize a coup, with the support of the British government, against the Iranian government, led by Mossadeq. Working together with the Persian shah and the military, they forcibly overthrew the democratically-elected Mossadeq on August 19, 1953. The takeover - well-known by its code-name "Operation Ajax" - was accompanied by the brutal persecution of all progressive and democratic forces. AIOC played a part in this Anglo-American usurpation and then returned to Iran. It was, however, no longer allowed to monopolize Iranian oil and was limited to a 40 percent share in a new international consortium.

The BP company first expanded its operations beyond the borders of the Middle East by going to Alaska in 1959 and then in 1965 to the North Sea. In 1978 the company acquired a controlling interest in a US American oil company, Standard Oil of Ohio. BP's 70-year presence in Iran was brought to an end in 1979 by the Islamic Revolution, when Ayatollah Khomeini confiscated the company's assets without compensation.

By means of various consolidations and take-overs, the BP company expanded to such a degree that it is today not only the third largest oil company in the world, but also number four – judged according

⁶ cf. [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/BP_\(Konzern\)](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/BP_(Konzern))

⁷ cf. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bp> - if not otherwise marked, the following information is from this source



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to sales volume - on the list of the world's largest companies.⁸ Among its brands and subsidiaries today are Aral, ARCO, am/pm, Castrol, Wild Bean Café and many others. In the meantime, after a merger, its name was changed to BP Amoco. In 2000 its name was once again BP and the company launched its new slogan "Beyond Petroleum". For this it was presented with the satirical "Emerald Paintbrush" in 2008 by the British section of Greenpeace, in an attempt to show that the slogan was just an act of green-washing and did not represent any change in its environmentally destructive practices. In place of "Beyond Petroleum" Greenpeace suggested the slogan "back to petroleum", particularly in view of the BP's capital investments in 2008: Of these, 93 percent was allotted to oil and gas, 2.79 percent to wind energy, 2.79 percent to biological fuels and only 1.39 percent to solar energy.⁹ Because of this striking discrepancy between the PR-campaign and reality, BP was also the sole nominee for the "Greenwash Awards" in 2009.¹⁰

On the grounds of its environmental and human rights records, BP was named by "Mother Jones Magazine", an investigative journal that "exposes the evils of the corporate world, the government and the mainstream media", as one of the ten worst corporations in both 2001 and 2005. The reasons for this listing include amongst others:

- > Based on data concerning toxic emissions, BP was declared the most polluting company in the USA by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1991.
- > BP has been was fined \$1.7 million for burning polluting gases at its Ohio refinery.
- > Between 1993 and 1995 one of BP's subsidiaries illegally discarded residual oil, paint thinner and other toxic and hazardous substances. The local branch involved had to pay a fine of \$22 million. It had failed to report the illegal waste disposal after discovering it, which was clearly a violation¹¹ of the law.
- > Up until 1997 BP was a member of the "Global Climate Coalition", an industry organization which deliberately spread skepticism and disinformation regarding climate change. BP stayed in this alliance until it could no longer do so without hurting its own image, for in the meantime more and more scientific studies had attested to the existence of climate change and knowledge of the same had spread within the general public.

⁸ cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_companies_by_revenue

⁹ cf. jossc-Blog: BP wins coveted "Emerald Paintbrush" award for worst greenwash of 2008, <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/climate/bps-wins-coveted-emerald-paintbrush-award-worst-greenwash-2008-20081218>

¹⁰ cf. <http://www.climategreenwash.org/bp>

¹¹ The violation occurred against the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (also called "Superfund"), a US federal law that aims to ensure the clean-up of areas that have been contaminated by hazardous substances.



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- > According to studies conducted by the non-profit-organization "Public Interest Research Group", active in the USA and Canada, BP was responsible for 104 oil leaks between January 1997 and March 1998.
- > In July 2000 BP paid a fine amounting to 10 million dollars to the EPA for the negligent management of its US-American refineries.
- > Between August 2006 and October 2007 several incidents occurred harmful to the environment in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. Among others, in one case a large amount of a mixture of crude oil and diesel fuel leaked out of a corroded pipe. Another time the Alaskan Department of Environmental Conservation announced the leakage of a mixture consisting primarily of methanol with some crude oil and water. Methanol, which is toxic to plants and animals, is used to clear ice from the insides of the Arctic-based pipelines.
- > In 2007 BP loudly proclaimed, that in the course of the next ten years, it would spend eight billion dollars to research alternative sources of energy such as natural gas, hydrogen, solar and wind. However, the most it ever invested in green technology was a mere 4 percent of the total research budget. BP has since closed down its central office for alternative energy in London. The company has admittedly invested more in alternative energy than other oil companies. However, due to the relative size of the investment, we may certainly speak here of "green-washing": a "green look" is simply good for the image.
- > Between April and May 2010 malfunctioning equipment in the BP refinery in Texas City led to the release of over 530,000 pounds of chemicals, which contaminated the air in the city and the surrounding areas. The emissions included 17,000 pounds of benzene (a known carcinogen), 37,000 pounds of nitrogen oxides (which contribute to respiratory problems) and 186,000 pounds of carbon monoxide, a gas which is color-, odor- and tasteless as well as toxic.
- > The explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil platform on April 20, 2010 was the biggest oil disaster in the history of mankind. It killed 11 workers and was responsible for a leak which could not be stopped for several months, simply because no advance provisions had been made for such a crisis scenario. According to official statements, 780 million litres of crude oil poured into the Gulf of Mexico.¹² Almost 80 percent of this amount had not been recovered by August 2010.¹³ Ostensibly to bind the oil, BP deployed the extremely damaging and toxic solvent Corexit¹⁴, which is prohibited in Europe.

¹² cf. <http://www.stern.de/wissen/natur/forscher-widersprechen-washington-das-oel-ist-immer-noch-da-draussen-1594310.html> (The oil is still there)

¹³ ibidem

¹⁴ cf. [http://www.rikiott.com/pdf/9527A MSDS.pdf](http://www.rikiott.com/pdf/9527A%20MSDS.pdf)



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This chemical was, however, in reality used not to clean the oil-contaminated water, but rather to refurbish BP's scarred reputation. The solvent breaks down the oil into smaller particles, which then sink to a lower level, where they can neither be decomposed by bacteria nor sucked up by cleaning hoses. Unfortunately, they may also be more easily ingested by fish, coral and organisms living on the ocean floor, resulting in possible damage to these organisms.¹⁵ Toxic test analyses show the effect of Corexit on the mortality rate of these organisms to be higher than that of crude oil.¹⁶ Obviously, BP is not interested in the welfare of the environment when it deploys large quantities of this solvent to "clean" waters.

- > Instead of learning from its mistakes, BP would in the future neither discontinue its on-going deep sea drilling operations nor abandon plans for new wells off the coast of Libya in the Mediterranean Sea before the drilling begins, even though these wells would be even deeper than those in the Gulf of Mexico. Opposition to these plans is even slowly growing among Italian and EU politicians.¹⁷
- > Just like other oil companies, BP is trying, "to squeeze the last drop out of old oil fields"¹⁸, for example, by using steam to liquefy viscous crude oil despite the fact that this method of oil extraction produces 4 times the amount of CO₂. BP's operations in the North Sea have consequently become 60 percent more environmentally damaging than in 2004.¹⁹
- > Environmental protection groups have called upon BP to cancel its coal bed methane project in the Rocky Mountains in southeastern British Columbia in Canada. They have also made an appeal to the UN to investigate BP's operations at this site. The planned project, covering 500 square kilometres, directly borders on the International Peace Park at the Waterton-Glacier.
- > BP is one of many firms extracting oil from Canadian tar sands. In this process, 4 times as much carbon dioxide is set free than in conventional drilling. The Cree Indians in the region call this the "largest environmental crime on the planet".²⁰

¹⁵ cf. <http://www.zeit.de/wissen/umwelt/2010-05/oelbekaempfung-chemikalien>

¹⁶ cf. http://www.rikiott.com/pdf/UKcorexit_test_results.pdf

¹⁷ cf. "Riskante Ölförderung: Italien will BP-Bohrung im Mittelmeer stoppen" / <http://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/unternehmen/0,1518,709596,00.html> (Risky Oil Production: Italy would stop BP Drilling in the Mediterranean Sea)

¹⁸ Staud, Toralf: Die Party geht weiter. / Greenpeace Magazin 5.10, September - Oktober, S. 27 (The Party continues)

¹⁹ cf Study by the German Renewable Energy Federation (BEE) and the Association of German Biofuel Industry (VDB), http://www.biokraftstoffverband.de/downloads/1141/BEE231109_FossKraft.pdf / quoted from Staud, see footnote 18

²⁰ cf. Macallister, Terry: Cree aboriginal group to join London climate camp protest over tar sands. Canadian First Nations seek to highlight UK's "criminal" role in CO₂-heavy oil schemes / <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/aug/23/london-tar-sands-climate-protest>



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Again and again BP was responsible for serious safety violations, work accidents and (near-) disasters:

- > In December 1965 thirteen workers were killed during the transport of Great Britain's first oil rig, the Sea Gem, when two of its support columns collapsed and the platform capsized.²¹
- > In March 2005 an explosion occurred at BP's refinery in Texas City, killing 15 and injuring 180 people. Thousands of residents had to seek shelter in their own homes. Hydrocarbon escaped, forming a vapor cloud which then ignited. This accident was the apex of a whole series of less serious accidents at this refinery. Its technical problems were, however, not addressed by the management. Budget cuts led to negligence of the plant's maintenance and safety procedures. Ultimately the executive managers in London were responsible. There were many investigations concerning this accident. The findings of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board were devastating.²² The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) found fault with the organizational and safety deficiencies on all levels of the BP corporation. According to OSHA, management failure could be traced from Texas directly back to London. BP admitted to a violation of the Clean Air Act and was required to pay a 50 million dollar fine and was given a 3-year suspended sentence. In October 2009 OSHA imposed a further penalty of 87 million dollars on BP, the largest fine in the history of OSHA, as BP had still not rectified the safety issues which had become apparent during the explosion. Inspectors had found 270 already known safety deficiencies as well as 439 new ones. BP has appealed this last fine.
- > Between January 2006 and January 2008 three workers were killed in three different accidents at the refinery in Texas City. One of them died when the metal cover of a high-pressure water filtration vessel was blown off, landing on the worker. At fault were bolts, which were "very old and in terrible condition"²³ and could no longer hold down the cover: a death which could have been avoided through proper maintenance.
- > After the explosion at the refinery in Texas City in 2005, this plant as well as the BP refinery in Toledo, Ohio were investigated. As it turned out, these two refineries were responsible for 97 percent of all safety violations willfully committed by oil refineries in the period between June 2007 and Febru-

²¹ cf. The story of the Sea Gem, the first rig to discover North Sea Gas in the UK sector / http://www.dukeswoodoilmuseum.co.uk/sea_gem.htm

²² cf. U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board: Investigation Report: Refinery Explosion and Fire. BP, Texas City, Texas. March 23, 2005. Report No. 2005-04-1-TX, March 2007 / <http://www.csb.gov/assets/document/CSBFinalReportBP.pdf>

²³ cf. Collette, Mark: Attorney: Equipment failed in BP death / <http://www.galvnews.com/story/112980/>



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ary 2010. In numbers, this pertains to 829 out of 851 knowingly committed violations detected by OSHA during their inspections.²⁴

- > In April 2009 a helicopter with 16 people on board crashed on its way to a BP rig in the North Sea off the coast of Scotland. All 16 were killed in the crash.²⁵
- > The Deepwater Horizon explosion with its 11 deaths must again be mentioned. This was the largest oil disaster in ocean waters in the history of the oil industry. The tragedy could have most probably been avoided, if BP had been willing to spend the \$500,000 necessary for appropriate safety provisions.²⁶ In addition, the alarm which would have warned of methane gas leakage had been turned off on orders "from above". The reason given was that workers should not be unnecessarily awakened by false alarms.

The BP company also makes headlines for ethically or politically dubious or even criminal practices:

- > In October 2007 BP had to pay a 303 million dollar fine for the manipulation of the price of propane gas. Penalties issued by the US Ministry of Justice for other offences amounted to a total of 373 million dollars.²⁷
- > In May 2010 the Joint Venture Company TNK-BP, in which BP holds 50 percent, was sentenced in Russia to pay 1.1 billion rubles (35,2 million dollars) for the manipulation of oil prices in 2008.²⁸
- > BP is the major shareholder of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan Pipeline. This project has given grounds for complaints about massive human rights abuses as well as environmental and safety violations. Commentators see this project to be a time-bomb for BP.²⁹
- > In July 2006 BP had to pay Columbian farmers several million pounds on the grounds of a mutual settlement agreement. BP had profited from the terror which paramilitary groups had spread along the Ocesa Pipeline while fulfilling their government assignment to "guard" the pipeline.³⁰

²⁴ cf. Morris, Jim and Pell, M.B.: Renegade Refiner: OSHA Says BP Has "Systemic Safety Problem" / <http://www.publicintegrity.org/articles/entry/2085/>

²⁵ cf. Byers, David: All 16 on board North Sea helicopter killed in crash / <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6020787.ece>

²⁶ cf. http://www.alternet.org/story/147512/the_cost_of_bps_boys_club_why_the_oil_industrys_macho_culture_is_bad_for_women_and_the_environment_?page=1

²⁷ cf. http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2007/October/07_ag_850.html

²⁸ cf. Russian supreme court backs antitrust fines against TNK-BP / <http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/HeadlineNews/Oil/8751289/>

²⁹ cf. Ellis, Hannah: The Baku-Ceyhan Pipeline: BP's Time Bomb / <http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=12340>

³⁰ cf. Verkaik, Robert: BP pays out millions to Colombian farmers / <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/bp-pays-out-millions-to-colombian-farmers-408816.html>



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- > BP repeatedly makes financial contributions to political campaigns in the USA amounting to five million dollars since 1990, of which 72 percent went to the Republicans and 28 percent to the Democrats. At the same time, BP lobbied for exemptions to legal amendments for corporations. BP put an especially large sum of money into this lobby work: 10.4 million US dollars in 2008 and almost 16 million in 2009. There is obvious suspicion that BP thus bought leniency and tolerance from the same agencies which were to over-see its operations – at the expense of the environment.³¹
- > Not only in the USA, but also in Germany money from BP lands in politics. BP retracted its offer to sponsor the Federal President's annual summer party on July 2nd, 2010 in Berlin only after criticism was voiced by the opposition parties. The head of the SPD (Social Democratic Party), Sigmar Gabriel, commented, for example, : "BP should use the money to help the victims of the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico".³² The financing of political-prestigious events by large companies itself was however not categorically questioned.

All of these crimes and offences make the attitude of the responsible managers at BP towards environmental protection, production safety, human rights and even human life blatantly obvious. Convictions, settlements and fines amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars have not led to any policy change by BP's major shareholders and accountable managers. Not even the death of dozens of employees. It is even questionable whether the promised payment of 20 billion dollars will have any lasting consequences on the company's course of action.

Responsible for the decisions and actions of the BP company are the major shareholders and the executive management. They are accountable for the damage to human health and the destruction of the environment on a grand scale, as well as for the death of numerous people. They pose a threat not only to peace and human rights, but also to democracy, ecology and humanity as a whole. They act solely in their own interest, for personal power and private wealth. To these ends, they flout morals and ethics and knowingly risk the transformation of our world into a "Black Planet".

ethecon sees in the actions of the major shareholders, former CEO Tony Hayward, his successor, Bob Dudley, board chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg and the rest of the executive management a flagrant contribution to the ruin and destruction of our Blue Planet. For this shocking disdain and violation of

³¹ cf. Juhasz, Antonia: BP spends millions lobbying as it drills ever deeper and the environment pays. The oil major BP spends aggressively to influence US regulatory insight, and many would argue this has bought it leniency. / <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/may/02/bp-deepwater-horizon-oil-spills>

³² "BP nicht als Sponsor für Präsidentenfest", junge Welt vom 26./27. Juni 2010 ("BP won't sponsor the president's party")



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human ethics, ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics - condemns those responsible at the BP company with the international ethecon Black Planet Award 2010.



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Contact details for the award winners

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Selected internet links

[http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/BP_\(Konzern\)](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/BP_(Konzern))

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_companies_by_revenue

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BP>

http://www.alternet.org/story/147512/the_cost_of_bps_boys_club_why_the_oil_industrys_macho_culture_is_bad_for_women_and_the_environment?page=1

http://www.biokraftstoffverband.de/downloads/1141/BEE231109_FossKraft.pdf

<http://www.campact.de/oel/info/5min>

<http://www.climategreenwash.org/bp>

<http://www.codepink.org/section.php?id=427>

<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=12340>

<http://www.csb.gov/assets/document/CSBFinalReportBP.pdf>

http://www.dukeswoodoilmuseum.co.uk/sea_gem.htm

<http://www.galvnews.com/story/112980/>

<http://www.greenpeace.de/themen/oel/>

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/climate/bps-wins-coveted-emerald-paintbrush-award-worst-greenwash-2008-20081218>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/aug/23/london-tar-sands-climate-protest>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/may/02/bp-deepwater-horizon-oil-spills>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/bp-pays-out-millions-to-colombian-farmers-408816.html>

http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2007/October/07_ag_850.html

<http://www.nrhz.de/flyer/beitrag.php?id=15670>

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/HeadlineNews/Oil/8751289/>

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/articles/entry/2085/>



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<http://www.rikiott.com/spillinfo.php>

[http://www.rikiott.com/pdf/9527A MSDS.pdf](http://www.rikiott.com/pdf/9527A%20MSDS.pdf)

http://www.rikiott.com/pdf/UKcorexit_test_results.pdf

<http://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/unternehmen/0,1518,709596,00.html>

<http://www.stern.de/wissen/natur/forscher-widersprechen-washington-das-oel-ist-immer-noch-da-draussen-1594310.html>

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article6020787.ece>

<http://www.zeit.de/wissen/umwelt/2010-05/oelbekaempfung-chemikalien>



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Selected individuals and non-governmental organisations concerned with BP

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Open letter

**to Chairman of the Board Carl-Henric Svanberg,
former CEO Tony Hayward, current CEO Bob Dudley,
other members of the executive management,
major shareholders of BP**

Dear Mr. Svanberg,
Dear Mr. Hayward,
Dear Mr. Dudley,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the course of our public conference in Berlin on November 20, 2010, we presented the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2010. In a comprehensive nomination and selection procedure before the conference, we had chosen all of you as recipients of the „Black Planet Award 2010“. With this decision we aimed to expose and criticize you on an international scale.

Our foundation based its decision on news reports over many months about the environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico for which you were responsible, as well as on publicly known facts, information compiled world-wide by journalists over the course of many years, documents accessible to the general public, investigations by judicial and government authorities in various countries and not least, on information published by your own company.

In summary, ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics states the following reasons for its decision:

The BP company emerged from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, which was founded in 1909 to exploit Iranian oil fields. Renamed in 1935 to Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, it was owned completely by the British government for many years.

The name was changed to British Petroleum Company (BP) in 1954, one year after the coup d'état ousting democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadeq. This overthrow had been organized by the CIA, the British government and the Iranian military. It occurred just after Mossadeq had nationalized the oil industry, including BP. Directly after the overthrow, the nationalization of the oil industry was rescinded.

In regard to sales volume, BP is the third-largest oil- and energy distributor in the world and the fourth-largest of all multinational companies. With its seat in London, it is active in every corner of the world.



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Of late, BP has been trying to give itself a green image of using environmentally-friendly energy under its new slogan "beyond petroleum". In reality, however, the company's main focus is still on oil and gas. In 2008 these areas of operation were the source of 93 percent of its total sales volume.

The history of the BP company is replete with an ongoing series of social, ecological, and economic crimes and transgressions. Examples include:

- > Cost cuts meant to increase BP's profits led in April 2010 to an explosion on a oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Eleven workmen were killed. Lacking a backup plan for such emergencies, the company was not able to repair the leak for months. Several hundred million litres of crude oil escaped, causing irreparable ecological damage in a region measuring several hundred square kilometres and more. It will take the environment decades to recover.
- > In 2005, fifteen people were killed and 180 injured in an explosion in the BP refinery in Texas City/USA. According to investigations by government agencies, routine maintenance and safety measures had been neglected in order to cut costs.
- > Instead of learning from this episode and improving conditions at the plant, BP ignored the official accusations. Therefore, in the same refinery in April and May 2010, a leak occurred whereby 530,000 pounds of - for a large part toxic and carcinogenic - chemicals polluted the city and the surrounding area.
- > BP has been repeatedly fined for sundry crimes against the environment. Even before the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico these fines amounted to several hundred million dollars.
- > Due to oil and propane price manipulation, BP had to pay fines in the USA and Russia amounting to several hundred million dollars.
- > As a result of an out of court agreement, BP paid Columbian farmers several million pounds. The farmers had planned to take BP to court because the company had profitted from terrorist actions of paramilitary groups, hired to "protect" a pipeline.

You, the major shareholders and the executive management, are the ones responsible for the decisions and operations of the BP company. You are accountable for the ruin of human health and the destruction of the environment on a grand scale as well as for the death of many people. Your actions and decisions pose a threat not only to peace and human rights, but also to democracy, ecology and humanity as a whole. You act solely for your own personal gain. To reach this end, you flout morals and ethics and knowingly risk the transformation of our blue planet into a black one.



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In your actions ethecon sees a flagrant contribution to the ruin and destruction of our blue planet. For this contempt and violation of human ethics, ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics – denounces you with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2010.

We cannot go without mentioning that the bestowal of the Black Planet Award 2010 on you, the accountable people within the BP company, occurs in combination with the Blue Planet Award 2010, which was conferred on human rights activist Elias Bierdel. In comparison to you, who irresponsibly endanger and ruin our Blue Planet, Mr. Bierdel promotes the preservation and rescue of our Blue Planet and its inhabitants in an exemplary manner.

We call on you to model your personal involvement on the example set by women and men such as Elias Bierdel. Put an end to the exploitation and the destruction of humanity and the environment through the BP company. Ensure social equality, safety and human rights within the company and throughout its whole field of influence. Preserve the environment and peace. Use your money for ethical investments and solidarity projects instead of using it to make even more profits, this last appeal representing the will of the vast majority of the world population.

This is the appeal, coupled with the Black Planet Award 2010, with which ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics, addresses you, the accountable managers and shareholders of the BP company.

Yours sincerely,

Axel Köhler-Schnura

(Chairperson, Board of Directors)

Elke von der Beeck

(Chairperson, Board of Trustees)



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Black Planet Speech given by Dr. Winfried Wolf³³

Dear Mr. Bob Dudley:

You are currently the Chief Executive Officer, the Top Man at BP. During the Deepwater Horizon tragedy you were the man responsible for your company's operations at the scene. Recently you declared, "I hear people saying that once the rig is recovered we will pack our bags and go home. This is without a doubt incorrect (...) We have 35 other oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico alone." This was not particularly reassuring for Gulf coast residents. Many perceived your words as a renewed threat.

Dear Mr. Tony Hayward:

You were at the top of BP until September 30, 2010. A few days ago you announced the founding of your new company, known as "3E Capital" - surprisingly enough, a firm that advises oil companies. Somehow that makes sense. After all, your trivializations of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy were legendary, for example, when - at the height of the Deepwater Horizon disaster - you proclaimed, "The oil slick is tiny compared to the size of the Gulf."

Dear Mr. Carl-Henric Svanberg:

Since September 2009 you have been at the head of BP's board of directors. During the Deepwater Horizon tragedy you stayed pretty much undercover. However, when you were in the USA a few days ago to put in a good word for BP with President Obama, you said the following remarkable words: "I hear comments sometimes that large oil companies are greedy companies or don't care. But that is not the case of BP. We care about the small people." This remark was also taken as a threat by the local population.

Dear other top managers of this oil company and dear major shareholders of BP:

This past summer you complained on a notably high level. And what about? No, not about the moral decline of your company. You bemoaned the decline of BP's corporate value and called for the prompt resumption of dividend distributions.

Mr. Dudley, Mr. Hayward, Mr. Svanberg and Shareholders:

We have gathered here together to tell you: for approximately one hundred years your BP company was known as British Petroleum. However, you no longer wish to see this spelled out. US President

³³ Dr. Winfried Wolf, born in 1949, journalist, former member of the Bundestag (PDS - Party of the Democratic Socialists), editor-in-chief of LunaPark21, author of numerous books.



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Obama was actually wrong when he used this name during the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Because since the takeover of the US oil companies Amoca and Atlantic Richfield about a decade ago, BP has advanced to the largest American oil company, ranging even ahead of Exxon.

But the interpretation of your acronym doesn't stop there. For about a decade your company would have us believe that the two letters stand for "Beyond Petroleum". That means that the people at BP are preparing for the time after oil.

That is, however, not at all the truth. During your aegis, Mr. Hayward, BP's involvement in alternative energy was actually cut back. You, Mr. Dudley, you are not even suspected of making larger so-called green investments.

In reality the two letters "BP" stand for

- BARREL PROFITS
- BLOATED PROFITS
- BLOODY PROFITS.

Roughly translated you stand

- for maximum profit per barrel of oil
- for over-blown profits that are increased regardless of means
- for profit making despite death and destruction.

Or, let me resort to an unusual manner of explanation – your corporation stands for the implementation of the following lines:

Here is oil! Oil is here! It lies here

That which makes motors run, that which moves ships!

The oil to grease our pistons lies buried here!

And to make our cities bright! Make haste!

Transform yourselves into oil seekers, you goat herders! Make haste!

Bring the oil up to the surface, cart away the rocks, drill

Into the earth, you farmers!

But there are goat herds, that graze on these fields!

But there are dwellings, that are 100 years old!

But there are land registers and deeds!

Make haste! Take away everything that stands between us and the oil!

Begone with the goat herds! Begone with the dwellings!



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*And begone with the registers and deeds!
Here is oil! Oil is here! Here is the oil to grease our pistons
And to make our cities bright.*

So much for poetry, now back to prose. I'm sure, that in light of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, the man from Augsburg, Bertolt Brecht, who wrote these lines in the 1920's, would see his message confirmed and would have at the same time felt the wish to expand and clarify it. In regard to BP in particular and the oil business in general, his message may be illustrated in three ways.

Level 1: The continuity of profit maximization irrespective of safety and human life.

As previously described, for many years the accountable people at BP have demonstrated a mentality geared solely toward a ruthless maximalization of profit. May I please remind the pilloried gentlemen of the following:

In 2004 their refinery exploded in Texas. 15 workers were killed. The investigating commission found the cause to be "the lack of safety standards", preceded by financial cut-backs on safety provisions.

Just one year later – in 2005 – you gave the world one of the most spectacular accidents to date, the one in Alaska. At that time more than 800,000 litres of oil poured out of a leak in your BP pipeline - with disastrous results for the flora and fauna in the region. Regarding the causes of the leak, the court found that: "BP neglected to allocate sufficient funds for the safe and environmentally sound operation of the pipeline." That was putting it mildly. In fact, long portions of the pipe system were simply rusted and decomposed.

This same blatant negligence is also documented for the Deepwater Horizon disaster. In this case warning systems had been turned off – with the reasoning that workers should not be unnecessarily disturbed at night by false alarms. Shortly before the explosion, there was a telling dispute on the rig. The oilfield service provider Halliburton had been charged with the job of pouring cement into the space between the wellbore and the bedrock on the sea floor. The Halliburton people suggested the use of 21 steel columns to centre and stabilize the wellbore. The BP personnel argued that six columns would be enough – there weren't any more stored on the rig, anyway. BP had it their way and won the dispute. The additional columns themselves wouldn't have been all that expensive. But to fly in further columns would have cost almost a whole day. 24 hours without profit flow from the well. 24 hours no BP - 24 hours no BARREL-PROFITS.



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And how did you react, gentlemen from BP, during the disaster? Both with cunning and ruthlessness. You had several million litres of dispersants sprayed around the area of the well and onto the oil slick. As a result, the oil was barely detectable by TV-cameras. That was good for publicity. It didn't matter that the dispersants themselves are extremely harmful. Many scientists say that these chemicals are worse than the oil itself.

Basically you knew what you were doing. The balance sheet of the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska, when a tanker of the US oil company Exxon ran aground on a reef and 41 million litres of oil poured into the ocean, shows that the coastal areas treated with dispersants are still damaged today. Whereas the areas that were "only" affected by the oil are at a much higher stage of recovery.

Hey Tony, hey Bob, hey Carl-Henric! We're not to forget your really cool, yet professional and profit-lusting handling of the general public and the media. In the middle of the Deepwater Horizon disaster you signed contracts with dozens of scientists "with special knowledge of the Gulf of Mexico". On the one hand they were to investigate the impact of the oil slick. On the other hand they were bound – for good money of course – not to publish their findings for three years.

That's really sophisticated, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Hayward, Mr. Svanberg!

Level 2: The deep sea drillings themselves

For you, dear gentlemen from BP, I don't need to expand on the term "peak oil." You've known the facts for a long time – in particular through practical experience with the drying up of your own oil sources and the long-term shrinkage of your oil reserves. You know as well as I do, that, to your great dismay, through political incidents such as compulsory acquisitions and nationalization, you have been cut off from the continuous exploitation of lucrative sources of oil on the mainland, especially in the Near and Middle East and Africa. These two factors together – peak oil and nationalization – are the primary reasons behind the great increase in deep sea drilling which the traditional Western oil companies such as Exxon, Royal Dutch Shell and BP carry out, and the unbelievable increase in the depth at which this drilling takes place.

Let us look at the example - well-known to you – of the Gulf of Mexico.

Between 1960 and 1980 the average depth of drilling in this region ranged between 800 and 1000 metres. Since then it has escalated to an average depth of 1800 metres. Here we are talking about the depth starting at the entry point into the earth's crust. In view of the developments within the last five years it became evident that a disaster was imminent.



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In 2005 the record depth of 1500 metres was reached.

In 2007 the record was 2150 metres.

In 2009 the depth had reached 3600 metres – or 3,6 kilometres.

Just a few days before the rig exploded, you threw a big party to celebrate a new deep sea drilling record: 1500 metres under the platform. Under the water's surface the BP drill had penetrated an additional 4000 metres into the earth's crust. The total distance between the platform and the oil field – the entrance of the wellbore into the oil field – lies therefore at 5600 metres or 5,6 kilometres.

Mr. Dudley, you now say, you at BP have learned your lesson from this disaster. In the future you will act "even more responsibly" and "put safety even more at the centre of attention." We would like to remind you: although oil was still gushing out of the BP well in the Gulf, you announced a new, politically-charged deep sea drilling operation: in the Gulf of Sidra, off the coast of Libya. Effectively this means: back to the roots: BP was at one point well established in Libya. The BP plants in that country, however, were nationalized in the 1960's.

But now you're back in business there. How did that happen?. Very simply: BP engaged in massive lobbying of the British Labour Party administration to have the alleged Libyan Lockerbie assassin, who had been convicted by a British – or rather a Scottish – court, released from a Scottish prison before the end of his term because of supposed "illness". As it turned out, the man is as fit as a fiddle. Even more remarkable is BP's blooming health in Libya.

May I remind you, Mr. Tony Hayward: you were the one who - just a few weeks before the Deepwater Horizon explosion – said, "With our deep sea drilling we are constantly pushing the limits of technology and geology."

This statement applies not only to deep sea drilling. It applies to projects that extract oil out of tar sands in which huge regions the size of Belgium are ploughed up and transformed into wasted landscapes. It applies to projects that would drill for oil off Greenland or near polar ice packs.

These "limits" that you're talking about, Mr. Hayward, really do exist. We're talking about natural limits or eco-political limits. However, you only recognize these limits, you don't accept them. Because your company's greed for profit is limitless.

Or, to change the quoted lines of verse:

Bring the oil up to the surface!

Cart away the rocks, drill



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Into the earth

Take away everything that stands between us and the oil!

Begone with the sand beaches!

Begone with the tropical forests!

And begone with the icebergs and the polar pack ice!

Take away everything that stands

Between us and the oil!

Level 3: The oil business itself

Dear members of the audience, let me now talk about the oil sector and oil business in general. No, I don't intend to exonerate Mistery Hayward, Dudley, Svanberg et al. There is nonetheless a larger context in which the Deepwater Horizon disaster and our censure of the accountable people at BP must be seen.

BP belongs – along with Exxon and Royal Dutch Shell – to the Big 3 of the world's oil industry. In turn, the international oil industry is at the centre of our oil-based capitalistic system.

This system of oil-based capitalism, that has been well-established for about 100 years, is, again, substantially responsible for environmental destruction on a hitherto unseen scale, for the pursuance of formidable new risks and for the threat of a climate change, which endangers human existence.

Our censure is, on the one hand, cast directly at the accountable individuals at BP. On the other hand, indirectly:

The investment of capital in the oil exploration, oil processing, automobile industry and aircraft construction sectors has become so immense, that alone from its sheer size and from the principle of profit maximalization inherent to this system of oil-based capitalism, continued pressure to intensify this system is produced. One third of the sales volume of the world's 500 largest companies – the Global 500 – falls upon the oil-automobile-aircraft sector. The same ratio applies to the profits of this group – one third of all profits are concentrated in the oil-automobile-aircraft sector.

This means: in a physical sense oil greases the world economy. In an economic sense oil profits grease the current capitalist system. And, figuratively speaking, oil greases the business of politics. Statistics show that BP alone invests in the USA each year 16 million US dollars for "lobby work". All in all the oil sector spends in the USA alone more than 50 million US dollars each year to buy political favours.

There is the concept of the "self-fulfilling prophecy". In this case we are facing a "self-fulfilling property", with the specific weight of the oil sector constantly expanding within the world economy.



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Of course the aforementioned gentlemen have earned the black award as accountable individuals. At the same time, however, they were given the prize as representatives of the oil sector as a whole and as representatives of the prevailing system of oil-based capitalism.

"Beyond Petroleum" is actually the correct goal, a goal which, however, can only be realized when we aim beyond capitalism or at least beyond the prevalent system of oil-based capitalism with its principle of profit before people, nature and climate.

Current developments are, however, running in the other direction, according to the motto "after us the deluge". At least since the first so-called oil crisis in 1973, we have known that oil is an extremely scarce resource. It would befit normal human reasoning to endeavor to get away from oil dependence as soon as possible. According to the recently voiced – already too late – insight of Dr Fatih Birol, Chief Economist at the International Energy Agency, "We should leave oil, before it leaves us."

Yet for more than 100 years – and in particular during the past three decades – the opposite has been taking place. The concentration of world capital in the aforementioned oil-auto-group is increasing. This process is from a human point of view irrational – even when it follows the logic of capital investment. One can also say that this economic development and so the expansion of the American way of life, which has long become the prevailing way of life worldwide - and increasingly so in emerging nations such as China –, bears pseudo-religious features.

Once again in the words of the gentleman from Augsburg – and once again prophetically written in the 1920's:

*Without invitation
Did we come
Seven hundred (and many still on the way)
And we saw you
Suddenly over night
Oil tank.
Come quickly, everybody
You who are sawing off the branch on which you sit
Workers!
God has come again
In the form of an oil tank.
What is grass to you?*



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*Yet you're sitting on it.
Where once was grass
Now you sit, oil tank!
And in front of you is a feeling
Nothing.
Therefore hear our prayers
And deliver us from the evil of the spirit.
In the name of electrification
reason and statistics!*

Mr. Dudley, Mr. Hayward, Mr. Svanberg, stakeholders!

It is YOUR God who *"has come again / In the form of an oil tank"*.

You are responsible for the realisation of Brecht's lines: *"Where once was grass / now you sit, oil tank!"*

It is YOUR philosophy, it is the business model BP = Barrel-Profits, meaning: *"And in front of you is a feeling / Nothing."*

We, on the other hand, are not *"sawing off the branch on which we sit."*

For these reasons you are censured. For these reasons we say "Yes" to a society

- beyond petroleum
- beyond bloated profits
- beyond barrel profits

"Yes" to a society, in which the human being, human needs, nature and environment and solidarity stand at the centre of our world.



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Greetings from Diane Wilson³⁴ / Injured Workers United (USA)

My name is Diane Wilson. I'm a fourth generation fisherwoman from the Texas Gulf Coast and I've been on a boat since I was eight. In 1989, my tiny county in Texas was named the number one county in the nation for total toxins to the land, accounting for half the waste that Texas generated.

Since that time, I've become a self-appointed watchdog³⁵ and watched the chemical, oil, and gas corporations lay a thousand deaths at the feet of the Gulf. I hate to say it, but what I've seen with the actions of BP in the Gulf is nothing new. The releases, the lies, the cover-ups, the skimping on safety, the deaths, the nonexistent documents, the 'swinging door' with regulators. What is new is the massive nature of the BP oil catastrophe and the fact that it can't be covered up. It's everywhere, from 5,000 feet down to miles upon miles across and then spread in the ocean's currents. This elephant can't be swept under the carpet, but I'm sure if BP could, BP would.

I have an injured workers group that is basically thrown out workers that got canned after they got sick, injured, or tried to make changes that the company didn't want. Some were whistleblowers and companies sure don't like that. Nobody wants these guys and there's nobody for them to talk to except me - a high school educated fisherwoman with a pile of kids and a broke down truck. One of my injured workers was a shift supervisor in a PVC unit of Formosa Plastics, one of the biggest chemical plants on the Texas Gulf Coast and someone I've fought for twenty years. One night, during his supervision, there was a 16,000 vinyl chloride release. Vinyl chloride is a cancer causing and targets the liver, lungs, brain and blood-forming organs. Vinyl chloride can give you liver cancer. The OSHA worker standard is 1 part per million for an average 8-hour period. If one pound of vinyl chloride is released, it is reportable to the EPA. Formosa's upper management told the supervisor to lie about the release. Get the numbers down. So Formosa reported 2.7 lbs. to the EPA.

Another worker said his supervisors were sometimes dumping outright or siphoning material out of test samples. In general, the company was manipulating and hiding wastewater data. Sometimes gauge needles were bent to keep the graph from showing how high the temperature was. A few times, the

³⁴ Diane Wilson is an American environmental and political activist as well as the winner of the International ethecon Blue Planet Award 2006 (cf. <http://ethecon.org/de/976>). A fourth-generation shrimper and the mother of five children, she adamantly advocates for the implementation of ethical principles. As a result, she has served nine jail sentences and went on hunger strike 19 times. She is a union representative of workers whose health has been damaged due to working conditions in various chemistry plants in her home region in Texas (Injured Workers United). She is also one of the founders of the American women and peace organization CodePink.

³⁵ cf. Diane Wilson's book „An Unreasonable Woman. A True Story of Shrimpers, Politicos, Polluters, and the Fight for Seadrift, Texas“, <http://www.chelseagreen.com/bookstore/item/unreasonablewoman>



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worker had to wade through a diked wastewater area, the size of two-city blocks, with toxic waste coming over his boots. He lost his hard hat, lost his gloves, maggots were crawling everywhere, and right next to him was high voltage pump setting in water. He said he thought he'd die that day. He thought he'd die a lot of days but telling didn't do any good. As any good workers knows: You keep your mouth shut 'cause a good way to lose your job or lose your bonus is to report a worker injury or a safety violation.

So what about these workers and all these lies that companies tell?

When the news first came out about the BP spill we, the public, were told, that it was a 1,000 barrel a day leak. It took almost 3 months before the truth came out that it was more 50,000-65,000 barrel a day.

That wasn't my first dance at that rodeo. I've had a Texas employee—a wastewater investigator-- pass me information because he couldn't do anything with test results showing extremely high levels of priority pollutants like vinyl chloride and ethylene dichloride in the water. He said every time he tried to pass it up further in enforcement in the state government or even federal EPA, something blocked it. It just so happened that his boss, the state director, had a job application at the Formosa. He sure didn't want to think what that was all about. Made him sick just thinking about it.

Just like what was happening around the BP fiasco.

Made me sick, too. Made me want to get on a boat and go out on the bay and forget all of it. Last time I was on the bay, however, a seismograph crew breezed in. You might ask what a seismograph team was doing in the bay? They were looking for oil and gas deposits. Yep, there are approximately 4,000 oil and gas rigs out in the gulf but there are a sizable number in the bays, too, and to find these oil and gas deposits, a seismologist team sometimes uses dynamite. The dynamite blasts produce sound waves that pin point deposits. Generally, dynamite charges aren't allowed near the reefs and they're not supposed to be so powerful that they blow up fish. That's the law anyhow, but who's listening. I was trot lining for black drum and I had a string of lines near an oyster reef that black drum love to hang around. I picked up my line and there, hanging off the hooks, was a very long line of dynamite charges. Things really got messy when the dynamite blasts started rocking the fishermen's boats and blowing fish out of the water. To stop the obvious show of dead fish, the company brought in a three airboats. Now an airboat can generate the equivalent decibels of a jet plane so imagine three giant airplanes ripping and running up and down the bay to scare the fish out of the bay. Well, they accomplished their goal. All the fish ran out of the bay and there went our fish for the entire season. It was nothing but a



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bleep on an oil company's corporate work sheet, but for our family-based inshore fishermen, it was devastating.

That's not all. Just listen. The oil industry dumps over a billion pounds of mercury-contaminated drilling mud wastes into the Gulf each year. Drilling muds are used to cool and lubricate drill bits as they bore into the well while plumbing for oil and natural gas. The mercury is present in an element called barite, the main ingredient in the muds. In 1996, the EPA limited the amount of mercury that could be present in the drilling muds to 1 part per million, which could still allow 1,000 pounds of mercury to be dumped from the Gulf platforms each year. For 50 years, prior to the EPA rule, there were no limits on mercury in barite. A report published by the Society of Petroleum Engineers suggested that, in the past, barite with mercury up to 30 parts per million could have been used. Using information supplied by the oil industry and the EPA, hundreds of thousands of pounds of mercury have been dumped in the Gulf — via drilling muds — since the 1960s.

So it shouldn't be surprising at all that the mercury contamination at some oil and gas rigs in the Gulf of Mexico appear to be so severe that the rigs could qualify for the National Priorities List Placement and lead to a federal „Superfund“³⁶ clean-up effort like that of Love Canal in New York. Also, the mercury concentrations in many fish and shellfish sampled around at least one of the rigs were high enough to qualify the area as a contaminated fishery and frequent use of the rigs by commercial and recreational fishermen meant that the contamination around the rigs represented a 'human food chain threat'.

Federal officials have said there's little chance that any agency would attempt to put any of the 4,000-odd Gulf rigs on the Superfund priorities list, regardless of the level of contamination and regardless of the health risk, because the contamination occurred as a result of on-going, federally permitted releases of pollutants. And the same goes for when these very same oil companies, who for whatever reason, decide to ship their contaminated drilling mud into cargos that in turn, pump them into tanker trucks, that in turn dump the mud wastes into marshes along small fishing villages on the Gulf Coast. I've seen these tankers dump 200 loads into a marsh outside of Seadrift and another load dumped a half-mile from my trailer. My frequent calls to the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) were answered with „it's harmless.“ I guess I should tell that to my son who is autistic.

The bottom line is that the Gulf dies a little every day from the tens of thousands of chemical plants, oil refineries and oil and gas rigs that pockmark the gulf coast. It's a death of a ten thousand cuts and all

³⁶ cf. Page 10, footnote 11 and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superfund>



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of these offenses, small and large, are self reported - or, perhaps, not at all. We, the public, really have no way of knowing. The company or the agency certainly isn't going to tell us. They've proved that time and time again. The truth of the matter only becomes clear when something monstrous like the BP oil spill comes along and wakes us up to the nightmare.

I was so fed up with BP and lies that were swirling out in the gulf and how nothing was being done that I decided to go to Washington DC. I'm just a down-and-out shrimper with little money so a friend loaned me the money for the plane ticket to Washington DC. That first day in Washington DC, I went to Congress and wandered around those senate hearing rooms trying to make some sense, to get some truth of what was happening to our fishing and community and the gulf that gave life to everything we did.

Very shortly, I saw that nothing was getting done. There was a lot of talk, lots of testimony, but nothing was happening. Matter of fact, the oil lobbying groups were working something fierce - sufficiently so that Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska (which had experienced the EXXON VALDEZ spill³⁷ in 1989) had blocked the vote to lift the liability cap on BP's damage in the gulf. BP was making 90 million dollars a day and the liability cap was 75 million dollars. Not for a day, not for a year. For the entire catastrophe. It took me one day to decide that I wasn't going to walk away and let that stand. Not without some kind of protest. So the next morning, I hide a half-gallon of syrup in a jar and went into the senate hearing. Only a few members of the public are allowed into these hearings so I had to stand in line for three hours to get into this hearing. Then I waited until Senator Lisa Murkowski started talking and when she did, I stood up and shouted that we were tired of being dumped on in the gulf and then I pulled my jar of oil out of my purse and poured it all over me.³⁸ For that fake oil being poured on myself I was arrested and charged with unlawful conduct. The charge had the possibility of 280 days in jail.

After I got out of jail, I went back to Congress. I heard that Tony Hayward, the CEO of BP, was going to testify in a Senate Hearing. This time I waited in line for twelve hours. I stood outside the senate building from 10pm that night until 7 am the next morning. I was the second person into the hearing and this time I smuggled a tube of black paint in my back pocket. I waited for Tony Hayward. It was a long wait. Nearly an hour. When Tony Hayward was lead into the senate hearing, a very large crowd of people surrounded him. But I could see him. Then when Tony started to talk, I poured the paint all over my hands and my face, and I stood up and shouted that Tony needed to be arrested. This man needs to

³⁷ cf. http://en.wikipedia.org/Exxon_Valdez_oil_spill

³⁸ cf. Frankfurter Rundschau from June 12, 2010, <http://www.fr-online.de/panorama/die-oel-schockerin/-/1472782/4441404/-/index.html>



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be arrested. It took some doing but I was wrestled to the floor by two cops and one undercover cop.³⁹ I was arrested, handcuffed, and sent to jail where I spent all night and until the next morning. That arrest got me two charges: unlawful conduct and resisting arrest. Those three charges could land me more than 800 days in jail.⁴⁰

I find it very ironic that I am a peaceful shrimper, out of business by the corrupt practices of companies such as Formosa Plastics⁴¹, Dow Chemical, and BP. Yet these Corporate CEOs who make millions upon millions of dollars are never apprehended or charged with crimes even though it is the worst environmental disaster that America has ever had. And the evidence is so plain. Still these men go free and I'm the one charged with three offenses and could spend over two years in jail for protesting. I spill a half-gallon of syrup on myself and I could get two years in jail. BP spills 5 million barrels of oil and gets charged with nothing. Tony Hayward was sent back to London with a bonus of Millions of dollars. I am banned from Washington DC. Where is the justice? Where is the justice? There is some here tonight and for that I am very very grateful.

Let me add that I am volunteering to present this year's Black Planet Award to Tony Hayward. I think it is only appropriate.

³⁹ cf. Democracy Now from June 17, 2010, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjXmQWLmMaM>

⁴⁰ cf. <http://www.ethecon.org/de/1190>

⁴¹ The chemical company Formosa Plastics Group (FPG) was denounced with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2009, see, for example, the Open Letter from ethecon to the FPG (cf. <http://www.ethecon.org>, click icon for English, then downloads, Dossier FPG, page 14)



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Greetings from Dana Balicki⁴² / CodePink (USA)

Dear ethecon,

CODEPINK is a U.S.-based, women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, to stop new wars, and to redirect our resources towards healthcare, education, green jobs and other life-affirming activities. This movement was launched as an anti-war vigil outside the White House starting in November 2002, which culminated in a mass encirclement of the President's residence on International Women's Day, March 8, 2003. Unfortunately our "women's pre-emptive strike for peace" was unsuccessful, and after the U.S. invasion of Iraq occurred, we continued our protests and organizing against this immoral, unnecessary and illegal war. CODEPINK rejects foreign policies based on domination and aggression, and calls instead for policies based on diplomacy, compassion and a commitment to international law.

The issues of our suffering planet, our nation's unhealthy dependence on non-renewable resources (namely oil), and the US government's wanton invasions of sovereign nations brought women and men of conscience together to say NO WAR FOR OIL. We carried this message to the White House, the halls of Congress, the homes of our elected leaders, trying to highlight the connection between wars of aggression, oil dependence, and terrorism. We watched in horror in 2008 - five long years into the Iraq war and approaching seven in Afghanistan - as the slogan "drill, baby, drill" crossed the lips of politicians, presidential hopefuls and everyday Americans. And on April 20, 2010, when the British Petroleum (BP) Deepwater Horizon oil well exploded, the message and the truth behind the drilling slogan finally, and tragically, came home.

About a week after the spill it became clear that BP, the purveyors of the disaster, should not be trusted with the clean up. The Obama Administration held press conferences, every news station had up-to-the-minute coverage of the leak, and outrage was rampant on social networks and blogs, but there were no protesters in the streets. CODEPINK Cofounder Diane Wilson suggested that we take our citizen outrage directly to Tony Hayward and BP at their U.S. headquarters. Within a few weeks CODEPINK activists converged in Houston to stage protests in front of BP. While exposing our bodies, we were exposing the "Naked Truth" of BP's corrupt practices, and dressed as sea creatures smeared in (fake) oil we brought home the environmental catastrophe BP had created. Protests started popping up at BP

⁴² Dana Balicki is the national campaign manager of the US grassroots movement CodePink Women for Peace (see <http://www.codepink.org/>)



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gas stations, community parades, street corners, and campuses across the country to show the widespread disgust with BP and the US dependence on oil.

While BP's catastrophic oil spill temporarily focused the world's attention on the enormous environmental and human costs of our dependence on fossil fuels, we must continue to hold corporations accountable for the destruction they wreak on our planet. CODEPINK has petitioned our leaders in Congress to do their jobs and punish polluters, as well as to say no to drilling and no more giveaways to big oil. Tony Hayward, the now former CEO of BP, was grilled by the Senate and ordered by President Obama to pay out billions of dollars in settlement fees and to support funds helping those who suffered along the Gulf, but BP can still receive government contracts. The reports have been flowing like oil from an undersea well about ongoing corruption and neglect by the big oil companies. The fight to end our dependence on oil is not over. This is only the beginning, and CODEPINK will continue to activate, amplify and inspire a community of people dedicated to peace and justice through creative campaigns and commitments to non-violence.

Thank you, ethecon Foundation, for being a partner in this critical work, and many thanks to all of you here tonight for working towards a more just, sustainable and peaceful planet.



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Greetings from Jürgen Knirsch⁴³ / Greenpeace International (Germany)

The oil industry has had its share of scandals. Be it environmental destruction, human rights infringements, bribes or the denial of the reality of climate change, BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell or Total is always one of the culprits. That, however, from this list of competitors BP was singled out to receive this year's "Black Planet Award", is highly justified. BP is not only responsible for the largest oil disaster in the last one hundred years, it has also made many mistakes in the way it handled the tragedy. In addition, the company refuses to learn an obvious lesson from this catastrophe, namely that deep sea drilling is inherently unsafe and should therefore be abandoned. Even before BP managed to plug the wellbore of the exploded Deepwater Horizon oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico, they announced plans to drill for oil off the coast of Libya, although fully aware of the fact that along with Croatia, Libya is one of only two Mediterranean countries that have no emergency plan in the case of an oil disaster.

For over 3 months, about 670,000 tons of crude oil poured out of the BP well. In an attempt to hide the oil, 6.8 million litres of dispersants were sprayed on the water's surface and injected at the wellhead. This plan, however, did not succeed, thanks to the watchful efforts of environmental organizations, the media, as well as hearings in the USA. Their work led to the disclosure of the following facts: BP had deliberately lowered its safety standards in the past years, knowingly provided false information about the disaster, manipulated photos, prohibited unrestrained media access to the regions affected by the tragedy, sought to influence the surveillance authorities with gifts and parties, gave generous campaign contributions to the current US president and issued gag orders to scientists. All this and above all the disaster's huge environmental impact are more than enough reasons to warrant the presentation of the "Black Planet Award".

We should, however, use the occasion of the award bestowal to not just criticize BP with its brazen slogan "Beyond Petroleum", but rather to carefully look at the social challenges which lie before us. Let us advocate for the following provisions:

- > No company worldwide should be granted a license for deep sea drilling.
- > All oil companies must abandon their projects and plans for the exploitation of deep sea oil reserves.
- > All existing oil- and gas production sites worldwide must be subject to independent safety inspections and, where necessary, shut down.

⁴³ Jürgen Knirsch is a special projects campaigner at Greenpeace (see <http://www.greenpeace.de/>)



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- > Oil companies must be held fully responsible for any damage they have caused. In addition, an independently managed oil damage fund, financed by the oil companies themselves, must be set up. This fund must also cover damages in the case of a company's insolvency.



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Stop BP!

Campaign appeal from the ethecon Foundation to boycott the BP company

Millions and millions of litres of oil have flowed into the Gulf of Mexico. Although the leak itself may be stopped, the biggest oil disaster in the history of mankind continues.

In addition, 11 people were killed by the explosion on the oil rig, simply because safety provisions had fallen victim to budget cuts and alarm signals turned off by orders "from above".

For this disaster – one of the worst environmental catastrophes of all times – individual human beings are responsible. More exactly: the accountable executives of the BP company, with Tony Hayward at the head of the list.

BP shows again and again, that human beings and the environment don't count when profits are involved:

- > Until 1997, BP was a member of the "Global Climate Coalition", an industry organization, which deliberately spread scepticism about the existence of climate change.
- > Between 1993 and 1995 BP illegally disposed of toxic and hazardous waste in Alaska. The local BP affiliate had to pay a fine of \$22 million.
- > Again in Alaska, several major environmental disasters occurred between 2006 and 2007 in the Prudhoe Bay oil field.
- > Due to mechanical failure, over 530,000 pounds of chemicals escaped from the BP refinery in Texas City from the beginning of April to mid-May 2010, contaminating the surrounding area.
- > In 2005, 15 people were killed and 180 injured in a single explosion in the Texas City refinery.
- > Eye-opening is the report of the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). According to this document, two of BP's refineries alone were responsible for 97 percent of all safety violations knowingly committed by oil refineries in the last three years: 829 out of 851, more than 200 per year.
- > As a result of price manipulation, BP has already had to pay fines running into millions of dollars.
- > The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project, in which BP has a major holding, has given cause to allegations concerning human rights infringements as well as environmental and safety violations.
- > It has also become known that the company profited from the terrorizing actions of paramilitary groups in Columbia.



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Worldwide protests demand: The BP company must be stopped! Those responsible for the biggest oil disaster in the history of mankind must be punished! Deep sea drilling must be stopped immediately!

It is a scandal, that Tony Hayward as the accountable head of BP remains unpunished, while at the same time a peaceful demonstrator was granted a two-year suspended sentence.

In the mean time, Tony Hayward was taken out of the line of fire and replaced with Bob Dudley. These two men, the executive management and the major shareholders behind BP pose not only a danger to ecology and human health, but also to democracy and human rights. While working to their own advantage, they trample morals and ethics and risk the transformation of our world into a "black planet".

Please join us and denounce BP with your signature and your protest e-mail. (This is easily done on our website: <http://www.ethecon.org>).

ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics calls for a Boycott of the BP company and as many as possible of its subsidiary companies and brands, such as AMOCO, ARAL, ARCO, BP-Solar, CASTROL, am/pm and WILD BEAN CAFÉ:

- > Let us boycott BP until the company has stopped the disaster, cleared up the environmental and social damages and taken responsibility for the long-term effects of the catastrophe!
- > Let us boycott BP until the accountable managers and the shareholders behind them have been punished and have paid for the damages for which they are responsible!
- > Let us boycott BP until deep-sea drilling is terminated.
- > Let us boycott BP until it pledges to cancel its tar sands projects.
- > Let us boycott BP until it pledges to protect the life and health of its workers and people living near BP plants.



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The International ethecon Awards

The two International ethecon Awards have been presented annually since 2006. The award winners were/are:

2010

Blue Planet Award

Elias Bierdel / refugee- and human rights activist / Austria

Black Planet Award

Tony Hayward, Bob Dudley, Carl-Henric Svanberg and other accountable executives and major shareholders of the oil- and energy company BP / Great Britain

2009

Blue Planet Award

Uri Avnery / peace and human rights activist / Israel

Black Planet Award

Owner family Wang and the management of Formosa Plastics Group / chemistry / genetic engineering / Taiwa

2008

Blue Planet Award

José Abreu / engineer / Venezuela and Hugo Chavez / revolutionary / Venezuela – under the name of "El Sistema" they set up a worldwide unique and widely publicized program against poverty, drugs, social negligence and crime that guarantees every child in Venezuela the right to learn to play a musical instrument

Black Planet Award

Erik Prince and the managers of the Blackwater company (for publicity reasons renamed to Xe Services LLC) / service provider for the military (Killer Company) / USA

2007

Blue Planet Award

Vandana Shiva / peace and environment activist / India

Black Planet Award

Peter Brabeck-Letmathe (CEO) and other responsible managers and Liliane de Bettencourt and other



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shareholders of the Nestlé company / food industry (genetic engineering, privatization of water) / Switzerland

2006

Blue Planet Award

Diane Wilson / environment and peace activist / USA

Black Planet Award

Shareholders and the management of the MONSANTO company / agricultural technology (genetic engineering, pesticides, chemical warfare agents) / USA



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The ethecon Foundation

Our blue planet is in serious danger. This is no longer denied, not even by politics and science.

But the underlying cause continues to be ignored: the greed for profit connected with the worldwide dominant economic system.

This profit-based system is responsible for injustice, exploitation and ecological destruction. The lust for profit is becoming more and more the sole motivational force in our society and in our management of the environment. The devastating consequences of this development may no longer be overlooked: massive unemployment, the breakdown of the health-, education- and social security systems, destitution, poverty and homelessness, egoism, crime and ruthlessness, weapons production and war, climate change and the collapse of ecological systems.

A different world, a just world, may only be achieved through the development and the implementation of ecologically-sound and humane economic and social models not based on profit maximization. To reach this goal, we must start at the roots, that is, within the competing interests of ethics and economics. We must stand up against those who profit from the globalization process and social decay. For the good of ecology and society, the primacy of ethical principles over economics must be asserted. The rescue of our planet will only be possible when the supremacy of the profit principle is replaced by an economic system based on ethical principles.

The transformation of our society in the direction of a just and fair social system with an intact environment and the overcoming of the profit principle cannot be achieved overnight. This requires perseverance and endurance. In order to achieve this necessary change, broad social movements must be established and fragmented forces united. However, good ideas and voluntary commitment alone are not enough. They must be backed by sufficient financial means.

This is where "ethecon - Foundation Ethics & Economics" comes in. Whereas other groups and organizations – in a historical context – are active for a short time only, ethecon follows the insight, that successful work for the implementation of ethical principles in the interest of ecology and society must be designed to operate on a long-term basis, continuing past the current generation. The legal form as a foundation was deliberately chosen in order to ensure the necessary on-going financial basis for the securing and defence of the principle of solidarity as opposed to the principle of profit.

In order to bequeath future generations with a strong foundation, ethecon needs further endowment contributions, donations and sustaining members. Founded in 2004, the foundation was able to in-



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crease its initial capital of 85,000 Euros fourfold through the aid of subsequent endowment contributions (the latest figures may be found in the foundation's brochure "For a World without Exploitation and Oppression" or on <http://www.ethecon.org>).

ethecon seeks people who, in light of the current devastating ecological and social developments, wish to use their financial resources in a responsible way. Many people want not only to talk about a just world, but to find ways to realize it, always with the goal of a sound environment, peace and humane working conditions for coming generations.

Here is where you can help. If you agree that the prevailing profit-defined conditions must be opposed on a long-range basis, beyond the current generation, then please support "ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics". If an endowment contribution (from 5,000 euros) is not possible, your donation or, even better, your sustaining membership (from 60 euros per year) would be greatly appreciated. It is now possible to make an endowment contribution over a longer period of time, with monthly payments starting at 20 euros. All contributions are tax-deductible (national laws may differ on this point). In Germany, the tax-exemption limit is much higher than for regular donations and also more advantageous than for donations to political parties.

Please act now! ethecon needs you, as an endowment contributor, donor or sustaining member. You may reach "ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics" on the internet at <http://www.ethecon.org> or here:

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