

Dear members of the Federal Government, dear Austrians,

After five weeks of your lockdown, it's really time to take stock, and you won't be surprised that, from my perspective, it seems a little different than yours.

But first of all, on the positive side, there is no question that in the health sector, the development in Austria is positive; we're pleased with the decrease in the number of infections, we're happy that the number of deaths is falling, we're happy that it's a positive year. There are more people who are healthy or are becoming healthy, than there are newly infected people. It's a positive trend, that's excellent and I'm glad about that, too, but this is just a first look at things Mr. Chancellor.

I think if you want to be honest and if you want to get to the bottom of this, a second, more in-depth look is needed and I'd like to try to do that now with you.

And Mr. Chancellor, now for a while you can feel involved, as well as all the other members on the government bench who think this place is designed to follow the debate instead of playing with their cell phone. That being said, once you are all involved, I have a few simple questions for you:

Why, Mr. Chancellor, is the number of people infected in Sweden so low compared to the forecast? Why is this the case? Why is the mortality rate in Sweden so low compared to many other countries who have taken very restrictive measures and in particular those advocated by the Chancellor? And why Mr. Chancellor, why does the health system in general and the ICU didn't completely collapse in Sweden?

I think those are very legitimate questions, because Sweden does a lot of things, if not almost everything, differently than you do.

You know that public life in Sweden is actually going on without much change. Businesses, shops and restaurants are open. People go shopping, people meet each other. Children are in kindergartens. Primary schools are of course open too and teach. Vice Chancellor, you also know that the kids keep playing in sports clubs. You know that gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed.

I haven't heard that the Swedish government is trying to spy on its own citizens through big data and then steps back when it is opposed. Nor did I hear from senior officials denouncing walkers as civil dangers.

It's a completely different path from the one you took. And I wonder why them development in Sweden is, in fact, generally positive, whereas previously, the Vice Chancellor most certainly told us that it would be impossible to do otherwise than these lockdown measures.

I would now like to remind you of your own words and in particular the words of the Federal Chancellor, who presented himself as the sole possessor of the truth on the right way to go about the situation. And now we're going to see what actually happened.

According to your theory, Mr. Chancellor, there should already be at least 100,000 deaths in Sweden. There should be an explosion in the number of infections. That is what you said when you talked about "the calm before the storm" earlier in March.

You announced that the entire health care system and critical care will collapse under bombs and grenades if we didn't follow your instructions. That there would be mass casualties if we didn't implement your measures which you presented as the only possibility. Why is this not the case in Sweden?

Why don't the daily news bring back images of the Swedish people we are looking forward to watching on televisions in Austrian living rooms? And why didn't they convert all hockey stadiums in morgues?

Because these are all the images you have painted to the people with Mr. Chancellor. For many weeks you've been working to present this vision of the future.

But no press conference has been held about the Swedes, no interview of this population among which those horror scenarios didn't come true. You've painted for Austria this nightmare scenario in the darkest colors, by threatening that this nightmare will come true very soon if Austria does not immediately apply the Chancellor's measures.

You knew exactly what you were doing and now you're denying it. You've put people in a state of fear and terror. You've made sure that the media shows as many cover photos of coffins as possible. Which means that not only did you rely on the instinct of fear in the population, but you also exploited it, and this is a serious accusation I'm making.

I don't know what's so important on your phone so that while I'm making these accusations, you're constantly watching your cell phone instead of listening. Chancellor, listening is also a form of respect.

You've triggered people's primal fears, you used that fear in people, which is that there is no greater concern than the concern for their own health and for their own lives, and of course, for their relatives. For their children, for their parents, for their friends, for their acquaintances. And it is by exploiting that fear that you brought them to their new normality. Which boils down to the fact that people have become whistle blowers in the style of the Stasi era.

You've frightened people so much about their health, that even when they're alone in their car they wear a mask, which in this case doesn't protect from anything. And people wear these masks everywhere they go, even where there is no danger to anyone. Because you have systematically prepared the groundwork.

You've gone so far that even go 1 km away from one's own house to go and rest in the wilderness, has become a dangerous act. People walking around are viewed with suspicion and people are afraid of them, they walk away from them.

This is the new normality, the other normality. And you have to realize that it was you who created it so you could create a black and white society.

And I'm not saying that because it's going to help me. On the contrary, I know that various media will harm me, not all of them, and I have the utmost respect for those who didn't get involved in this fear machinery supported by numerous media who participated through their editorials or were purchased.

And even worse, those media outlets that are bought or corrupted are then also transfigured in a so-called expression of responsibility, so that if I give up criticizing the federal government, I'm acting in a particularly responsible manner and put myself at the service of national solidarity of the Federal Treasury.

That is why the media acted the way they did, they've prepared for you step by step, the deployment of this new normality through this dramatic statistic of hundreds of thousands of coffins announced and so on. Without this story, there would be no role for saviors within this story you're telling. And that is why you cling to it. Because it is not just about the role of the savior, but there's also those who criticize. And those who criticize can then be placed in the role of disbelieving heretics, which in my case, can only be motivated by the worst of motives or cannot be sound minded, if what they're saying doesn't fit your concept.

And this, too, is part of the outcome of the last few weeks, i.e. the establishment of the new or other normality.

No, my lord chancellor, no! The story you're telling us, that your crisis management prevented the great sanitary catastrophe and that there were no alternatives doesn't make sense simply because we are now learning from experience. As with Sweden, there are other ways to deal with the situation. And because what happens can be measured, we have data, look at Germany and Austria.

Listen to some experts, providing they still have a chance to be heard. It's easy to measure that there has been a decrease in the number of infections and the number of deaths before you introduced your confinement measures, so your policy has had no noticeable results.

The results of your policy can be quantified, I've already mentioned a few of them. Some of it is measurable and has a true direct causal link. 900,000 people on partial unemployment with an uncertain future. Hundreds of thousands of unemployed who don't know if they'll be able to go back to work and under what conditions. For them it will be a sad Christmas. As for many entrepreneurs who are now on the verge of bankruptcy with adjournments that only postponed their burden.

As with thousands of successful entrepreneurs, large and small, in all industries who have been deprived of their livelihood overnight thanks to you, they have been turned into beggars and you took away their right to a full compensation. All these represent the direct causal link of your policy.

You like to talk about alarm signs, these numbers are the alarm signs of the new normality based on a black bureaucracy which uses fear as a software. This is the new operating system which has become the new standard in Austria in 2020 and we don't want that! And I don't think the majority of the population wants such an operating system.

Chancellor, we all become wiser from experience and experience increases our science. I am no different than you and that is also why I don't believe in anything you say anymore. At best you should recognize that your policy is not indisputable and that your experts are not in exclusive possession of the truth.

Do you know what is indisputable? The fact that the earth revolves around the sun and the other way around, that is indisputable. But on this point it also took time, Mr. Chancellor, also took a long time for orthodoxy to get the authorities and leaders to accept those who had been pilloried as heretics.

Your strategy, Mr. Chancellor, is nothing more than following the political herd instinct that started in China and has spread to other countries, and you fell like the domino that sets off the next one. You followed the instincts of the political herd.

And now I'd like to bring you back to Galileo Galilei because this is about gaining transparency and knowledge. According to him, it is about measuring what is measurable and make what isn't measurable measurable. This is what we discussed today under the first agenda item. It is about vaccinations, it is about autopsies, it is about empirical facts; from which we need to be able to argue an appropriate strategy. But what you do with your curves, with your numbers, and with your charts, is a pretext for a factual approach when in truth you are walking in the dark.

All you do is confuse people. You have too stop disrupting people, driving people into a state of panic, telling them everything's gonna be okay, and then saying the exact opposite. You've said it a thousand times, what does it mean?

If you say that a normality won't come back until there's a vaccine, this means mandatory vaccination, then say so directly, Mr. Chancellor. But it won't work with us!

I have counted, you gave your 60th press conference of this federal government. You talked about your measures only, but why didn't you talk of the unemployed, the entrepreneurs, the families with childcare obligations, the tourism and gastronomy industries, the people who suffer from diseases other than corona? You're leaving all these in the dark.

No clarity, no transparency, no predictability in this area. The only thing you're capable of are unrefined contradictions and inconsistencies.

Mr. Federal Chancellor, learn from the best, use your common sense instead of relying on fear . Do reconcile yourself with the normal normality and say goodbye to your new normality. Don't flirt with the idea that exceptional conditions can become the norm.

My dear ladies and gentlemen, I was very emotional and I spoke frankly today, although I know it's going to attract me a lot of hostility, but I want to open a breach so that it can exist in this country. A right to take other positions than paying tribute to your newfound normality.

I have one more thing to say, and this will be my last sentence. Far too many people have lost their freedom and their right to self-determination on the basis of health protection. And I don't want that after that, the truth be the next victim of your new normality.