

Nitrogen ‘Scientism’ Destroys Food Production in Netherlands

Jaap C. Hanekamp, PhD

Dr. Hanekamp sent greetings from The Netherlands, where he is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Utrecht University.



Schiller Institute
Jaap Hanekamp

Hello. My name is Jaap Hanekamp.

I am the author of the article on the nitrogen crisis in The Netherlands, published in the *EIR* journal, but also on my blogpost, jaaphanekamp.com. (“The Ersatz Nitrogen Crisis; Delusional Expertocracy and the Destruction of Dutch Agriculture,” *EIR*, April 7, 2023)

I’m a chemist by trade, but I also made a dissertation in theology and philosophy eight years ago on utopia.

I see the nitrogen crisis as a utopian development in The Netherlands and abroad. In this utopian development, science as scientism plays a key role. Scientism is nothing other than the belief that only scientific research delivers real knowledge.

Of course, this is an incoherent position which nevertheless is embraced by the so-called expertocracy which plays a major role in policy-making in the world.

I have critiqued this development eight years ago in my dissertation, but also nowadays on my blogpost, and I believe this critique to be more and more important in the world.

Thank you for your attention, and enjoy your conference.

Cooperation, Not Competition, To Develop Each Country

Philippe Grégoire

Mr. Grégoire is President of the Mouvement National des Eleveurs de nos régions (National Movement of Cattle Breeders of Our Regions) in France, and a milk producer. Subheads have been added.

Hello to all. Welcome. I want to say something

about agriculture, and to summarize what I have to say, I will start not with the current situation—which everybody knows—but by my proposal that the simplest thing is to get inspired by the Havana Charter of March 24, 1948, which was a charter that wanted to recognize neither the neo-liberal American extreme liberal system, which destroyed industries and farmers, nor the Russian model—the Soviet system, which took lands away from farmers and their right to property, and which failed. I will quickly give a few points about the Havana Charter.

Its principle was that it was totally opposed to free trade, and to what has become the World Trade Organization. The Charter proposed an approach very different from the current system, which was the development of each country based on cooperation and not on competition.

These are the main points proposed by the Havana Charter: There should be an equilibrium of balance in payments; nobody should have a budget disequilibrium. This is very important if you see the disequilibrium today. For example, in the euro, there are targeted deficits, seen, for example, in the very large deficit between Italy and Germany.



Schiller Institute
Philippe Grégoire

The second point is to prioritize cooperation. United Nations member states will cooperate within the domain of social-economic health of the UN under a proposal to adopt labor norms which are honest and equitable on each continent; if not, exchange cannot be honest.

Then, capital control is very important. Member states should take all measures to prevent investments in foreign countries being used as tools for foreign intervention. The green light is for state interventions to stop fake competition. Preferential agreements are possible in a cooperative framework; subsidies in certain circumstances are allowed. There can be the outlawing of dumping of products. There can be possible restriction of production volumes; excess production can be eliminated in certain circumstances, and basic food production should be considered as a special category. Therefore, states can stabilize prices; and prices on the