

## PRESS RELEASE GREENTECH FESTIVAL BERLIN 2023

### GREENTECH FESTIVAL CONFERENCE 2023

#### Jürgen Trittin discusses with "Letzte Generation"

*Is "Letzte Generation" a criminal organisation? Or is the state criminalising a non-violent and legitimate protest movement? These and other topical questions will be discussed on stage at the GREENTECH FESTIVAL (14-16 June) by DIE GRÜNEN politician Jürgen Trittin (MdB, Environment Minister 1998-2005), Aimée van Baalen (spokesperson for "Letzte Generation"), Katharina van Bronswijk (psychologist and author) and Dr. Roya Sangi (lawyer for constitutional, European and international law). The discussion will be moderated by Christian Krug (former editor-in-chief of STERN).*

**Berlin, 26 May 2023.** No other protest movement is currently polarising as much as the "Letzte Generation". Members have been arrested after protests and in some cases convicted and imprisoned for coercion. In mid-May, house searches were carried out in various locations on suspicion of forming a criminal organisation. Aimée van Baalen, spokesperson for "Letzte Generation", says: "The federal government is leading us into climate hell and continues to press the accelerator."

#### **GTF Closing Panel on 16 June 2023 – „Letzte Generation: Are they accelerating or slowing down the necessary ecological change?"**

On Friday, 16 June, a very special Closing Panel will take place on the Main Stage of the GREENTECH FESTIVAL (GTF) at 12.30 pm. Under the title "Letzte Generation: Are they accelerating or slowing down the necessary ecological change?" Top-class speakers will discuss how fast a protest movement has to be in order to really get closer to its goal and how far protests can go without losing their legitimacy. Does "higher" morality beat current law and what understanding of democracy underlies this? Germany is familiar with this fundamental question. Especially in the 1970s and 1980s, the extra-parliamentary opposition had a similar argumentation. While the level of societal approval for the drastic measures of the "Letzte Generation" is diminishing, it is crucial to engage in open and sincere conversations about the pressing and immediate requirements.

#### **Speakers and moderation**

**Jürgen Trittin** is a member of the Deutscher Bundestag and the foreign policy spokesman for the parliamentary group BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN. He joined the party in 1980 and looks back on an eventful political career: among other things, Trittin was Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety between 1998 and 2005, parliamentary party leader of the BÜNDNIS 90/DIE

GRÜNEN from 2009 to 2013, and since 2019 a member of the IEA's Global Commission for Urgent Action on Energy Efficiency.

**Aimée van Baalen** has been press officer and networking coordinator of the organisation "Letzte Generation" since 2021. Her goals include an agricultural turnaround and the "Food Rescue Act". The 24-year-old native of Dresden was already involved in "Fridays For Future" and for other activist organisations. In 2022, van Baalen protested for the first time for the "Letzte Generation" and describes their form of protest as "democratic" and "effective".

**Katharina van Bronswijk** is a psychologist and spokesperson for Psychologists/ Psychotherapists for Future e.V. She specialises in clinical psychology and is concerned with the effects of the climate crisis on the human psyche. Her first book "Climate Action - Die Psychologie der Klimakrise; Handlungshemmnisse und Handlungsmöglichkeiten" was published in 2021, her second book is currently in progress.

**Dr Roya Sangi** studied law and political philosophy in Tehran, Hamburg and Barcelona. Since 2017, she has been responsible for the topics of constitutional and European law as well as international law at the law firm Redeker Sellner Dahs Rechtsanwälte. She is, among other things, a member and European representative of the Constitutional Law Committee of the German Bar Association (DAV) and has published various papers - including on the Supply Chain Sourcing Obligations Act.

**Christian Krug** is a journalist and media consultant. His professional beginnings led the political scientist via the Hamburger Morgenpost to STERN and SPIEGEL TV. He later took over as editor-in-chief of the lifestyle magazine MAX and founded the media consultancy Krugmedia. From 2014 to 2019, Krug was editor-in-chief of STERN. With two partners, he founded Scrollytelling GmbH in 2021, which has developed leading software for digital storytelling.

## About

*The GREENTECH FESTIVAL (GTF) was founded by Nico Rosberg and Marco Voigt and is the largest sustainability festival in Europe with the GTF EXHIBITION, GTF CONFERENCE and the GREEN AWARDS: More than 190 exhibitors, around 120 speakers and more than 15,000 visitors are expected at the Urban Tech site of the former Berlin TXL airport in 2023 to participate in the upcoming transformation of our society with progressive ideas for the future, networking and knowledge transfer.*

[greentechfestival.com](https://greentechfestival.com)

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