

Regarding agenda item 3, Approval of the Acts of the Executive Board for fiscal 2018

Approval of the acts of the Executive Board is denied.

Reasoning:

The Commission on Growth, Structural Change and Employment has recommended a fixed deadline for the phase-out of lignite-fired power generation in January 2019. Through this decision, which is yet to be implemented by the government, the end of coal-fired power generation is no longer a mere possibility but has now been set in stone, and as such will have to be incorporated in the economic plans for the next decades. One thing is clear in this regard: Renewable power generation is possible and a phase-out of coal is indispensable in order to achieve the 1.5°C target.

Nevertheless, the Executive Board of RWE AG is still insisting that German energy supply lacks long-term alternatives to coal, thereby upholding the misguided decisions of recent decades. Ever since the Coal Commission presented their recommendations to the government, RWE has expedited the demolition of the threatened villages surrounding the Garzweiler and Hambach opencast mines, thereby actively violating the spirit of the plan for the coal phase-out. Rather than wait for the government to implement the Coal Compromise, RWE AG seemingly intends to create facts before the recommendations become legally effective and in doing so continues to uproot thousands of people from their homes.

Social acceptability is not guaranteed

More than 40,000 people have already been forcibly relocated from the Rhineland mining district due to the lignite opencast mines. Houses, churches, forests and fertile agricultural land have been destroyed. Now the residents of Berverath, Keyenberg, Kuckum, Oberwestrich, Unterwestrich, Manheim and Morschenich are to lose their homes as well.

Many local residents, who day-in-day-out experience first-hand how RWE is continuing to destroy houses in their neighbourhoods in order to drive the coal mining preparations, see the actions of the Group as psychological warfare, aimed at forcing them to leave their homes. RWE employees are drilling right next to residential buildings, causing continuous disturbances due to noise, light and dirt. They are making way for a bypass road, which may very well never be needed, by cutting a wide track through a forest and “accidentally” create ditches and pile up dirt on properties which don't even belong to RWE yet.

RWE negotiates the sale of properties with each land owner in secret. In doing so, they are pitting the residents against each other and fostering a climate of distrust. RWE's

offers of compensation are often inadequate and prevent many residents from finding a property similar to the one they have sold. Arable and livestock farmers receive properties that are so small, they are not in fact able to take part in the communal resettlement without giving up their jobs. Senior citizens, in particular, are uprooted and robbed of their surroundings as a result of the forced resettling. There have been cases in which this uprooting has affected the older members of the local population so deeply that they have passed away during or shortly after the forced resettling.

In every press release, RWE stresses how socially acceptable the resettlements are. However, those affected can clearly say: The exorbitantly low compensation for their land and the perfidious psychological warfare tactics which RWE employs in order to force those affected to “voluntarily” sell their land, are categorically not socially acceptable.

RWE's catastrophic public image

In 2018 the world experienced a veritable onslaught of weather extremes. Simultaneously, a large part of the population has developed an awareness for the necessity of immediate measures to mitigate the climate crisis. The consensus on the need of an immediate reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, in particular, unites nearly all areas of society. With this in mind, in the late summer of 2018 the RWE Executive Board, disregarding an imminent decision in the legal proceedings at the Münster Higher Administrative Court, continued to make preparations for the deforestation of Hambach Forest, scheduled for the Autumn of 2018.

“Temporary suspension of the deforestation of the Hambach opencast mine planned for October 2018 would quickly jeopardize the continuation of opencast mining at this site and thus present a danger to the power generation of the Niederaussem and Neurath power plants”, claimed RWE CEO Rolf Martin Schmitz in a letter to the members of the Coal Commission.

Three quarters of the German population are in favour of a swift coal phase-out. FridaysForFuture, backed by parents, teachers, churches and more than 20,000 scientists, demonstrated for a climate-friendly future. We are experiencing a mobilisation for climate protection, with the potential, within a short time, to set a long-overdue political course.

In his statement on the final report of the Coal Commission, RWE CEO Schmitz claimed that the envisaged deadline for the final coal phase-out was “far too soon”. “Powering. Reliable. Future.” is therefore nothing but an empty promise. RWE is ignoring its societal and political responsibilities and is becoming increasingly side-lined due to its inability to let go of coal.

Regarding agenda item 4, Approval of the Acts of the Supervisory Board for fiscal 2018

Approval of the acts of the Supervisory Board is denied.

Reasoning:

The Supervisory Board of RWE AG is not adequately observing its obligations to monitor the Executive Board. The continued counter-productive statements of the Executive Board concerning the attempts to find a compromise for the coal phase-out have not been revised. In addition, the high proportion of lignite in RWE's power mix has also not been remedied.

Furthermore, the Supervisory Board has neglected its obligation to control the structuring and implementation of corporate compliance by the Executive Board. In its Group-internal compliance statement, RWE stated that: "Respect for fellow human beings and the environment forms the basis of our entrepreneurial approach." "[We attach] great importance to [...] ethical conduct and action." "We are aware of our role in society." An energy corporation which, even in 2018, continues to produce 80% of its electricity by burning fossil fuels, drives people from their homes and destroys ancient forests, villages and churches in order to dig for lignite, and emits colossal amounts of greenhouse gasses, is acting contrary to its own compliance.

Technological dinosaur

As ever, RWE continues to rely heavily on coal. Following the transaction with E.ON, finalised in 2018, the proportion of electricity from renewables will not be increased through future-oriented business development. At its core, RWE's focus continues to be defined by coal and, in view of technological developments, this orientation lacks the necessary entrepreneurial foresight. Instead of complaining about a changing electricity market and the increasing prices of CO₂ certificates, significant investments should finally be made in the areas of renewable energy and electricity storage. This is where the Supervisory Board must demand a new entrepreneurial course. As we know only too well from ancient history, the dinosaurs met an unfortunate end.

The Supervisory Board of RWE AG is now called upon to provide the Executive Board with new guidelines for sustainable corporate action. In the coming years we will have the last chance to make a change for a sustainable and viable way of living with a peaceful social consensus.

Even now, societal resistance against the Garzweiler and Hambach opencast mines is gaining traction and is threatening to do lasting damage to RWE AG's public image. The people from the affected villages surrounding the Garzweiler and Hambach opencast mines are no longer prepared to tolerate the resettlements and RWE's tactics of psychological

warfare. They are organising a nation-wide German citizens' initiative called "All Villages Shall Remain" (web page: <https://www.alle-doerfer-bleiben.de/>) and will employ all lawful means to protect their homes from the excavators. As a result of the implementation of the recommendations of the Coal Commission, expropriation of private land to secure Germany's energy supply through coal-fired power generation will most likely no longer be possible. Armed with this knowledge, civil society and those affected will take legal action to combat the expropriations.

The Supervisory Board is therefore urged to demand a future-oriented corporate course that will secure a positive image of the company in the long term by moving away from lignite-fired power generation and towards electricity production using renewable energies.

Cologne, 17 April 2019