

SEITENSTETTEN MANIFESTO 2026

A wake-up call for a peace-promoting monetary and economic system

12 target visions for a fairer way of living together

Money should serve life – not the other way round.

It is time to put the rules on the table.

We do not claim to have found the perfect monetary and economic system.

But we are convinced:

The rules of our money and our economy are made by people.
So people can improve them too!

The world today is a different one from that of 1944, when a worldwide monetary order was negotiated at Bretton Woods – an order that has continued to evolve to this day.

Global trade. Digital financial markets. Artificial intelligence. Robotics. High levels of debt. Large disparities in wealth. Dependence on raw materials, energy and food. Ecological limits. Geopolitical tensions.

Many people and schools of thought have long been working on possible improvements.

Let us use this diversity to arrive at better rules:

> **The best ideas should enrich one another.**
> **The most convincing rules should connect us.**

We therefore propose two things:

First: Let us review and improve our monetary and economic system at every level – personal, regional, national and international.

Second: Let us convene a **new international world financial conference** – an updated version of Bretton Woods, to negotiate together those rules that can only sensibly be shaped internationally.

Not every one of the following target visions can be resolved at a world monetary conference.

But each deserves the question:

What role do money, financing and economic rules play in it – and what can we improve at our own level?

Twelve target visions for a fairer way of living together

1. Power, wealth and debt

Wealth – including land and other material stores of value –, debts and economic power are ordered in such a way that democracy, personal responsibility, the common good and social peace remain permanently secure.

People, the Mittelstand (small and medium-sized enterprises), the media and journalism, science and research, the arts, education, politics, the judiciary, food supply and entire countries remain as independent as possible.

Economic success remains possible without turning into disproportionate social power.

Preserve economic freedom. Protect democratic freedom.

2. Raw materials and indispensable knowledge

Raw materials that everyone needs but only some regions possess are available to all countries under fair rules agreed in common.

The same applies to intellectual property that is indispensable for health, nutrition and basic provision.

Those who created, developed or financed it are fairly rewarded.

Enable access. Preserve innovation.

3. AI and robotics

The monetary and economic system serves people – even when artificial intelligence and robotics take over more and more value creation.

Technological progress expands human possibilities.

It creates not only productivity, but also time, security, educational opportunities and new forms of meaningful activity.

When machines do more, people must get something out of it too.

4. Purchasing power, saving and pension provision

A lifetime's work, savings and pension provision retain a reliable real value in the long term.

People and businesses can plan.

Whether this is achieved through stable money or other suitable forms of value protection remains open to different approaches.

A lifetime's work needs reliability.

5. Peace and fair trade

World trade follows fair rules agreed in common.

Lasting imbalances in trade and payment flows are regarded as a shared responsibility.

Security of supply, economic self-reliance and international cooperation complement one another.

- **As central as necessary.**
- **As regional as possible.**
- **Workable internationally.**

And above all stands the question:

How can economic rules make cooperation and peace more attractive than confrontation?

6. Growth in moderation

The economy grows where people, innovation and real needs make growth sensible.

It finds its equilibrium where the limits of nature, resources and supply are reached.

Businesses and regions can succeed even without a permanent compulsion to expand.

Growing healthily does not necessarily mean growing endlessly.

7. Money serves the real economy

Money serves the real economy and people.

It enables value creation, innovation and entrepreneurship, rewards performance and allows fair competition.

Regions remain vibrant and capable of development as places to do business.

Financial speculation is not systematically favoured over socially useful value creation.

Money should finance a real future – not itself.

8. Agriculture and the foundations of life

Agriculture and food production are economically viable.

Soil, water, biodiversity and the natural foundations of life are preserved for future generations.

Every region can feed its population as reliably as possible.

Whoever owns or uses land bears responsibility for caring for it.

Without farming on healthy soil, there can be no healthy economy.

9. Livelihood, health and work

A secure livelihood creates freedom and preserves dignity.

Effort pays off.

Socially important work is recognised – including care, child-rearing and voluntary work.

Every person should have the chance to live in health, in dignity and with a secure livelihood.

Security should enable freedom – not replace personal responsibility.

10. Prosperity is more than money

True prosperity arises from real and human values:

Tangible assets. Education. Health. Culture. Science. Social relationships. Nature. Time. Security. Capability. Peace.

Money is a tool with which economic services are exchanged, coordinated and recorded.

What we measure influences what we consider important.

11. Democracy in money

How money is created and how it ceases to exist, how it enters circulation, is managed and used, and by what rules it functions, is made transparent, comprehensible and democratically legitimate.

Cash and privacy remain protected.

New digital possibilities must not replace freedom with unnecessary control.

Institutions transparent. People private.

12. Understanding, testing and developing further

Every generation understands the foundations of our monetary and economic system, can examine them critically and develop them further democratically.

Education in money, economics and finance therefore belongs in schools, vocational training, universities and adult education.

Instead: pluralistic. Scientific. Comprehensible. Critical. Open-ended.

New rules and models are compared, tested, evaluated and changed where necessary.

What we understand, we can improve.

TAMA – There Are Many Alternatives

Many challenges. Many possible tools.

To be able to act, we do not have to agree on a single monetary theory before we begin.

We can start by asking:

- **Which problem do we want to solve?**
- **Where in the monetary system is there a possible lever?**
- **Which different tools exist?**
- **What could they achieve?**
- **What side effects are possible?**

It helps to break the monetary system down into understandable areas:

Money creation – How is money created?

Financing and distribution – Who receives money, credit or income, and under what conditions?

Money management and payments – Who organises payments, and who controls the rules?

Preservation of value – How can purchasing power, saving and provision be maintained?

Use of money – Which activities, products and investments are favoured by our flows of money?

International exchange – How are currencies, trade and balance-of-payments imbalances between states regulated?

There is also a seventh, overarching task:

Learning and improving.

A Seitenstetten Impact Map

The following overview is deliberately open. It shows where different approaches could take effect and does not decide which solution is right.

1 | Power, wealth and debt

Possible levers: distribution of money, credit, property, storage of value.
To be examined: fair debt restructuring, competition rules, different tax and ownership models, land rules, broader participation models.

2 | Raw materials and indispensable knowledge

Possible levers: international trade, price formation, financing.
To be examined: fair supply agreements, licensing models, patent pools, international compensation mechanisms.

3 | AI and robotics

Possible levers: financing and distribution.
To be examined: new tax bases for automated value creation, relief for human labour, social security models, resource levies and new education models.

4 | Purchasing power and pension provision

Possible levers: preservation of value and monetary order.
To be examined: price stability, store-of-value models, provision systems and alternative money and booking systems.

5 | Peace and fair trade

Possible levers: international exchange and clearing.
To be examined: Keynes's International Clearing Union with Bancor, neutral settlement systems, Special Drawing Rights, fair exchange-rate mechanisms, regional and complementary currencies.

6 | Growth in moderation

Possible levers: financing, use of money and resource prices.
To be examined: circular economy, repairability, durability, resource efficiency, regional cycles and more needs-based production.

7 | Money serves the real economy

Possible levers: money creation, credit and financing.
To be examined: sovereign money (Vollgeld), public and regional money creation, separate-banking systems, liability rules, financial transaction taxes, credit-steering models and common-good and environmental criteria.

8 | Agriculture and the foundations of life

Possible levers: financing, price formation and land rules.
To be examined: fair remuneration, ecosystem services, land and use models, regional supply and seed rules.

9 | Livelihood, health and work

Possible levers: distribution of money and public financing.
To be examined: basic social security, basic income, social insurance, public basic services, job guarantees and new financing models for health and care.

10 | Prosperity is more than money

Possible levers: measurement and societal goal-setting.
To be examined: complementary prosperity indicators, common-good balance sheets and ecological and social costs.

11 | Democracy in money

Possible levers: money creation, administration and governance.
To be examined: sovereign money, public and regional money creation, currency competition, complementary currencies, citizens' assemblies, digital models and the protection of cash and privacy.

12 | Understanding and developing further

Possible levers: education, research and evaluation.
To be examined: compulsory education in money, economics and finance, model comparisons, simulations, scientifically supported pilot projects and open publication of results.

This selection is not exhaustive and contains no ranking.

Many schools of thought belong at the same table

To be examined, for example – alphabetically and without ranking:

- Austrian School and currency competition.
- Commodity money and real-value approaches.
- Common Good Future Booking System according to Rudolf Kulovic.
- Credit-related steering models and balance mechanics.
- Economy for the Common Good.
- GWZ booking system.
- Humane Market Economy.
- Keynes's International Clearing Union with Bancor.
- Post-Keynesian and MMT approaches.
- Regional and complementary currencies.
- Social Threefolding.
- Sovereign money (Vollgeld).
- And of course also the further development of the existing system.

Education and comparison projects can also make an important contribution. These include, for example, the Berlin work on a comparative money matrix and approaches to a more conscious education in money, such as those being developed, among others, in the circle around "Positive Money for a Regenerative World".

The decisive question is not:

> **"Which school wins?"**
> Rather:
> **"Which tool helps with which problem → and what effects does it have?"**

Seven shared touchstones

Different approaches to solutions should as far as possible be judged by the same standards:

- **Peace.**
- **Human dignity.**
- **Stability.**
- **Real economy.**
- **Ecological sustainability.**
- **Development opportunities.**
- **Freedom.**

We also ask:

- What improves?
- What side effects arise?
- Who gains additional power?
- How is this power controlled?
- Who bears the risks?
- What happens in a crisis?
- What are the effects on economically weaker people and countries?
- Can the idea first be tested on a limited scale?
- And can it be corrected or withdrawn again?

From idea to experiment

We want to learn and evaluate from these experiments, and not merely discuss.

Therefore:

- **Name the problems.**
- **Gather approaches to solutions.**
- **Compare effects.**
- **Draft rules.**
- **Enable pilot projects.**
- **Evaluate results openly.**
- **Improve.**

A learning-capable order does not have to be infallible from the start.

Model regions in particular can help to test ideas under manageable conditions before far-reaching decisions are taken. A learning-capable order does not have to be infallible from the start.

Bretton Woods II – but not only there

A new international monetary and financial conference remains an important goal.

In particular, questions that individual states cannot sensibly resolve alone belong on the table there:

- International clearing.
- Exchange rates.
- Balance-of-payments imbalances.
- Reserve currencies.
- Cross-border financial flows.
- Debt crises.
- Fair development finance.
- International rules for payment systems.

But a better monetary and economic order begins first with us:

- In municipalities.
- In regions.
- In businesses.
- In schools and universities.
- In banks and public institutions.
- And with every person who uses money.

What can I do myself?

- We are all part of money cycles.
- We have a say when we shop.
- When we save or invest.
- When we run a business.
- When we give money as a gift.
- When we vote.
- When we pass on information.
- When we write to political representatives.
- When we organise a discussion.
- When we inform ourselves and invite others to think.

That is why our appeal is not only:

“Politicians should do something.”

Rather:

- **Let us inform ourselves.**
- **Let us talk about it.**
- **Let us examine alternatives.**
- **And let us get things moving.**

Politics, the media and all of us: it is our move.

The twelve target visions are not a finished world order.

But they are concrete enough to do more than describe crises.

And open enough for different people and schools of thought to work on them together.

Let us support and organise monetary, economic and currency conferences at regional, national and international level.

And let us encourage governments and international institutions to negotiate together those questions that can only be resolved together.

Let us convene Bretton Woods II.

- Not East against West.
- Not North against South.
- Not market against state.
- Not debtor against creditor.

People together.

We do not need to know today which monetary order will be best in a hundred years.

But we can begin today to seek better rules together.

Perhaps we do not first need the same answer.

Perhaps we first need the same table.

Money should serve life – not the other way round.