

Preface

Climate change is one of the most pressing problems in the world of today—and of the future. Almost daily television images and press releases of devastating natural disasters are ominous. What awaits us? The first chapter provides an introductory overview, of the projected consequences of climate change and the institutional framework where the struggle for solutions is taking place.

Climate change affects all areas of life and strikes at the basis of our existence. This includes, last but not least, the “roof over one’s head” and the workplace infrastructure—residential buildings, commercial and industrial properties. Protecting this basis of existence is of key significance, and this is bound to increase considerably in the course of climatic change. The present book deals with systems for protecting buildings against destruction and damage as a result of climate change. What demands does climate change make on a protection system that is fit for the future? Insurance against natural hazards is at the forefront of the solution. Climate change leads to new challenges and changes that insurance against natural hazards must meet if it is still to act as *insurance* and to grant insurance coverage under acceptable conditions to *all* building owners, as far as possible.

Already today, there is a multitude of existing systems for insuring buildings against natural hazards. The second chapter begins by illustrating the various types. Subsequently, the insurance systems in Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland and the USA are presented and compared with each other. The insurance system that is most suitable in view of climate change is determined and described. The third chapter draws a conclusion in this regard.

The legitimacy of the insurance systems is the subject of the fourth chapter. The focus is on making insurance statutory in the sense of compulsory insurance that is executed by a single insurance organisation furnished with a legal monopoly. In particular the monopoly is in a conflicting relationship with a free market economy and competition.

Keywords in the legal dispute are, on the one hand, economic freedom, the fundamental freedoms of the EU, and competition law. On the other hand, there is the common good, the public interest, the services of general (economic) interest and the universal service. Their compatibility with Swiss and EU law is examined, and solutions are illustrated. Finally, this book ends with a conclusion to these legal considerations.

Zurich, December 2009

Cornel Quinto

Insurance Systems in Times of Climate Change
Insurance of Buildings Against Natural Hazards

Hubner, S.

2011, XXVI, 154 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-22434-8