

Ecological Human Rights – Rights of Nature/Rights of the Planet

Concepts by Christian Felber („Economy for the Common Good“)

- Nature/the Planet is recognized as a legal subject with own rights
- human rights are neither disconnected from the Planet and other species nor from future human generations
- idea: 3rd generation/dimension + covenant of human rights: ecological human rights
- 2 goals: a) global consumption of mankind remains within the ecological limits of the Planet; b) all human beings get the right to meet their basic needs on the basis of biological resources
- front side of the coin: ecological consumption rights (yearly gift of the planet divided by number of human beings living on the Planet); back side of the coin: protection right of the planet: humans can – altogether – only use what the Planet offers as a renewable yearly gift in biological resources
- possible implementation: Every product/service offered on the world market, has to disclose two prices: the financial price (already implemented) and the ecological price (in fractional units of the yearly ecological budget/consumption right of a person; measured in CO2 equivalents, global hectares, joules or other physical unit)
- as soon as the yearly ecological credit is exhausted, the purchase power of that individual has gone; she/he can only buy basic food and pay the rent, but no luxury; or receive gifts from others:-)
- Principally, this right is as unconditional, unalienable, untradable and equal as all other human rights
- an expanded version could consist in a two-tier model that is based on the „ecological doughnut“ of Kate Raworth (social limit + ecological limit): as long as the ecological limit (the yearly gift of the Planet) lies above the social limit (what all humans need to meet their basic needs) tier 1 (within the social limit) could become the above mentioned untradable right; whereas tier 2 (between the social and the ecological limit) could become a tradable consumption right/ecological credit that could be sold from the poor to the rich or given from the frugal to hedonists – or the United Nations in order to hold physical conferences:-)

Ethical trade

- trade is a means, not an end in itself („free trade“)
- the ends are: human rights, sustainable development, climate stability, food sovereignty, cultural diversity, ...
- trade is a means to defined ends or: ethical trade is a middle course between the extremes free trade (trade is an end in itself) and protectionism (trade is a bad thing)
- trade rules are aligned with the goals: more of trade if it helps to achieve the goals, less trade if it endangers the goals
- the rules for global trade go back from the WTO to the UN
- the new legal core of the international trade regime: those countries that ratify and enforce UN agreements – human rights, SDG, environmental and climate protection, cultural diversity, tax cooperation, financial regulation, ... but also: ecological human rights (Christian's idea) and Rights of Nature (Mumta's work) – trade more freely amongst each other than with non-ratifiers/non-implementers; for every UN agreement not ratified/implemented (submission to enforcement procedures) a specific country has to pay a tariff (e. g. + 5% for disrespecting an ILO core labour norm, + 10% for not ratifying a multilateral environmental agreement; + 20% for not ratifying a human rights covenant or disrespecting the Rights of Nature).
- alternative more pragmatic approach (business level): all companies that want to access the world market (which comes into existence between the ratifiers of a corresponding agreement) have to present a common good balance sheet that includes the Rights of Nature. The higher they score (in common good points), the freer they can access the world market and trade; the poorer their ethical efforts and thus the result of their balance sheet, the higher the barrier to the desired markets and the unfreer they trade.

Extracted from „**Change everything. Creating an Economy for the Common Good**“:
<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/C/bo23073339.html>

The international movement:
<https://ecogood.org/en>

US Tour Christian September 2016:
<http://www.changeeverything.info/>

4-pager on „Alternatives to TTIP, CETA and „Free Trade““:
<http://www.christian-felber.at/schaetze/Alternatives-to-TTIP-and-Free-Trade-Christian-Felber-2015.pdf>