

Nuță, Florian Marcel

Article

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EuroEconomica

Provided in Cooperation with:
Danubius University of Galati

Reference: Nuță, Florian Marcel (2017). Bigger is better... again? : an essay. In: EuroEconomica 36 (2), S. 216 - 217.

This Version is available at:
<http://hdl.handle.net/11159/1761>

Kontakt/Contact

ZBW – Leibniz-Informationszentrum Wirtschaft/Leibniz Information Centre for Economics
Düsternbrooker Weg 120
24105 Kiel (Germany)
E-Mail: [rights\[at\]zbw.eu](mailto:rights[at]zbw.eu)
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Bigger is better... again? An Essay

Florian Marcel Nuță¹

Some time ago it was obvious for many that "bigger" is not necessary the better way. Bigger was only bigger and if we could do it smaller and better everybody was happy. The stockholders, the communities, the government, the "Green Peace" activists... But then again we are talking about a time when the UN was still a voice and the cold war was over. There was a time when the globalist-socialist-capitalism was the way and the nations were divided in capitalist economies and emerging economies. There were almost no national economies. No more.

After the fail (some say the fail to come) of the supra-national economic and politic structures (as the EU), the more and more reluctant European governments and the new "Trumpism", there is no place for the environmental issues. Even the governments are still declaring their attachment for different ecologic objectives, it is clear that something else is on the agenda: the emigrants, the Middle East (again), the growing fear from the East (again), the Asian difficulties (again)...

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Someone said some time ago that the problem with the environment is that it has no lawyers. Meaning that is a silent voice that no one is hearing when something "more important" is on the agenda. And let's agree that there are so many important issues on the public agenda these days.

The "newly self-discovered" Eastern European national economies are sick and tired of so many regulations they have to comply (some regarding the environment). At the same time the American "Trumpism" is sick and tired to compete with heavily environmental unfriendly China playing by the rules (the more or less ecologic rules). The European pharmaceuticals and chemical industry is (still) doing well in countries like India, while the home countries are pleading for ecology.

Putting all this together the Paris agreement seems like a drunken people meeting, where everybody is entitled to say anything because the next day everybody will sober anyway and will don't remember a thing...

I am not saying that there is no good will in all this mess. I am just saying that it is hard to separate the real good will from the political hypocrisy. It is also hard to imagine how the planet will look in a decade or two if the things continue to deteriorate and we continue to ignore the natural disasters signal.

Always in human history the economy and the need for economic welfare went ahead the environment. The humans always were inclined to sacrifice the nature for warmer houses, more food, luxurious clothes and more recently faster and bigger cars. It is in our genes to sacrifice everything else besides us for our welfare.

After all today environmental sacrifices are tomorrow welfare sacrifices. Cutting all the trees today will mean colder houses for our children tomorrow.

¹ Associate Professor, PhD, Danubius University of Galati, Romania, Corresponding author: floriann@univ-danubius.ro.



Maybe after we are dealing all the critical issues from tomorrow agenda we all have time for dealing with the environment and hearing its problems, which after all are our children's problems. Let's hope so that "bigger is better" is just history and "wiser" will be better not only for "us" of today but also for "us" of tomorrow.