

Energy transition and anticapitalist alternative

Plea for an ecological and social (European) plan of anticapitalist structural reforms

Daniel Tanuro, février 2014



Hayan, Philippines, 2013



Pakistan, 2011

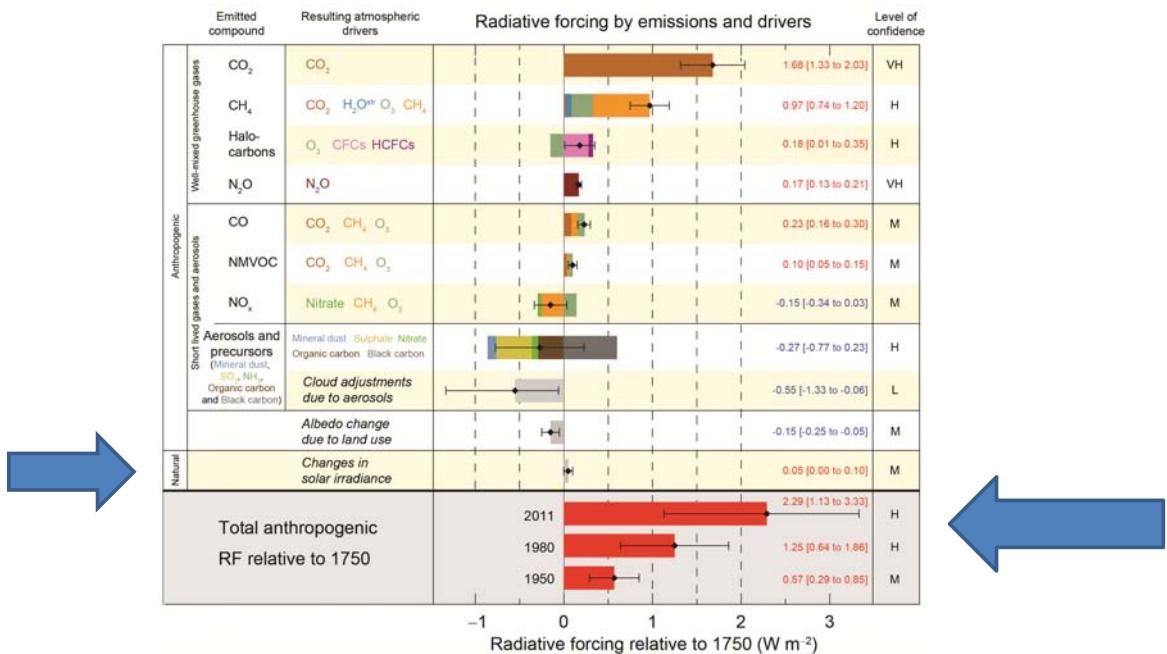


Russia, 2011



Britain, 2014

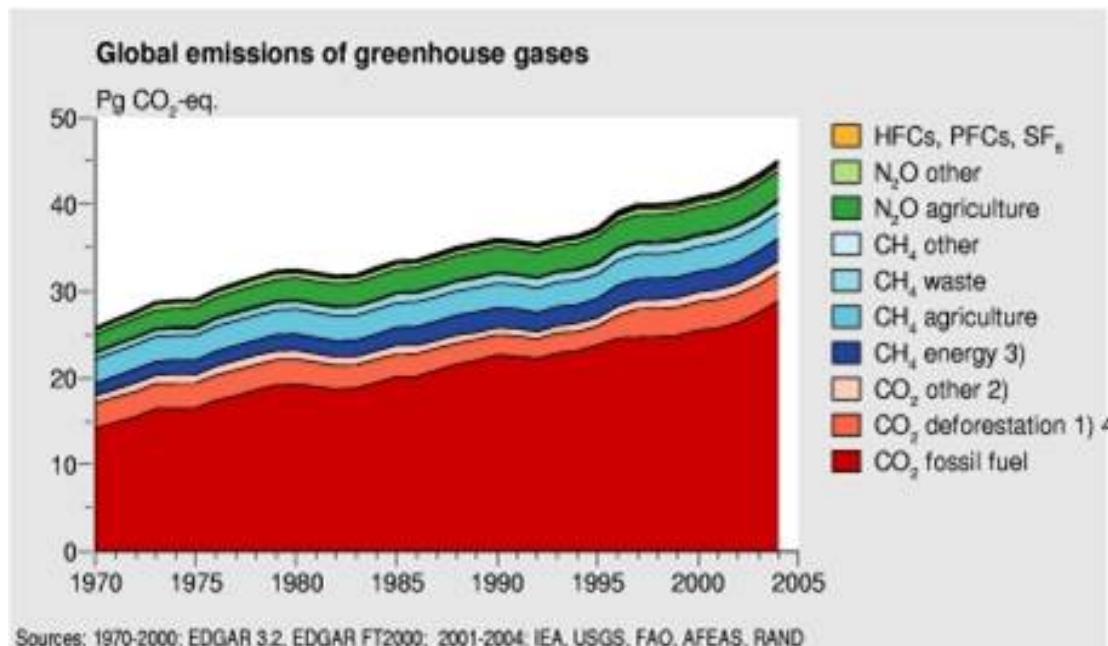
Drivers of radiative forcing



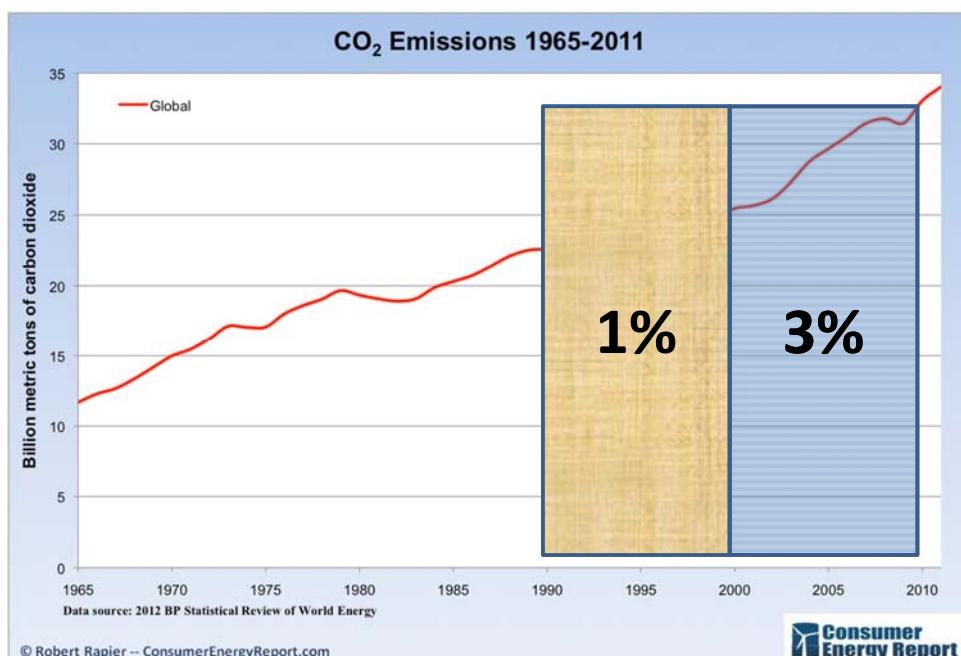
What has changed?

- Not the message delivered by scientists but...
 - 200 bn t CO_2 pumped into the atmosphere since AR4 (2007)
 - Annual emissions 70% higher than in 1990 (AR1)
 - CO_2 levels in atmosphere higher than at any moment in the last 800.000 yrs

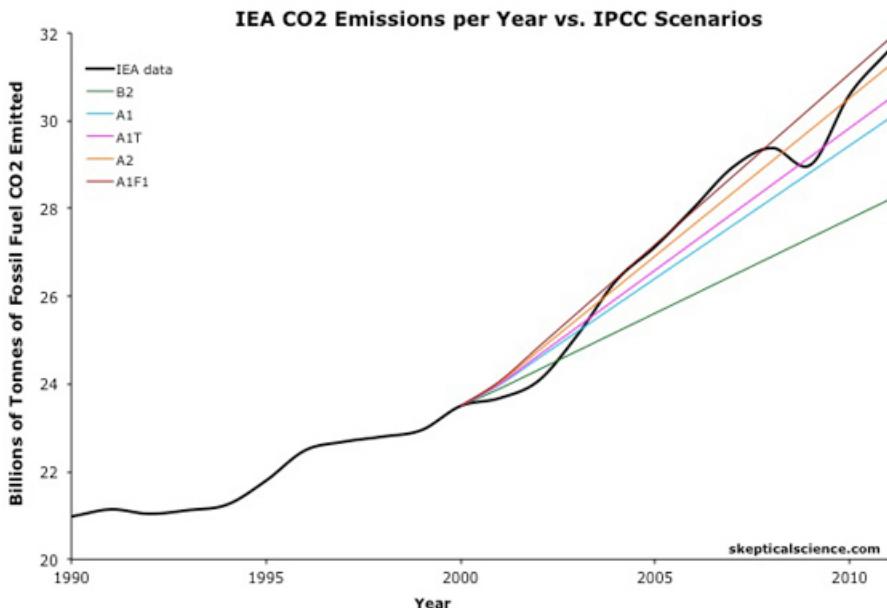
CO₂ fossil fuels combustion



Growing rate of CO₂ accumulation



IPCC projections vs. IEA observations



« The CO2 trend is perfectly in line with a temperature increase of 6°C, which would have devastating consequences for the Planet »

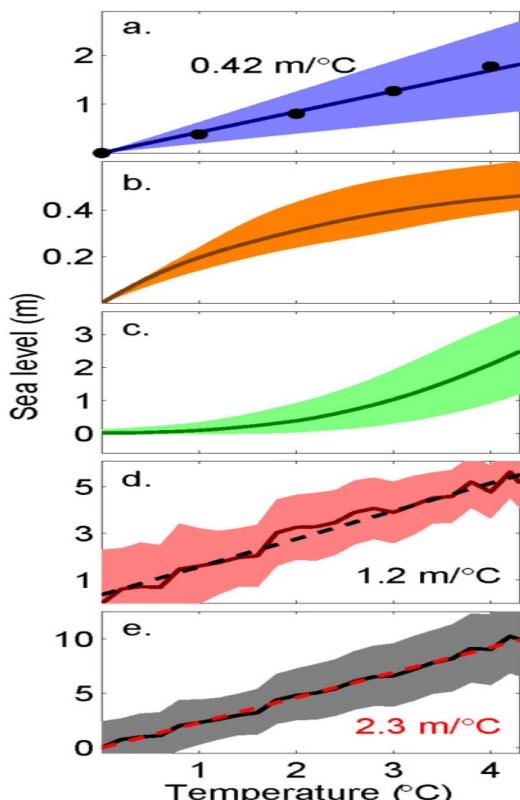
(Fatih Birol, IEA chief economist)

4-6°C?

- +2°C : analogue to previous warming episodes on Earth in the past 800.000 yrs
 - *Earth system relatively stable but sea level 5-10 meters higher than today*
- + 4-6°C = no analogue warming in the past
 - Any comparison = *glaciations \Leftrightarrow huge transformation of the environment*
- No adaptation to a 4-6°C warming possible in a world with 9 bn people
- Risks between 2-4°C little explored

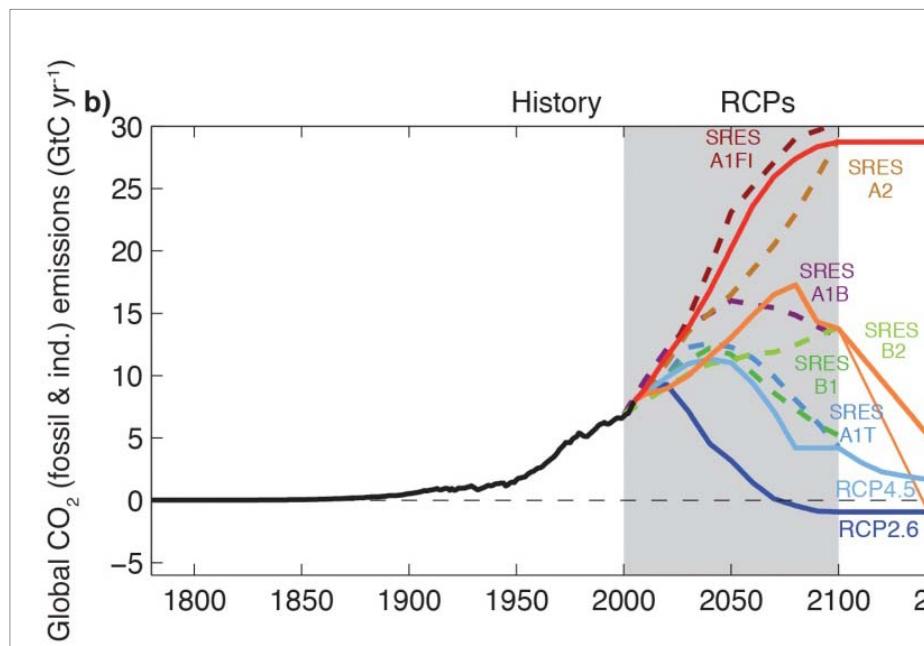
Main threat: sea level rise

- a: thermal dilatation
- b: melting mountain glaciers
- c: dislocation Greenland ice cap
- d : dislocation Antarctic ice cap
- e : total at equilibrium



Anders Levermann,
<http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2013/08/the-inevitability-of-sea-level-rise/>

Stabilisation scenarios



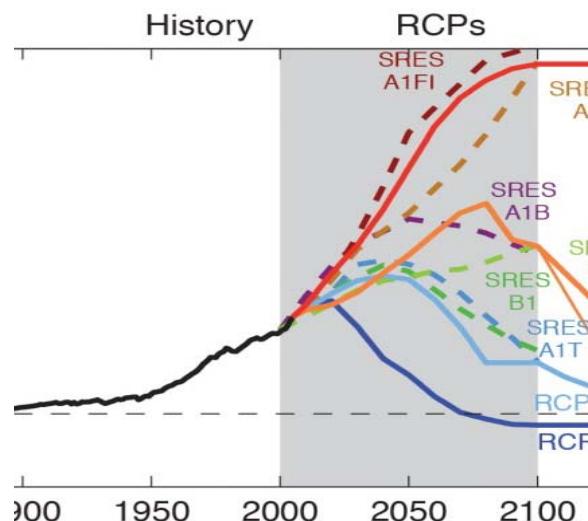
2°C Carbon budget

580Gt

1000Gt

5000Gt

STOP
2032



66% chance < 2°C: what does it mean?

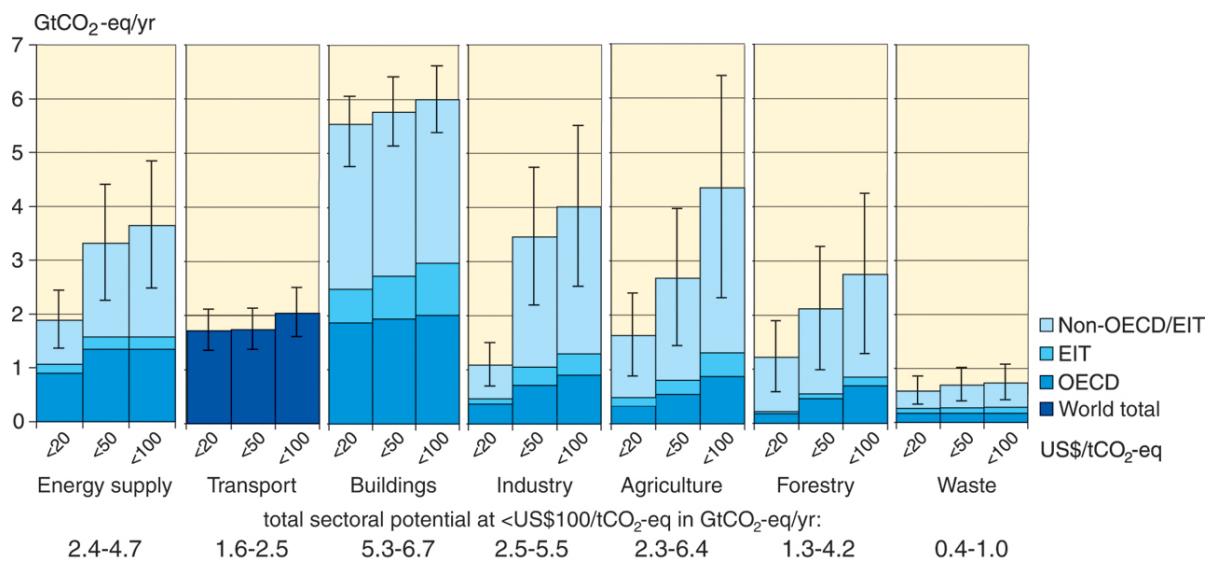
- If emissions of non-Annex 1 countries would
 - Peak in 2025
 - Start reducing by 6-8%/yr...
- Then Annex 1 countries should start immediately to cut their emissions by at least 11%/yr
 - 40% 2018
 - 70% 2024
 - 90% 2030 (*compared to 1990*)

« EU climate leader »

- Yes to shale gas
- New coal power plants
- Unprecedented investments in exploitation of North Sea fossil fuels
- New airports, ports, motorways...
- Emission standards for cars under pressure of car lobby and German gov
- 40% emission reduction in 2030 (actually about 30%)
- Phasing out of subsidies to renewables (under pressure of fossil lobby and ERT)
- Support to fossil exploitation in the Arctic ...



Internalisation of the externalities?



*Sectoral potential of emission reduction by 2030 at < \$100/tCO₂eq ⇔
stabilisation of CO₂ concentration at the 1990 level*

Flaws in most « zero carbon » plans

- Do not take into account the race for profit by the dominant « fossil fuel/financial complex »
- Do not take into account the supplementary emissions needed to produce the green devices, insulants, etc
- Do not dare to tell the truth: cuts in the material production and transportation are necessary => achieve 50-75% reduction in final energy consumption
- Underestimate the obstacle: the existing capitalist energy system

The energy system: some figures

- Thousands of large coal mines and coal power plants
- 50,000 oilfields
- 300,000 km of oil and 500,000 km of natural gas pipelines
- 300,000 km of transmission lines
- Replacement cost of the existing fossil/nuclear infrastructure = at least \$15 trillion-\$20 trillion (1/5 of the global GDP).
- China alone added more than 300 GW of coal power capacity from 2000 to 2008 ⇔ > \$300 billion, which will pay for itself only by 2030-2040 and will run until 2050-60.
- ... Fossil reserves belong to businesses!

« Today,, after two decades of bluff and lies, the remaining 2°C budget demands revolutionary change to the political and economic hegemony »

(Kevin Anderson, Prof. of Energy and climate change, Manchester University)

This is not an « ecological crisis»

- Menace majeure sur les conditions d'existence de l'humanité
- « Crise »? Impasse systémique du Capital /sociale et environnementale
- Vers une « destruction créatrice » d'une barbarie sans précédent



100% renewable global energy supply: from wishes...

- 3.8 million windmills of 5 MW
- 89,000 solar plants (pv or thermodynamic)
- PV panels on all roofs
- 900 big hydro
- \$1 trillion/yr
- An effort more important than the reconversion of the US economy in 1940-44

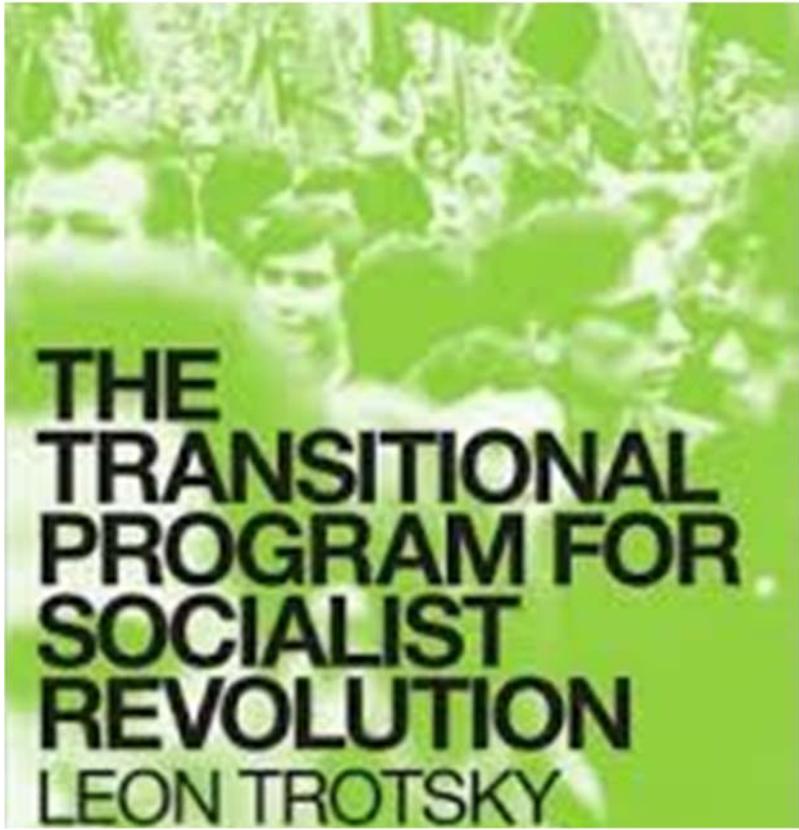
(“A plan to power 100% of the Planet with renewables”, Mark Z. Jacobson and Mark A. Delucchi, *Scientific American*, October 26, 2009 | 188.)

... to reality

- “*Global investment in clean energy fell for the second year in a row to \$254bn last year, with green investment in Europe crashing by 41%.*”
(The Guardian, 15 january 2014)
- « *Partant de la supposition que le changement climatique est inévitable, l'argent intelligent investit dans les businesses qui tireront profit du fait que la planète devient plus chaude* ».
(Bloomberg Finance)

« *Le modèle actuel est arrivé au bout de ses limites tant pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie qu'il est capable d'offrir aux plus pauvres que pour l'empreinte écologique que nous pouvons imposer à la planète, mais mes clients n'investissent qu'avec des promesses de profit, et cela ne va pas changer* ».

(Pavan Sukhdev, Deutsche Bank, Coordinateur de l'étude PNUE sur la transition vers un modèle « vert »)



Transitional Program?

- To answer the main objective problems => a bridge towards socialism
- A bunch of demands globally incompatible with the normal functioning of Capitalism
- Proposals for the autonomous action/self organisation of the exploited/oppressed
- Pointing in the direction of the fight for the political power

60% emissions ⇔ 1-5% population

The poor = the main victim



=> climate urgency to validate the demands of the 95% & radical anticapitalist/productivist/inequality program

To save the climate & the civilisation: create good jobs, break the poverty

Expropriation of energy and credit

=> plan the transition,

=> shift to decentralised selfmanagement of energy by the communities

Radical reduction of the work time without wage losses

Cancel the debt & take the money where it is

=> public services to make all dwellings passive

=> development of free public transportation

=> free amounts of water, warmth, lighting, mobility... until a certain level, corresponding to the basic needs

Re-orientation of the industry => produce the devices necessary to the transition,

Closure of harmful industries; phasing out of the car civilisation; fight against planned obsolescence; reconversion of the workers;

Localisation of food production on organic basis, by peasants, cooperatives, etc

People empowering

- Control (training, housing programs, transportation, planned obsolescence...)
- Occupy the public space
- Fight against projects devoted to the fossil fuels
- Self organisation of alternative circuits, alternative production, cooperate with peasants
- ...

An other, ecosocial, Europe

- Ecosocial governments
- Monopoly of the international trade
- Cancellation of the debt
- Cancellation of the patent system on green technologies
- ...