C: The sustainable state – redefining prosperity

Growth, growth, growth – that was the mantra for a long time. But honestly: why always more when the planet is groaning? We run in circles, count revenues while the air gets thicker.

Shrinking without drama

The (German) CO_2 numbers are falling? Sounds nice – but that's not due to brilliant climate policy, rather to the pandemic and recession. In short: the climate breathes when we stop. The problem isn't stopping – it's that we immediately hit the gas again.

An update for the GDP

Time to count our prosperity in a new way. Not only in euros and exports, but in things that truly matter: clean air, fair distribution, joy of life.

Therefore: a **GDP plus** that combines four factors:
1. **Classic Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** – at 25 percent, because money still matters.
2. **Climate indicator** – measures whether emissions are decreasing.
3. **Distribution indicator** – shows whether prosperity is shared fairly.
4. **Satisfaction index** – measures how we are doing "emotionally".

This is not a hippie dream, but maths with meaning. And the "happiness barometer" already exists in the form of the UN World Happiness Report.

Time is the new capital

“Negative growth” does not mean fewer jobs. If everyone works a little less, more people can find work – and everyone wins time back.

> *This is not a hippie dream, but maths with meaning.*

Time prosperity: that’s the upgrade we urgently need. Less permanent stress, more balance – that also helps the climate.

Quality beats quantity

Growth without direction doesn’t get us anywhere. Sustainable prosperity means: less stuff, more meaning. Products that last. Work that matters. Politics that listens. And delivers.

That’s not a step backward, but simply progress without blah-blah.

Your TEC Learnings:

- The drop in emissions was cyclical, not structural.
- GDP plus measures prosperity smarter – with climate, fairness and satisfaction.
- Time prosperity strengthens climate, health and cohesion.

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