

*Dear Members of the Verein für Socialpolitik,*

*To our great regret, we had to switch plans and will not organize this year's Vfs conference "Climate Economics" (September 26-29, 2021) as a face-to-face event at the University of Regensburg but, instead, as a virtual conference. We have not taken this decision lightly – it came after countless consultations between the Vfs board, many colleagues, and partners of the Vfs. The unfortunate truth is that there is still insufficient planning reliability for the Corona situation overall, and especially on how we might be able to comply with the – currently unknown – hygiene requirements that will be in place in September. This implies that we are currently unable to guarantee any minimum level of physical presence. The decision about the conference format has to be taken now, however, leaving us no choice but to go virtual. What a bummer.*

*Let me take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the head of the local organization Jürgen Jerger, who planned every detail with great commitment and competence. He really did all that was possible for a great conference in Regensburg. Now, let us look forward. We will have a great online conference, that's for sure. Please do join us! Online registration starts on Thursday 3th, 2021, and the conference fees will be lower than usual. Last year's conference, also online, was extremely interesting and extremely well attended - we will be very pleased to welcome you at the virtual Vfs conference again. The overall state of planning actually looks very bright, too. Core conference director Ulrich Wagner has secured outstanding keynote speakers on "Climate Economics" including Nobel laureate William Nordhaus. Our Head of the Programme Committee, Almuth Scholl, is currently compiling a great conference programme with presentations from all fields of economics. We will inform you shortly about the acceptance or rejection of your submitted paper or organized session. Online or physical, we will all show our best effort in September. We much look forward to seeing you.*

*Viele Grüße,*

*Georg Weizsäcker*

*on behalf of the Vfs Managing Board*