Salzburg Leopoldskron
REFORM Group Conference
August 28 - September 1, 2017

Self-governance in Global Climate Policy

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Based on inter alia:
Self-governance in global climate policy: An essay (2015), 52p. (Research Gate)
Beyond Kyoto, plan B: a climate policy masterplan based on transparent metrics, *Ecological Economics* 68(2009) 2930-37
Europe's electricity regime: restoration or thorough transition. *Int. J. of Sustainable Energy Planning and Management* 5 (2015) 57-68

Overview

1. Mysterious support for Paris Agreement

2. Paris Agreement myths: functional or dysfunctional?
   Unfolding some myths:
   - #1 Unanimity necessary
   - #2 Energy tripod mantra
   - #3 Emissions Trading sets carbon prices

1. Self-governance
   . Commons and self-governance
   . Applied on global climate policy

2. Concluding considerations

Mysterious Support for Paris Agreement

Actual Paris Agreement:

Vague, opaque text

+3° C if all intentions fullfil

Mocks science&practice (Hardin, Ostrom, KPIs)

Policy zombies survive:
- energy tripod mantra
- emissions trade / offsets prices down to €5 (ETS) / €0.2 (CER)

Myths

. Unanimity necessary

. All feel responsible, private corporates lead
. Voluntarism suffices for mitigation action
. Paternalism cares for $100bn aid/year

Propaganda pin

Myths: when are they valuable?

Functional myths

- connected to reality (facts)
  - > emerging from reality
  - > feeding back into reality
  - > expanding reality
- may strengthen actions (“engage the hearts of people”)

Dysfunctional myths

- disconnected from reality (facts)
  - > stick in mirages, deceit
  - > cause conflict and stalemate
  - > end as frustration and apathy
- paralyze people to act in the right direction

Are the Paris Agreement myths:
functional or dysfunctional?

Myth #1: “Unanimity is necessary”

Positive effects of unanimity

- **boosts the willingness to commit**
  (reciprocity: one acts when the other acts)
- **valuable to enshrine new paradigms, commitments (for example: UNFCCC in 1992 – Rio World Summit)**

Negative effects of unanimity at all price

- **disproportional power for every single party**
- **meagre intersection of divergent interests-goals sets ➔ results in vague & opaque Paris Agreement**
- **minority views suppressed (by assimilation)**
- **effective action requires spearheads**
- **the actual responsible parties are releaved from liability and ‘urgent & drastic’ spearhead action**
- **loss of unanimity spoils the process (Trump again)**

Unanimity desirable at the founding of new paradigms

In the executive action phases, imposed unanimity is wrong

Myth #2: "Energy tripod mantra: deployment of renewables, nuclear power, carbon capture storage"

Nuclear power position in sustainable low-carbon energy transition

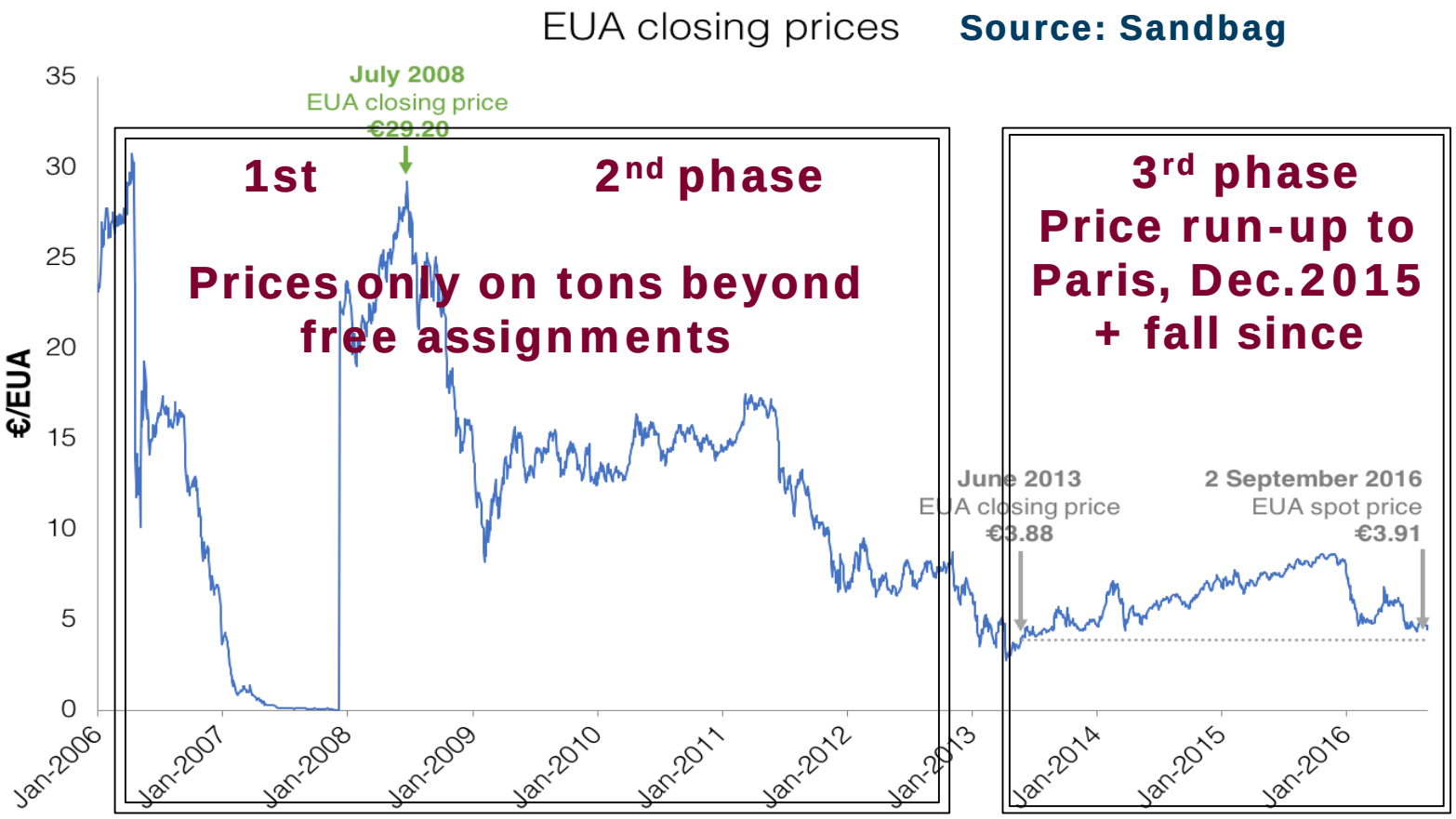
1. Nuclear fission power (today's technology):
   Crucial sustainability criteria are not met
2. Is announced GEN IV more sustainable?
   Virtually certain: NO
3. Can announced nuclear fusion bring salvation?
   Perhaps, but NOT before 2050 (year of decarbonization done)

If we circumvent Sustainable Development imperatives and Sustainability Assessment results & consider only low-carbon aspect, questions remain:

1. Are flow renewable and nuclear power generation compatible? NO
2. Is smart grid development compatible with unflexible large-scale power stations? NO
3. Is nuclear power economically competitive? NO

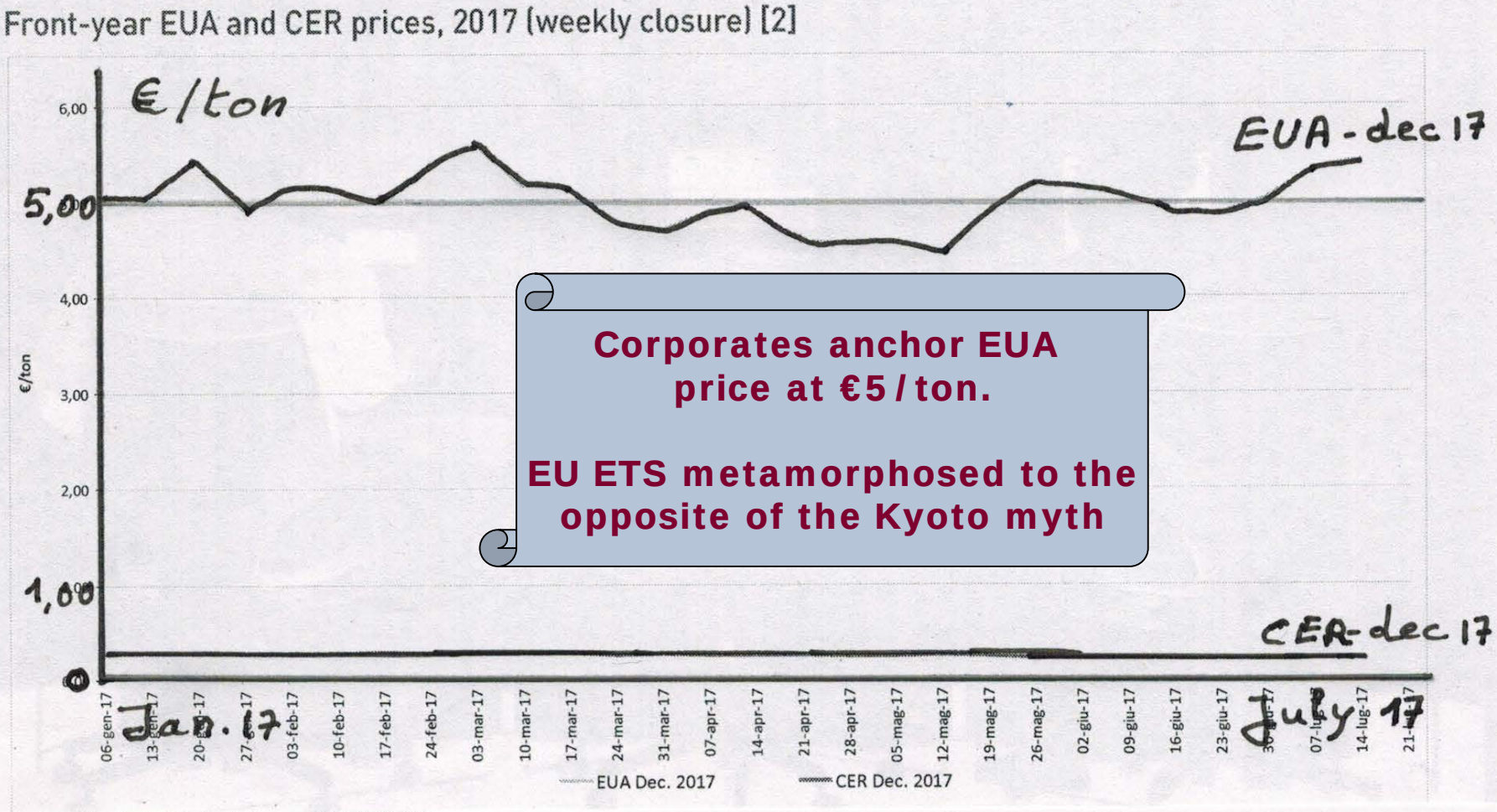
Nevertheless: the tripod mantra corrupts IPCC, UNFCCC, EU policy

Myth #3: Emissions Trading sets carbon prices
ETS prices before + after December 2015



Observed EUA and CER prices (Jan.-July 2017)

Source: ICCG International Climate Policy magazine-47



Self-governance of commons

Commons

-Some essential for human survival: climate, atmosphere, …

-Endangered from inside (free-riding), viz. outside (raiders)

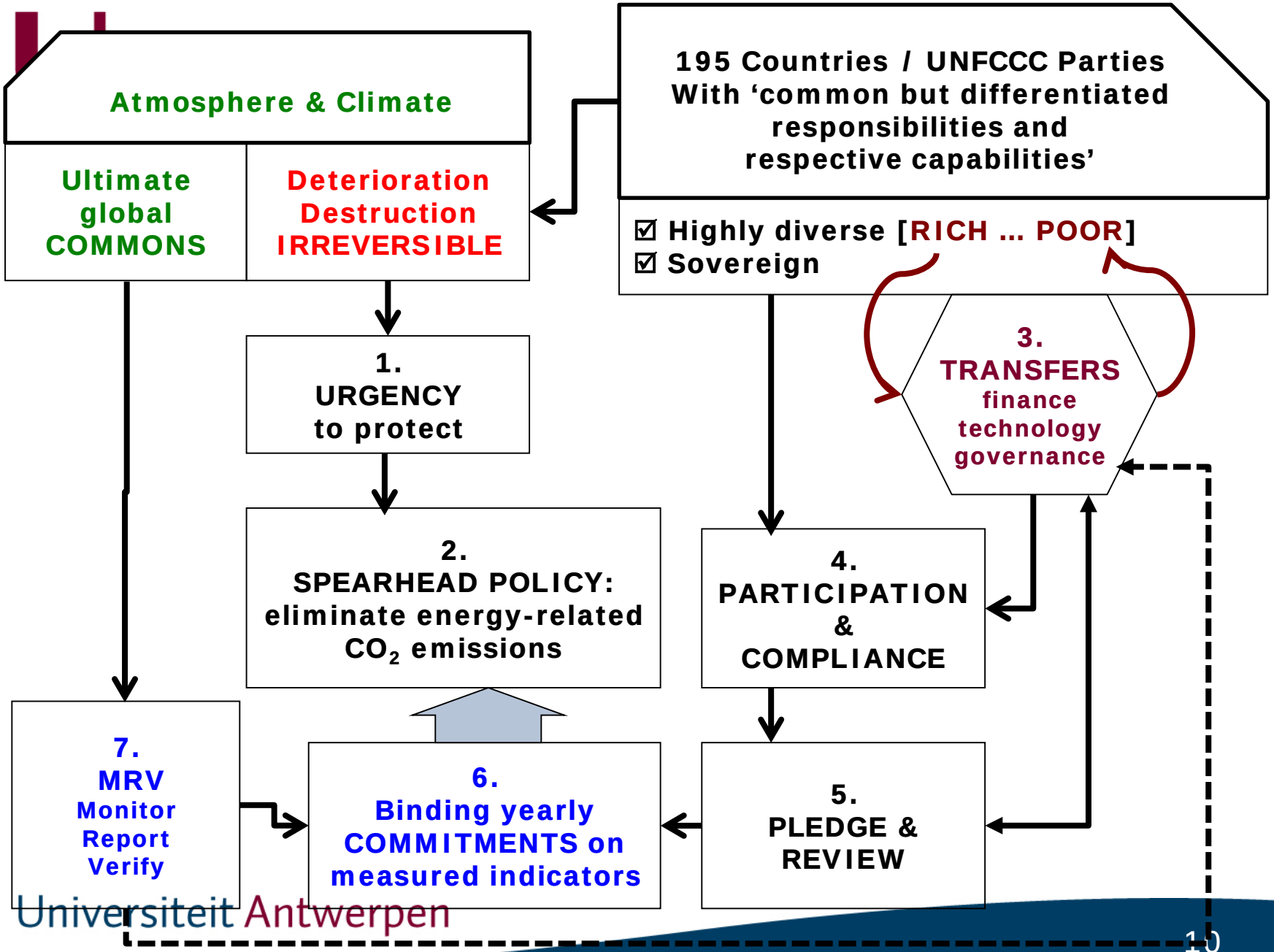
-Protect via government ownership / ruling ⇔ privatize commons

- Sovereign 'owners-users' cannot be ruled from above
- Privatize Climate not conceivable (property rights), not desirable

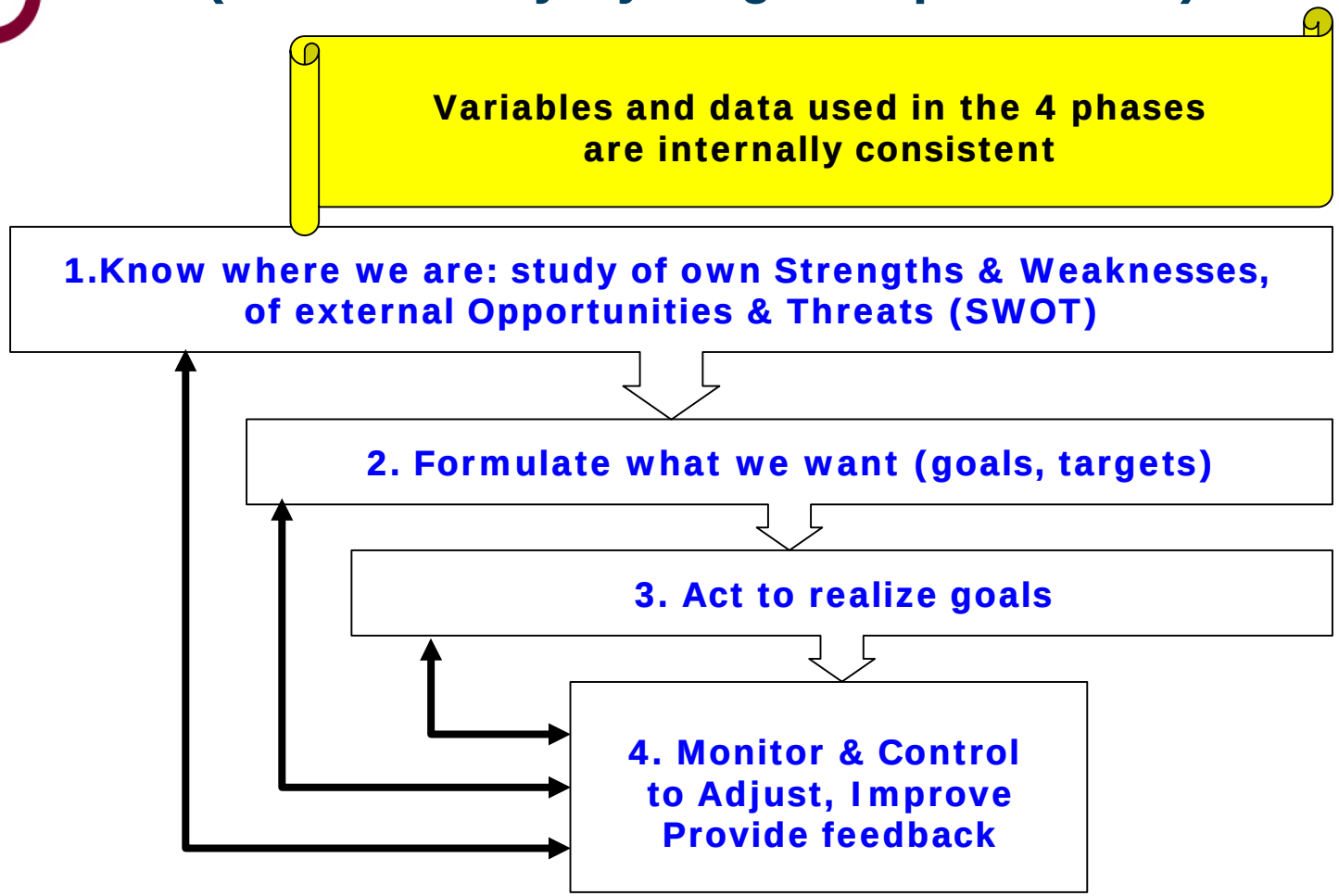
Self-governance of commons: indispensable components [Ostrom]

1. Create new set of self-governing structures and rules
2. Credible commitments by participants
   - enhanced by reciprocity, trust and fairness
   - grows step by step
3. Mutual monitoring, accurate, transparent and regularly
   - yearly feasible for a few, crucial indicators
   - INDC patchworks are non-measurable

Self-governance in global climate policy: An essay (Verbruggen, A. 2015)



Proven logic for strategy set-up (used mainly by large corporations)



Crooked global climate policy

Situation analysis by IPCC know-how assessments

> policy aspects by Working Group 3 of IPCC

> emissions by countries study (2014 report, Ch. 6) based on *decomposition analysis (Ehrlich-Holdren, Kaya, Ang)*

e.g., of energy-related CO_2 emissions per person (C_{pp}) in 3 intensity factors

$$C_{pp} = \{€GDP_{pp}\} * \{kWh\ energy / €GDP\} * \{kg\ CO_2\ emitted / kWh\}$$

wealth | energy use intensity | CO_2 intensity of energy

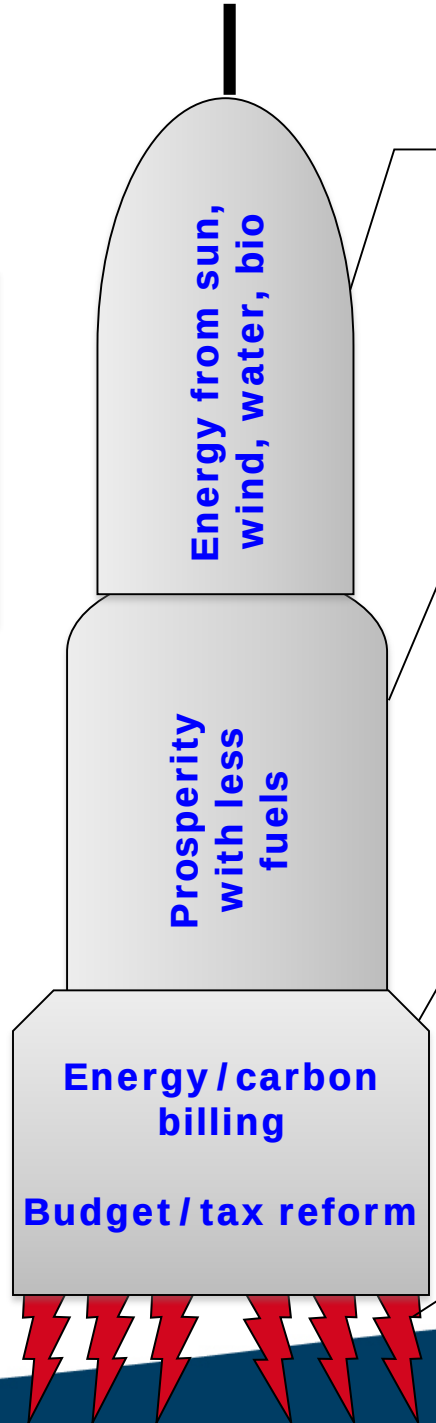
This ready knowledge + data are not used in global policy design,

Although necessary & sufficient for constructing the global self-governance regime

Blow up the climate gridlock
=
All countries continuously improve three indicators:
1. **Increasing share of RE**
2. **Decreasing fuel intensity**
3. **Progressing tax reform**

Matches
☑ SE4All (UN)
☑ Polluter Pays
☑ Fairness

Rejects emissions trading with offsets



The only sustainable low-carbon option, when for all people affordable

Lean energy systems are affordable by all

Dosed price pressures, adjusted to diverse conditions
New activities, practices
New infrastructures

Necessary thrust

Universiteit Antwerpen

Concluding considerations

1. **Societal resolve & action ≠ Paris Agreement**
   - . Citizens, grassroots ⇔ corporates master minding Paris COP
   - . Will corporates deliver where governments fail to save the essential commons 'climate – atmosphere'?

2. **Dysfunctional myths paralyze urgent & drastic change**
   - . Denouncing tricky myths means tough & tedious work
   - . Cassandra's warnings are stampeded by Trojan horses

3. **Global climate policy**
   - . Based on myths, voluntarism, paternalism, talk without walk
   - . Self-governance is a tightly structured process [Ostrom]
   - . Sidelining policy proposals that could function
   - . Learn from successful corporate strategic theory & practice
   - . Technology is decisive in sustainable energy transition
   - . Technology development-deployment: NOT neutral processes