

## **STATEMENT III**

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### **Travelling overseas – without oil**

During the past 10,000 years of our cultural history, humanity has reached the sea without oil – and afterwards with coal and oil for by 150 years – now we are doing it, starting from Basle, without oil again. It is an alternative, not yet commercial, but one nevertheless. We consider this a secular impulse.

I work in the domain of culture and as a historian, and I dedicate myself to the project work in ecology and culture. What can be stated about seafaring in former times: it stood under the sign of a self-reliant culture: people created works of miracle on the basis of their own resources, including water, wind, wood and food, muscular strength, body competence, brilliant human technologies. Today, we owe thanks to a new and good technology, which enables us to use the sun directly as a new resource: this belongs to autarky, especially if one bears the following in mind: «The sun shines for everyone». This is also valid for navigation. You all know it: Aviation has increased hyperbolically during the last 40 years, the consumption of kerosene and the CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions burst all bounds and particularly those of climate tolerance. One flies against the climate and, today, we want to cross the sea with the climate. Somehow, we are following the tracks of the Vikings, great mariner-pioneer-nations of the Renaissance period, the bold people of the «Mayflower» 1614, or also of Thor Heyerdahl and others. What pleases me is that we follow in the footsteps of these people in a new manner.

As a student, I hardly flew. My last flight was to Cairo with the SSR in 1975. For a long time, I was intensely involved in contacting Asia and Africa during the third world movement and had to repeatedly ask myself if it was not possible to reach the far continents in a less problematic way than by means of kerosene. Now, we have the chance and it is a positive premiere for myself as well as for the history of technology.