SEITENSTETTEN WAKE-UP CALL 2026

Perhaps we do not first need the same answer.
Perhaps we first need the same table.

An important insight from Seitenstetten:

TAMA – There Are Many Alternatives.

There are many alternatives.

Sovereign money (Vollgeld). Regional money. Economy for the Common Good. Humane Market Economy. Keynes's idea of international clearing. Different market-economy approaches. New booking systems. Reforms of the existing system. And much more.

None of these ideas should be declared the winner too hastily.

Instead we could ask:

- Which problem do we want to solve?
- Which different tools are there for it?
- What could they improve?
- Which side effects could arise?
- And what could we try out first?

Not: 'Who is right?'
Rather: 'What does the idea achieve?'

There is not just one possible solution.



Seven simple touchstones


Peace


Human dignity


Stability


Real economy


Ecological sustainability


Development opportunities


Freedom

Very different proposals can be judged by the same questions.
In this way a dispute between theories becomes a shared learning process.

Not everything has to be changed worldwide at once.

Some ideas can first be tested in municipalities, regions, businesses or model projects.

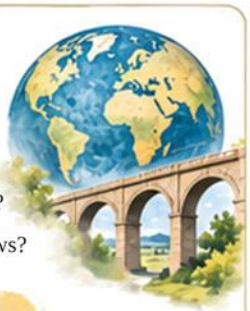


We can observe:

- What works?
- What does not work?
- What unexpected consequences arise?
- What must we improve?

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

But some questions we can only solve together.



- How do states deal fairly with one another?
- How do we deal with lasting trade imbalances?
- What role should reserve currencies play?
- How can over-indebted states regain room for manoeuvre?
- How do we shape international payment and financial flows?

The Forum Seitenstetten therefore proposes:

Let us bring the world back to one table.

A new international monetary and financial conference – a Bretton Woods II – could bring together different states, scientists, central banks, businesses, employees, agriculture, civil society and young people.

Not to push through a theory.
But to examine together:
Which rules could work more fairly for as many people and countries as possible?

And what can I do myself?


Inform yourself


Exchange views


Examine alternatives


Approach politicians and media


Inspire others to think along

We influence money flows every day. When we shop. When we save or invest. When we run a business. When we vote. When we pass on information. When we speak to politicians. When we organise a discussion. Or when we simply begin to ask questions.

We do not need to know today what the perfect monetary and economic system of the future looks like.
But we can begin today to search for it.

Money should serve life – not the other way round.

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Money should serve life – not the other way round.

Twelve thoughts for a more peaceful and fairer way of living together

We use money every day.
We earn it. We spend it. We save. We invest. We pay taxes. Businesses take out loans. States run up debts. Banks lend money. Countries trade with one another.

And yet many of us know astonishingly little about how our monetary and economic system actually works.

Yet its rules influence almost everything: our work, our prices, our housing, our pensions, our businesses, our agriculture – and even the relationships between states.

The rules of our money did not fall from the sky.
People created them.
So people can also improve them.



Twelve Target Visions

1. Economic power must not dominate democracy.

Ownership and economic success can create freedom. But too much power in too few hands can make other people, businesses, media or even states dependent.

Preserve economic freedom. Protect democratic freedom.

2. Vital raw materials and knowledge need fair rules.

Water, raw materials, seeds, medicines and important knowledge should remain accessible. At the same time, those who research, develop, invest and bear risks must be fairly rewarded.

Enable access. Preserve innovation.

3. AI and robotics should serve people.

If machines take over more and more work, progress should improve our lives.

When machines achieve more – what do people gain?

4. Saving and a lifetime's work need reliability.

Those who work and make provision for decades want to be able to trust that their savings will still have a real value later on.

A lifetime's work needs reliability.

5. Trade should connect – not create dependency.

World trade can create prosperity. But no country should permanently have to gain at the expense of others. Strong regions and fair world-trade rules are needed.

As regional as sensible. As international as necessary.

6. A healthy economy does not have to grow endlessly.

Growth can be good. But businesses and national economies should also be able to remain stable when they do not get bigger every year.

Healthy growth does not necessarily mean endless growth.

7. Money should enable a real future.

Money can finance workshops, research, housing, agriculture, education, health and new businesses. Financial markets are important.

When does money finance a real future – and when is it mainly concerned with itself?

8. Without healthy soil, no healthy economy.

Agriculture must remain economically viable. At the same time, coming generations need fertile soils, clean water and a secure food supply.

What we eat every day does not begin in the supermarket.

9. A secure livelihood can create freedom.

People need personal responsibility. But permanent fear for one's livelihood does not automatically make people free and productive.

Security should enable freedom – not replace personal responsibility.

10. Prosperity is more than money.

A good life consists not only of income and economic growth. Health. Education. Time. Nature. Relationships. Security. Culture. Meaning. Peace.

What we measure influences what we take seriously.

11. The rules of our money must be understandable and democratic.

Who may create money? Who decides its rules? How do we protect cash and privacy?

Institutions transparent. People private.

12. Every generation should be able to think further.

Money and the economy belong in general education. Not as a creed. But understandable, critical, scientific and open to different ideas.

What we understand, we can improve.

People created the rules of our money. So people can also improve them.