

Climate protectors require a transparent, televised debate

with the CEO of Credit Suisse

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This is a pivotal moment. The climate catastrophe is accelerating. After parts of the Amazon, the Congo Basin and Siberia, now Australia is in flames.

As the Secretary General of the United Nations recalled, climate chaos poses "an existential threat" to humanity. In order to comply with the objectives formulated by the IPCC and enshrined in the Paris agreement, the Executive Director of the International Energy Agency has acknowledged that we can **no longer build new infrastructures that emit CO2**.

Yet between 2016 and 2018, Credit Suisse has invested a total of **57.4 billion dollars** in fossil fuels. Among many other complementary examples, in December 2019, the bank played an important role in the IPO of **SaudiAramco** (the world largest oil exporter) on the stock exchange.

Following the action of tennis players in Geneva, Basel and Lausanne, a **lawsuit** brought by Credit Suisse against 12 young participants in Lausanne, the support of 13 leading barristers, **unprecedented citizen pressure**, the courageous **decision of the president of the police court**, the support of **leading personalities**, and the respect expressed by **Roger Federer**: Credit Suisse CEO Tidjane Thiam said he was open to dialogue with "climate activists" (after taking them to court). He said he wanted this exchange to take place in his office and off camera.

As Mr. Thiam knows particularly well, over the years, many organizations and collectives aware of the seriousness of the climate catastrophe and alarmed by Credit Suisse's very great responsibility have **attempted a dialogue with the bank**. When they were able to reach its management team, their requests were met with little or no effect.

Mr. Thiam claims that his bank is not massively involved in the deepening climate crisis ; a claim that doesn't stand a thorough check based on well **sourced data** (see <https://discreditsuisse.ch/>). In particular, he claims that the bank will stop investing in new coal-fired power plants, but on the one hand Credit Suisse continues to heavily finance companies involved in coal, and on the other hand coal is not the only source of fossil fuels into which it invests considerable sums of money (oil sands, shale gas, LNG, drilling in the Arctic etc.). And yet they continue to destroy the climate.

We recall our demands:

- the **rapid divestment** from the billions of loans to fossil energies (projects and companies)
- the **halt of the lawsuits** against the climate protectors.

We recall our essential demands. In the shortest possible time:

- Publication of a credible strategy for **complete divestment** from fossil fuels by 2030;
- **No new direct or indirect** investments in fossil fuels;
- **Transparency** on cash flow;
- **Stop legal action** against climate protectors.

We consider that the issue raised is urgent and that it concerns all Swiss people and the future of billions of individuals. Credit Suisse should have nothing to hide and no "corridor agreement" to offer us.

In this context, **we demand a transparent, broadcast and live exchange** on Swiss television (RTS) with :

- at least one young climate activist, a climate scientist and a finance expert that we will propose
- Mr. Tidjane Thiam and up to two other members of his team

All those who, like Roger Federer, are aware of the seriousness of the situation and are expecting convincing clarification from the major financial player Credit Suisse, are **eagerly awaiting** to learn whether the balanced proposal we are offering will be accepted by Mr. Thiam.

Grève du Climat Suisse / KlimaStreik Schweiz

Lausanne Action Climat

Collectif BreakFree Suisse

Collective Climate Justice

Fossil Free Switzerland

Contact : info@discreditsuisse.ch

