I Make the World as I Like ...

Dear Reader,

Astrid Lindgren, the famous author of children's books, has inspired children all over the world. Her most well-known character is Pippi Longstocking, a brave, unconventional girl who with childlike naivety and a carefree spirit finds clear and simple solutions for all the problems she encounters. Every German child knows the title song of the Pippi Longstocking movies which, translated to English, goes like this: "Two times three makes four, widewidewitt and three makes nine, I make the world as I like."

What does all that have to do with powertrains and engineering? Well, on January 30 the news magazine Der Spiegel reported that the German Federal Ministry for the Environment believes that e-fuels have very little potential and are largely unimportant concerning climate protection, at least in road transport. Minister Svenja Schulze said: "Because of the large amount of energy needed, the production process [...] is more expensive than producing and using other renewable fuels." The low efficiency of combustion engines and fuel cells compared with electricity in BEVs was also mentioned. The Green Party politician Cem Özdemir states: "Regarding cars the holy mass has long been read."

Specialists worldwide agree that the climate crisis can only be resolved in the transport sector with a backward-compatible, global solution, using all available powertrains and fuels. The focus must be on sector coupling. This was recently confirmed by experts on the combined ATZlive international conferences "The Powertrain of Tomorrow" and "Grid Integration of Electric Mobility." So is this simply a case of political naivety? Special-

ists also agree that production and supply must be resolved using electricity and fuels from renewable sources by taking a systemic approach. In addition, the cost of producing e-fuels at the sweet spots is irrelevant: energy from the sun or the wind is available there in large quantities. Is it naive to ignore this or does it simply not fit in with the politicians' plans? It is no secret that by 2023 at the latest even the excess electricity in the European grid will no longer be enough to cover the rising demand in Germany caused by the electric car initiatives. Is the exclusion of this subject from the political debate merely evidence of a carefree spirit?

Which brings us back to Pippi Longstocking: in principle, childlike naivety and a carefree spirit are important and refreshing. But only among children and not among adult decision-makers, because the Villa Villekulla is not the real world and two times three does not make four.

I hope you enjoy this issue of MTZ.

Dr. Alexander Heintzel
Editor in Chief

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