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Introduction

Conference “Beyond the Climate Change Consensus” at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

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Abstract

This is an introductory article to the papers based on presentations at the conference “Beyond the Climate Change Consensus” (BCCC, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, December 8, 2025) and its pre-event. It was a unique symbol: unprecedented for a country’s national academy to provide an official scientific forum on climate without censorship. In this paper the organizational phase, the course of the conference and its pre-event, and the preliminary impacts are described.

Keywords: climate science; discussion; consensus; energy; Hungarian Academy of Sciences

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1. Preparation

The idea of the conference Beyond the Climate Change Consensus emerged in May 2025 in an open discussion at the General Assembly of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in response to my oral contribution, when the President (Tamás Freund) declared that the Academy was willing to organize an international climate-energy conference, where researchers representing both pro and con views could confront their arguments (Szarka 2025a). When I mentioned this potential occasion to renowned scientists from all over the world, at my greatest pleasure, quite a few of them expressed their willingness to accept an invitation. The Academy President, in his letter, as a response to my second written request, defined the conditions. Then it turned out at the September 23 meeting of the Earth Science Section of the Academy that mainstream scientists objected the whole idea. It did not surprise me, of course. Neither did the fact that the written response arrived only October 7. In order to provide an opportunity to present and discuss views “beyond the climate change consensus”, on the following day I submitted four versions (A, B, C, and D) for the President. Version D was a half day conference with keynote lecturers and comments. November 3, 2025, this version finally was accepted by the President. He made clear that “*presentations, although delivered at the Academy of Sciences, do not represent the opinion of the Academy, which is supported by the fact that the relevant members of the competent Scientific Sections will not come to the event.*” The programme was published on the website of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA 2025) and also at that of Academia Europaea (AE 2025), but otherwise the conference was not actively advertised by the Academy.

2. The Conference and its Pre Event

The conference took place in the afternoon of December 8, 2025, in the Grand Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. It was chaired by Gábor Náray-Szabó whom I acknowledge his correct chairmanship.



Figure 1: Headquarters of the 200 years old Hungarian Academy of Sciences

on December 8, 2025. Photo: Wim Röst

After the introductory lecture (László Csaba Szarka: What is Science?) there were two keynote lectures (Demetris Koutsoyiannis: H₂O, CO₂, Climate Change, and Samuel Furfari: The EU's misleading decarbonization and its geopolitical consequences) followed by five oral contributions. Four ones presented original results (Javier Vinós on his thermodynamic climate theory, István János Kovács on underestimated geological CO₂ emissions, László Báder on surface radiation balance, and Csaba Huszár on three topics: saturation of the radiative effect of CO₂; water vapor issues; renewable energy by pyrolysis of crop residues, while one contributor (Antal Embey-Isztin) argued for the "consensus". At the end of the conference the lecturers had an occasion to respond to the contributions. The central issue was the consensus, if it is scientific or not. According to the lecturers, the Consensus building is a method that does not belong to science. To the question, why the Consensus has not reached 100 %, Koutsoyiannis said: "If 95% or 99% or 100% of scientists agree with the orthodox theory, what does it mean? Somebody says 95% - 97% of scientists agree with whoever funds them." And he added: "...there are still people who are scientists, and even though they get zero money, they want to remain scientists, and this is a very simple answer".

Four written-only comments (by Róbert Sánta and László Garbai, Willie Soon, Nicola Scafetta, Valentina Zharkova) are considered also as BCCC contributions.

Before the conference, in the morning of December 8, 2025, the Energy Working Group of the Batthyány Society of Professors (PBK EM) organized a connecting pre-event in the Small Hall of the Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, with two further lectures: Javier Vinós (Spain) and Marcel Crok (Clintel). Vinós talked about his book "Solving the Climate Mystery" (which is going to be published also in Hungarian), while the Director of Clintel provided a summary about Clintel's activity. He acknowledged to Guus Berkhout, the former President for founding Clintel, and he informed the Hungarian community that on December 4, 2025 Václav Klaus, former Czech state president was nominated to act as new president. In 2026 Clintel, networked throughout the world, is looking forward to a very active period.

Choosing Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences as the venue of the pre-event was not at all accidental. The Academy Library had played a historical role in climate science: it provided ideal research conditions for the Serbian scientist Milutin Milankovitch for four years throughout the Great War (WWI), between 1914 and 1918 (Szarka et al. 2021). As it stands on the *Science of Climate Change*

<https://scienceofclimatechange.org>

Milankovitch memory plaque in the Reading Room of the Library, the theory about the link between the long-term changes in climate and astronomical factors affecting the amount of solar energy receiving the Earth was founded here. To have the results to be published, Milankovitch had to make translated the German manuscript into French (Milankovitch 1920). The same Reading Room was also a venue of a meeting with Richard Lindzen in February 2025 (PBK Energy Working Group 2025a).

In the evening, several contributors of the BCCC day enjoyed the cathartic Advent atmosphere of the Art Evening organized by the Academy Club.

One week after, on December 15, 2025, there was a BCCC discussion event in Hungarian language (PBK EM 2025b). And a few days later the full BCCC report was published (PBK EM 2025c, Clintel 2025). Since the BCCC conference took place in the year of the 200th anniversary of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences a report was started with a quote from Count István Széchenyi the founder of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, reminding to the mission of the national Academies: *“To spread clear concepts and clean confused ones from their dross as much as possible...”* (Széchenyi 1842)

The reports (PBK EM 2025 and Clintel 2025) include hyperlinks to all videorecords and all presentation files. The direct links are published in the Appendix, too.

3. Take-away messages

„Consensus Building” is outside the rules of science.” (László Szarka)

“Human CO₂ as the climate control knob is empirically untenable once we properly account for: (1) natural CO₂ fluxes (~25× larger); (2) the effect of H₂O (vapour + clouds, ~20× larger); (3) the huge complexity of the climate system, including the biosphere’s role.” (Demetris Koutsoyiannis)

“Scientists’ job is to kill bad theories and rip science back from politics — not posture as saviours of the planet.” (Demetris Koutsoyiannis)

“Energy addition, not transition: fossil fuels remain the bedrock of progress.” (Samuel Furfari)

“Changing the amount of heat transported between two regions with different GHE, changes the outgoing emissions, the energy content, and the climate.” (Javier Vinós)

“Thank you, Guus Berkhout! Welcome President Klaus!” (Marcel Crok)

“What prevents climate scientists of both sides to reach a consensus?” (Antal Embey-Isztin)

“Geological carbon dioxide emissions represent a fundamental but still poorly quantified component of the global carbon cycle,” (István Kovács)

“Although average evaporation has increased somewhat in the watershed, the sensible heat has also increased. The current amount of evaporation in the Danube basin is not sufficient to remove the incoming excess energy.” (László Báder)

“By transforming plant waste into pyrolysis products and oxidizing them, fossil energy needs could be met simply by rearranging chemical bonds, without the investment of external energy” (Csaba Huszár)

4. Echoes

The atmosphere of the BCCC day was described authentically by Koutsoyiannis (2025). Such a conference and such reports act slowly but they may act deeply. The press coverage in December was poor, but in January 2026 two interviews were published: one with Demetris Koutsoyiannis (Hernádi 2026, Koutsoyiannis 2026), and one with László Csaba Szarka (Newman 2026), made themselves noticed. Substantive comments are also starting to accumulate, mainly in private *Science of Climate Change*

correspondences. Our message has reached the advisors of decision makers. As far as the skeptic view (PBK EM 2024) is considered by them as extremist one, we cannot make changes in Hungary from inside, in spite of the susceptibility of some advisors to our arguments.

It is a clear, historical reaction that in January 2026, the Hungarian mainstream side started to organize a climate debate. Their invitation and request for suggestions were sent to the initiator-organizer of the BCCC conference, trying completely ignore BCCC conference itself. However, this will no longer work. A new era has started. The new era was started not because of the BCCC conference. The conference is a symbol: it was the first occasion that a country's national academy provided an official scientific forum on views beyond the climate change consensus, without censorship and bans.

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