

CP21 Conference on Climate change:

Warning, Danger !

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The COP21 conference, from November 30 to December 11 2015, at Parc des Expositions, in Paris -Le -Bourget.

As indicated by its name, it is the 21st conference on this subject since the first in Stockholm in 1972, passing by Kyoto, Rio, Lima and many more.

The multiplication of these conferences is a major threat to climate and the environment. The threat I am talking about is not the one that commentators usually highlight but to make it known that these conferences cause tens of thousands people to move and consume millions of litres of petrol and kerosene.

It is of course true that more than 200 heads of state and their entourage will move to Paris for the occasion. Just imagine the number of aeroplanes and luxury vehicles that will be mobilized , the parties, the tons of « petit fours » and the hectolitres of champagne that will be involved.

But there is something much more serious :

The biggest threat from these conferences is that they create the illusion in people's minds that something is happening, that Heads of State have taken control of the problem.

They contribute greatly towards reassuring the population and as a consequence they demobilize people on a subject where personal investment from everybody is still as crucial as it is indispensable.

Nobody has asked me for my opinion on what should be done instead, but allow me to give it anyway.

If I were François Hollande or even better Barack Obama, I would go on TV and I would say the following :

« My dear fellow citizens and all people on Earth, I have been asked to come to Paris for the 21st Conference on Climate Change : but I am sorry, that is not going to be of great use. Indeed, I am the President of the United States of America but I am not God. I can institute all the banning, regulations, taxes and legal obligations you want. I will do that anyway.

However, no matter what I do, I will never be able to see to it that :

- When you take your car out, carbon dioxide doesn't come out of your exhaust pipe.
- When you decide to eat fish, that this fish keeps on wriggling in ocean water.

-When you construct a building or a swimming pool, that the concreted ground remains covered with greenery, flowers and welcomes bees and wild animals.

-When you decide to go on holiday to the other side of the world, that that will not produce tons of pollution.

-When you drive fast on the road, that you don't frighten other human beings or animals coming your way.

-When you go to a fast food place and they give you a thousand small pots, plastic containers, cardboard, paper napkins and paper bags, that you don't fill up half a garbage bin for just one meal.

-When you spread sun cream on yourself before going to bathe in the sea, that it doesn't produce an oily layer on the water surface that will damage sub-marine life.

Unfortunately, I could continue this list for hours, telling you that :

-When you take a big hot bath or a 25 minute scalding shower, this will obviously consume hundreds of litres of water and enormous amounts of energy. Even with my powers as president I cannot change anything.

-When you do your shopping and you choose packaged products with cardboard or plastic, you will out of necessity have to throw the waste in a bin, sooner or later, recycling or not.

-When you decide to eat with plastic cutlery rather than real cutlery, or when you forget your re-usable bag for the supermarket, you again produce some harmful waste, in a way that is perfectly useless and costly for yourself and the community.

-If you go ski-ing, you obviously contribute to the fact that the mountains are covered with car parks, pylons, holiday homes that will destroy landscape and wild life.

-If you do hundreds or thousands of kilometres by plane or by boat to go diving, waterski-ing, kite-surfing or even just swimming and getting a tan on a paradise beach, it is the same : ME, AS PRESIDENT, WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PREVENT your plane, your bus, your boat from making noise, spreading toxic products, poisoning the air, the water, animals and human beings.

Therefore, I appeal to your conscience, to your sense of responsibility and also to your instinct for survival: My dear fellow citizens and inhabitants of the entire world, stop the massacre. It may already be too late but, please, for God's sake, if only to regain your own self-respect, stop behaving like spoilt kids and idiots destroying their own toys, soiling the floor of their own room, scribbling on the walls and tearing off the wallpaper. Even spoilt kids can usually count on their parents to give them a second chance to start afresh?

Unfortunately in your case, nobody will come with a new environment when you have destroyed it all. So I beg you, stop. It is for own your good that I am asking you.

Rather than sports that need complicated equipment, rediscover the joys of walking, running, doing keepfit or Qi Gong (things that need no equipment, not even special shoes), biking if you are lucky enough to have one.

Rather than looking for culture by travelling in all directions, why don't you discover and value the cultural curiosities and natural wonders near you, near your house, your city, your region. If there is lack of cultural activity close to your home, it's a chance to create a group of people to perform music, make pottery, sculpt, paint or dance. Go on YouTube and you will find thousands of free videos to help you. If you live in a cultural desert, rejoice that you will not have competition and your initiative will have even more chance of success. You may create an opportunity for artistic adventures, even human ones that could transform your life in a way you cannot imagine.

Regarding Venice, the Louvre museum, the Metropolitan museum in NY, the Pyramids in Egypt, the Taj Mahal or the Sydney Opera House, I can assure you that there are so many tourists there that these places have lost their charm. So don't feel regret, and a good documentary on the subject will teach you just as much as a visit to the place itself. Read books, teach your children how to read books.

As for me, President of the United States of America, I am ready to sign at once a decree that stops the launch of satellites into the sky, there are far too many. I will stop sending aircraft carriers, fighter jets, trucks and tanks to the four corners of the planet. I will stop financing motorways, airports, military bases, bigger and bigger stadiums. There are far too many.

So to conclude, here are some additional pieces of advice that I can give you in order to stop ruining the environment. It is very serious.

If you do not apply them, if you do not teach your children to apply them, it is quite simply, certain disaster :

-Foodshopping : choose scrupulously products with no packaging. This will require putting pressure on retailers but remind yourself that only 50 years ago, everybody would go pick up their eggs with their own egg boxes, milk with their own milk bottles, fruit and vegetables with a basket, meat and fish with some specific container. There was no plastic packaging of any sort, maybe sometimes a bit of newspaper and people were not less happy or in poorer health (any health issues probably emanated from lack of refrigeration).

-Travelling : it won't be enough to use public transport or electric vehicles which pretend not to harm the environment. This is not true. Electricity has to be produced somewhere ; it is mainly nuclear or created from hydrocarbon combustion. The only solution is to stop moving around in every way, organize your life (place to live), your work (teleworking if possible), your leasures (home activities or in your neighborhood), and above all have holidays that don't mean moving in all directions uselessly doing hundreds or even thousands of kilometers.

- Clothing : stop buying « fashionable » synthetic clothes or shoes that you have to replace constantly. It is ruinous for your budget and disastrous for the environment. Buy only durable timeless garments. I guarantee you that is possible and that with care, you will be astonished how the same trousers or the same woollen sweater will last a lifetime.

- Provide yourself with warm, comfortable clothes and underwear that allow you to reduce the heating wherever you are. Get into the habit of moving regularly, it is much more efficient than raising the heating several degrees, you will save a huge amount of money and it's much better for your health.

Switch off the light when you leave a room, unplug electrical devices (especially your TV), rediscover the pleasure of peacefulness in a subdued atmosphere. When you read, a simple bedside lamp is enough with a good blanket on your lap and it may even be that it is the most pleasant way.

-Stop using all sort of products, cleansers, varnishes, chemical dyes when it is not an absolute necessity. Stop buying any playthings, goods , gadgets which you believe will end up in the bin.

Here is what I can offer you to start with. And it won't be enough even if it is a good start. From now on every week I will put some new advice online, on the White House website. But regarding the big summit on climate change in Paris, don't dare to imagine that it is this way we are going to save the planet. It is me, Obama, who is telling you. The only way to start really making a difference is by immediately beginning to apply the advice I have just listed. It is your choice but if you don't do it, nobody will come to rescue you and your life and your children's lives will soon be hell. And one last thing : don't waste any time, roll up your sleeves now. We have been discussing this for 40 years.

IT IS SOON GOING TO BE TOO LATE !!!!! »