

## The Real Signal of the Climate Summit

Düsseldorf, November 15th 2021 – Even if the results of the climate summit are assessed very differently, at least the conference sent out a very strong signal:  $CO_2$  trading is being pushed through as the crucial instrument to bring more countries on board. "This decision in favor of an offset scheme represents a real breakthrough", says Markus W. Voigt, CEO of the aream Group.

The compromise creates a transnational market for  $CO_2$  certificates and offset projects. This will make it possible to save  $CO_2$  not only on one's own doorstep but worldwide. "Of course, it can be cheaper to initiate projects in a developing country and get credit for the  $CO_2$  savings", says Voigt. "In any case, this leads to more projects and also ensures that more  $CO_2$  is saved per euro invested."

The rules, which were adopted years ago, have now been substantiated so that double counting is no longer possible. "This has always been a major and justified point of criticism", Voigt said. Another point of criticism is the accusation that wealthier countries can buy their way out of their responsibility for climate targets. "This is wrong if only because the fight against climate change has to be a global one and it only matters that CO<sub>2</sub> is saved, irrespective of where it is saved", Voigt said.

In addition, the mechanisms of the market economy within the  $CO_2$  trading have a strong steering effect. "The price for  $CO_2$  is an important lever to get the economy and consumers to rethink in a simple way", says Voigt. "Not to force, but to move, that's the key." In Germany,  $CO_2$  pricing has led to fuel becoming more expensive in the transport sector, for example.

But not only that: "At the same time, the EEG levy is also falling, which makes electricity cheaper for consumers", says Voigt. Thus, a double impact and a powerful effect in a single step: "Combustion engines are becoming less attractive compared to electric cars and are disappearing", says Voigt. "Less demand means decreasing supply; after all, many car companies have already announced the end of the combustion engine."

In this respect, it is to be expected that the decisions made in Glasgow will lead to much greater demand for wind turbines, solar parks as well as intelligent combinations of renewable energies with storage media. "This will provide even greater planning certainty for private sector investments in these plants", says Voigt. "The basis of all calculations becomes even more solid."

More information: <u>www.aream.de</u>.

## About aream

The aream Group is a fully integrated investment and asset manager for institutional investors with a focus on sustainable infrastructure in the renewable energy sector, which includes wind and solar power, grids and storage technology. In this context, aream is represented along the entire value chain from project development to plant operation. With a transaction volume of more than EUR 1.5 billion, the company has been covering the entire spectrum of asset management services for over 15 years and ensures the commercial and technical optimization of the assets. In addition to classic project investments in clean



energy, aream also offers investment opportunities in climate-tech companies: directly or via private equity solutions. aream combines investment expertise with technical and commercial know-how and ensures sustainable performance with stable distributions, returns and value growth through a structured investment and risk management process.

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