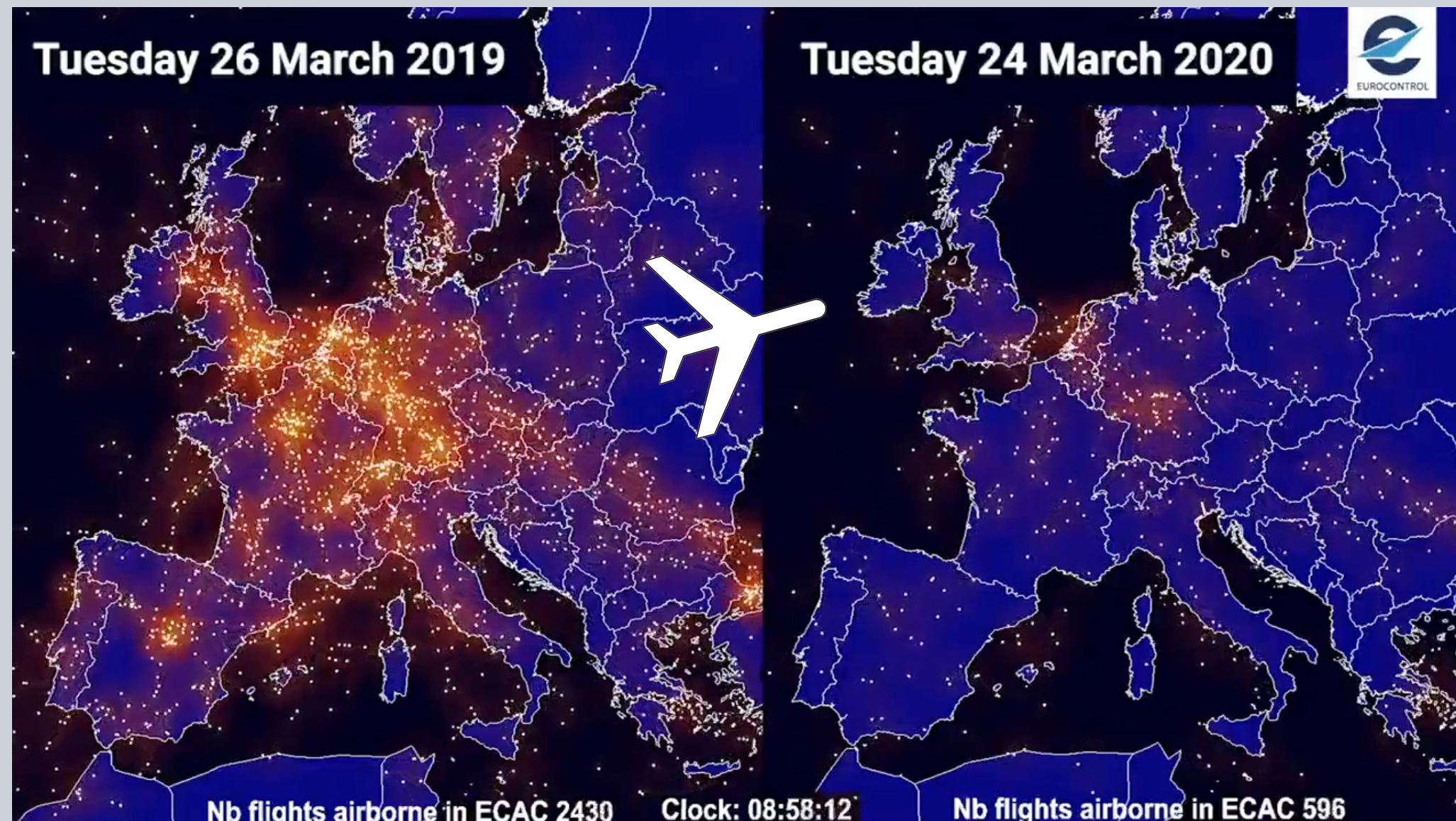


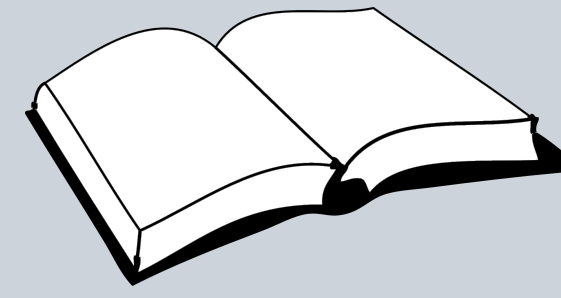


Corona and the Climate Crisis - What can we learn from the pandemic?

COVID-19 has led to a global economic shutdown and a massive reduction in the use of fossil fuels. This has had an effect on climate change drivers. How remarkable is it? And may reflecting on Corona help us to target the climate crisis?



FACTS



TRAFFIC

- **Road transport:** 50 % less (1)
- **Aviation:** 75 % less flights (4)

ENERGY DEMAND

- **Global:** 3.8 % less (5)
 - **Negative oil prices** for first time ever (1)
 - **Renewable energy generation increased** by 3 % (2)
- BUT...

- 55 % more tropical **rainforest cut down** (8)

EMISSIONS

- **NO₂** in the atmosphere: **60 % less** above big cities (according to ESA)
- **CO₂** emissions expected to **drop by 6 - 8 %** (3, 5)

... compared to first quarter of 2019 or projection for 2020



Delhi before and after the lockdown (10)



OUR OPINION

Will emission reduction have an effect on climate?

- Not in the long term due to the **inertia** in the climate system (1)
- **Rebound effect** to be expected, as after financial crisis 2008 (see graph below)

Has the corona crisis a potential to change the way we deal with climate change?

- Yes: increased public trust in science and a sense of urgency might enhance **public support** for climate action (6).

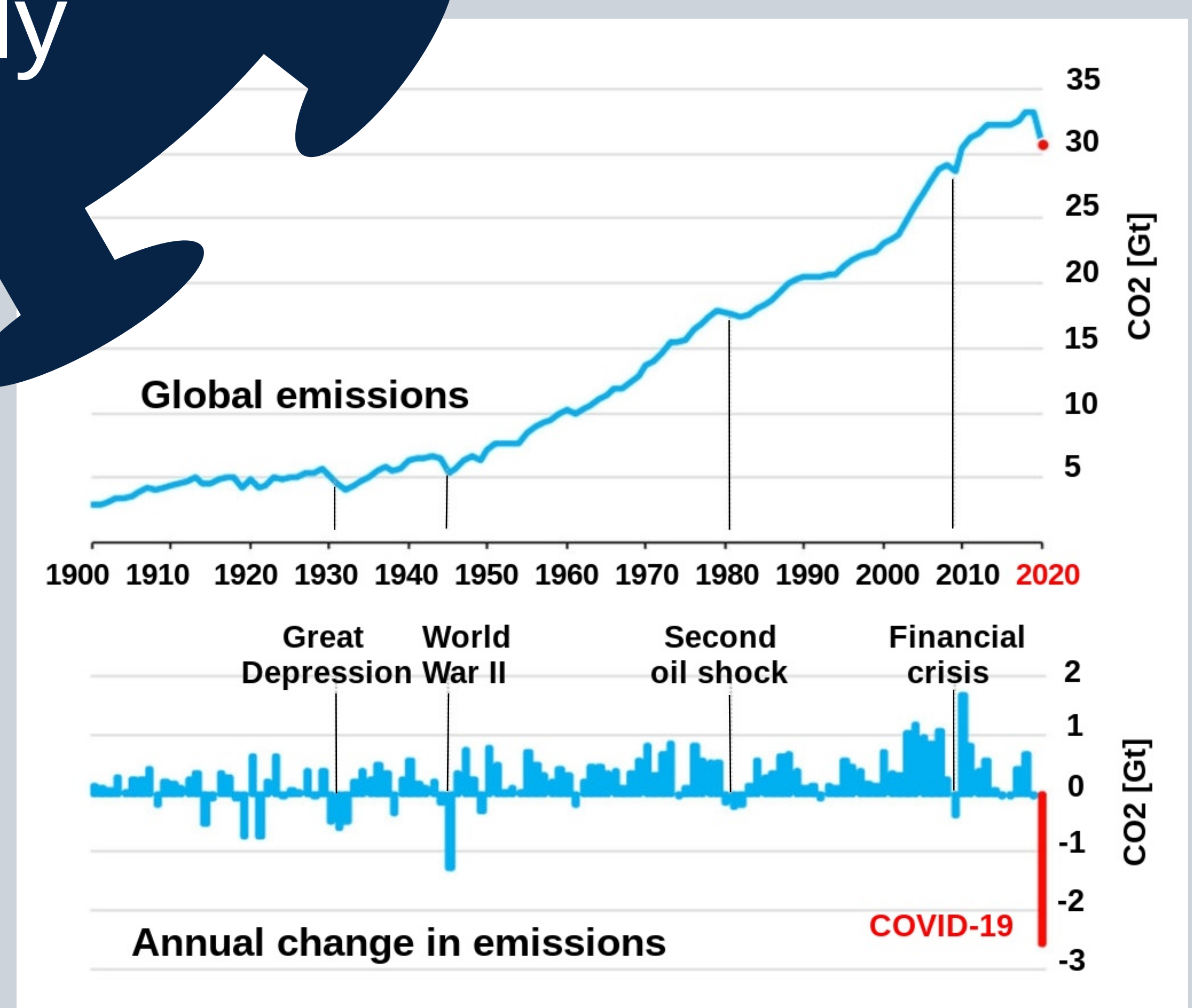
- On a **local scale:** car-free zones (Brussels) and improved cycle paths (Berlin) (7).

- However, **stimulus packages** to rescue established economic sectors like aviation bring us further away from a sustainable economy.

Corona forced us to rethink our individual behaviour, but we need structural changes to overcome the climate crisis.

Corona taught us the importance of early action (6).

video abstract



OUTLOOK

- The structure of our global economy creates perfect conditions both for a pandemic and a climate crisis. How about a degrowth economy?
- The intensified competition for resources as experienced during the pandemic points out the importance of global solidarity (6).



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