



**Uniapac**

## **UNIAPAC INTERNATIONAL**

SOCIAL MARKET ECONOMY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY:  
AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE PROJECT

**CHRISTOPHER GOHL, NILS GOLDSCHMIDT, ULRICH HEMEL, JEFFREY SACHS**

**OPINION SERIES**  
**N° 26**

# Uniapac

## **Opinion Series n°26**

*Social Market Economy for the 21st century: An International Peace Project*

**This article was published on Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on 23.12.2019.**

*Bibliographies of the authors :*

### **Christopher Gohl**

Dr. Christopher Gohl is a researcher and teacher at the Weltethos Institute at the University of Tübingen. He received his PhD degree in Political Theory from the University of Potsdam, and holds a Master's degree in American Studies and Jewish Studies. His research focuses on the epistemology, genesis and prevalence of values, on a pragmatist understanding of business ethics and global ethics, on issues of a learning democracy, and on civil society research. As a practising pragmatist, he has organized various stakeholder dialogues, such as the Regional Dialogue Forum Airport Frankfurt from 2005 to 2008, Germany's largest political mediation.

### **Nils Goldschmidt**

Goldschmidt is Professor of Contextual Economics and Economic Education at the Center for Economic Education at the University of Siegen . He represents ordoliberal positions and is chairman of the Action Group for the Social Market Economy eV in Tübingen. Nils Goldschmidt studied theology and economics at the Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg from 1990 to 1997.

In 2001 he was awarded a Dr. rer. pole. PhD. From April 2002 to 2008 Nils Goldschmidt worked as a research assistant at the Walter Eucken Institute in Freiburg. In 2008 the habilitation and Venia Legendi for economics at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg followed.

From 2008 to 2010 he was a substitute professor for social policy and the organization of social services at the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Munich . From 2009 to 2013 he was also a lecturer in the economics and society department at the Munich School of Politics . In the 2009/10 winter semester, Nils Goldschmidt took on a visiting professorship at the Theological Faculty of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt for the subject of Christian social ethics and social policy. From 2010 to 2013 he was a professor in the field of social policy and administration at the University of Applied Sciences in Munich.

Since March 2013 he has been Professor of Contextual Economics and Economic Education at the University of Siegen , and since 2015 director of the local Center for Teacher Training and Educational Research.

In November 2014 he took over the chairmanship of the Action Group for the Social Market Economy .

# Uniapac

## **Opinion Series n°26**

*Social Market Economy for the 21st century: An International Peace Project*

### **Ulrich Hemel**

Ulrich Hemel born August 9, 1956 in Bensheim / Bergstrasse, Hessen, is a German Catholic theologian, founder of the Institute for Social Strategy, business consultant, manager and entrepreneur.

Ulrich Hemel has been the Director of the Global Ethic Institute since June 2018. The businessman graduated with a degree in economics and social sciences, among others from the Pontifical University in Rome. This was followed by a doctorate in Catholic theology and a habilitation in religious education with a specialization in applied ethics.

His research and work focuses on ethics in companies, economic anthropology, ethics of artificial intelligence. Ulrich Hemel is also a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts and President of the Federation of Catholic Entrepreneurs (BKU).

### **Jeffrey Sachs**

Jeffrey David Sachs, born November 5, 1954 is an American economist, academic, public policy analyst and former director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University, where he holds the title of University Professor. He is known as one of the world's leading experts on sustainable development, economic development, and the fight against poverty.

Sachs is Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University and President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He is an SDG Advocate for United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 global goals adopted at a UN summit meeting in September 2015. From 2001-18, Sachs served as Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General, and held the same position under the previous UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and prior to 2016 a similar advisory position related to the earlier Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight internationally sanctioned objectives to reduce extreme poverty, hunger and disease by the year 2015. In connection with the MDGs, he had first been appointed special adviser to the UN Secretary-General in 2002 during the term of Kofi Annan.



**Opinion Series n°26**

*Social Market Economy for the 21st century: An International Peace Project*

## **Social Market Economy for the 21st century: An International Peace Project**

*- By Christopher Gohl, Nils Goldschmidt, Ulrich Hemel, Jeffrey Sachs -*

Our inner peace is increasingly strained. How we deal with climate change, digital transformation and migration, and whether we generate and distribute prosperity sustainably, will be decisive for a prosperous, peaceful coexistence. We propose that the economic order of Germany, the Social Market Economy, might be best suited for securing social peace and sustainable development in the 21st century - not only in Germany across all party lines, but everywhere in the world. As a form of responsibly regulated capitalism, it has a proven track record of ensuring that people live well.

Social peace can only be achieved in the long run when most people feel that economic conditions are fundamentally just and ecologically sustainable. The Social Market Economy has been designed from the outset for reconciliation: between capital and labor, city and country, poor and rich, young and old, growth and environment. It does not serve the interests and privileges of individuals but gives all people the opportunity to flourish. It combines entrepreneurial freedom, stable framework conditions, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability. By ensuring prosperity, innovation and progress, it creates the economic basis for people to meet their potential through education and healthcare, and to receive support in situations of increased vulnerability such as illness, disability, and unemployment. Its supporting pillars include a liberal understanding of the constitutional state, an opportunity-oriented social policy, the so-called „Social Partnership" between unions and employers' associations, and democratic ways of life. The aim is to find a balance within the community between personal responsibility and solidarity, between the development of freedom and fair, reliably enforced rules of the game. Neither paternalism nor boundlessness is fundamentally the right way forward.

The Social Market Economy is not only a German model of order, and it must certainly not be equated with a hard-hearted austerity policy. It is an ethos of balance that extends from center-right to center-left. Indeed, it has long since arrived in Europe: With Article 3 of the Lisbon Treaty of 2009, the member states of the European Union committed themselves to a "competitive social market economy" with social and ecological goals. Beyond Europe, ways can and should be sought to put its principles into practice while respecting the respective historical experiences, cultural traditions and economic customs of different countries. Nowhere in the

**Christopher Gohl, Nils Goldschmidt, Ulrich Hemel and Jeffrey Sachs 3**

**Published on Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on 23.12.2019.**



**Opinion Series n°26**

*Social Market Economy for the 21st century: An International Peace Project*

world should economic power be so concentrated as to shut down market competition, control politics, dictate working conditions to employees, or gobble resources without restraint. Nowhere in the world should the poor be left to suffer, or the environment left to ruin by private interests. Rather, we ought to ensure an equitable and sustainable sharing of wealth and development – true inclusive progress through responsible innovations.

A balance between the development of freedom and fair rules of the game is particularly necessary in dealing with digital transformation and with financial markets, which have been increasingly decoupled from the real economy for some time now. The Social Market Economy as a humane economic order is just as capable of protecting against complete digital commercialization as it is of protecting against the digital surveillance state. All people must be empowered to preserve their digital sovereignty through the rule of law, adequate digital infrastructure, and education. The Social Market Economy also provided the framework for a financial economy in service of social peace. Those who are committed to its model will not shy away from asking how to best address inequalities in wealth and income without ideological fixations. Excessive social inequality creates social stress.

The social market economy is not only an economic order. At its core, it has always been a moral order of responsible freedom and solidarity. In that sense, it is also always a cultural project. It is animated by the democratic ethos of dialogue, compromise, moderation, tolerance and respect for different ways of thinking. The objectives of good coexistence, to which it must now be oriented in the 21st century, include human rights and minority rights, the fight against racism and the degradation of others, and environmental sustainability. The Manifesto for a Global Economic Ethic, presented ten years ago at the United Nations, lists ethical and religious values that are accepted throughout the world and that also serve as the basis for a European and global Social Market Economy: the principles of humanity and the Golden Rule, non-violence and respect for life, justice and solidarity, truthfulness and tolerance, mutual respect and partnership. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by all 193 member states of the United Nations, including good education, combating poverty, justice between the sexes, fair work and stable, peace-building institutions, are a contemporary expression of these values. Wherever we succeed in aligning the exercise of economic freedom with global responsibility, we prepare the ground for the innovations and learning processes that we so urgently need for social peace and sustainable development in today and tomorrow.