

## PEACE DECLARATION 2008 of the CITY OF PEACE LINZ

The recent natural and climate disasters and the steeply rising prices of oil and food have brought a new horizon for the conflicts of the future into view. Climate conflict research predicts horrendous military conflicts unless socially responsible answers to these developments can be found within the next few years. The high price of oil should be taken as an opportunity to implement climate-friendly forms of energy and transportation.

Among the conflicts of the future, conflicts over *water* (already virulent in the Middle East and other places) will be equally as serious as those over fossil fuel. Linz industry could contribute to meliorating these tensions by investing more in the development of water treatment plants with solar energy.

The mistakes of the past in supplying energy must not be repeated: we cannot consider *nuclear energy* as an alternative to fossil fuels as long as a guaranteed safe final disposal of radioactive waste is not secured and as long as the dangers associated with nuclear power plants have not been proven to be removed. This also includes the release of radioactivity due to war or terrorist attacks.

The promotion of nuclear energy and the spread of *nuclear weapons* are very closely connected, as the example of Iran has shown. Seeking to solve this problem by military force would mean – despite all understanding for Israel's concerns – exchanging one evil for another. Another war in the Near and Middle East with the aim of establishing a political regime that secures access to oil fields there for the world economy could mean the end of the entire region – with foreseeable consequences for Europe. Endeavors to make cooperation with Iran possible by means of negotiation should be doubled. An international guarantee ensured by the UN to refrain from any external overthrow attempt could be a suitable offer, as in other cases (e.g. Libya), to achieve the abandonment of nuclear weapons.

The higher prices of oil and food are, not least of all, also a consequence of speculation and the manipulation of the financial markets. *Taxation of speculation profits* is therefore an urgent measure.

Living together peacefully and in solidarity in our city, free from violence, is and remains our goal. Realizing this, however, also depends on framework conditions that we cannot directly control. Our appeal is therefore that these conditions be taken into consideration throughout Austria and around the world.

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Linz declared itself a "City of Peace" in 1986. This declaration was unanimously renewed last year by the City Council of the City of Linz and the subject matter concretely defined on 13 March 2008 (also unanimously) in the "**Self-understanding of the City of Peace Linz**".

The **Peace Declaration 2008 of the City of Peace Linz** is supported by all four fractions in the City Council.