

## Morten Jødal in Memoriam

*Jan-Erik Solheim, independent scientist*



A great organizer and fighter for environment and climate.

Morten Jødal was Chairman of the Board of Norwegian Climate Realists and was the chief-organizer of the Oslo Conference on *Natural Variability and Tolerance*. He died suddenly on September 9, 2021. We have lost a great fighter for the environment and a superb organizer of our fight against the crazy idea of a catastrophic manmade climate change that threatens humanity.

Morten grew up in a suburban community right outside Oslo, near the big forest area that surrounds the city. He was always an outdoor person. The sea, forest and mountains were his home. Already as a student of biology he found a small house in a forest reservation, which he rented and lived in with his wife – in proper distance from the city life. After retiring from formal employments, he was self-employed as collector of mushrooms, making extracts and selling at farmers markets. He also wrote and translated books and guided nature tours.

After finishing his studies, he was commissioned to write plans for a Center for development and environment at University of Oslo, a job he did so well that he became the first Director of the Center. Before the EU-referendum in 1994 he worked for WWF and analyzed the difference between classical environmental protection in EU and in Norway and concluded that EU had far better protection. From then on, he campaigned for EU-membership, which was not well suited for the WWF-camp. This shows how Morten let facts guide him – regardless of the views of authorities or politicians.

The Norwegian Climate Realists organization was established May 15, 2008. Morten was member of the board from the beginning. In 2012 he gave a talk explaining how nature and agriculture improved with more CO<sub>2</sub> in the air. This is opposite of what we are told in media and by politicians: that CO<sub>2</sub> is poison and shall be eradicated from this planet. Which of course

will kill all life. Morten protested against such indoctrination and started to investigate other environmental myths. After five years he presented the results in a richly illustrated book, *Environmental Myths – do we Face the World's Doom?* (in Norwegian). The book got excellent reviews, but no publisher dared to publish it, so the Climate Realists of Norway published it. It was quickly sold out but bought to all public libraries in Norway.

In the preface of the book, he wrote “*The environmental- and climate-debate has forced me to ask the question: Is the authority the truth or the truth authority?*” His conclusion was that we can learn from nature which laws govern the nature, but we can never govern nature. The nature is robust. Our planet is dynamic. Always changing. The only way species can survive is to adapt to changes. This is also true for mankind.

In 2018 he was elected chairman of the Norwegian Climate Realists. He started to reorganize, hiring professional help to improve the public image. The result was increasing membership. Now it has more than 1200 paying members.

In 2016 and 2018 the Norwegian Climate Realists participated as organizers in Nordic Climate conferences in Stockholm and Göteborg, Sweden. In 2019 it was decided to follow up with an international climate conference in Oslo, with Morten Jødal as the chief-organizer. To the conference Morten booked the most central conference venue in Oslo with a meeting hall with seating capacity of 170 persons. We were worried about the size and the cost, but the ever-optimistic Morten made it into a success with more than 160 participants. He even organized media coverage, but media were more interested in the gray-haired participants than the message presented. A follow-up conference was planned in Copenhagen in 2020 but is postponed due to the Covid19 travel restrictions.

During the years we have witnessed that good science has been rejected from scientific journals. Editors who accepted papers denying climate crises have been fired, and even a journal (Pattern Recognition in Physics) was stopped by its owners Copernicus publishing, when some articles appeared indicating a connection between planetary periods, the Sun, and the climate. It was therefore decided to start an independent scientific journal – not owned by anyone, and so we did with Morten Jødal as one of the prime organizers. Luckily, he got to see the first issue of *Science of Climate Change (SCC)*, just a few days before he died. We also decided that the next Volume of this journal should contain proceedings from the Oslo-Conference with him as editor. We lost him before he could start writing, but in SCC Vol. 2.1 the Proceedings will be published, hopefully as he had wished.

Morten Jødal was also translating climate science books from English to Norwegian. In 2020 he translated Gregory Wrightstone's book: *Inconvenient Facts, The Science that Al Gore doesn't want you to know*. When he died, he had just finished a translation of Bjørn Lomborg's book *False Alarm*, which was launched in Oslo at the end of October 2021.

His final task was to organize a seminar on the topic *Freedom of Speech*. This took place in the Literary House in Oslo, Nov. 22. 2021. Morten had just finished the agreements with the speakers when he suddenly died.

Morten Jødal was an optimist. He believed in the robustness of nature which has taught species to survive. A slightly warmer world with more CO<sub>2</sub>, will be beneficial for all life on the planet Earth. A cold climate is more difficult than a warm climate. He told us to love nature and respect its laws.

We lost him too early and will miss him as an inspiring leader, always positive – full of ideas and plans for future. We will do what we can to follow up his many ideas.

*Science of Climate Change*