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*You have been working at the most important interfaces between politics, the economy and society for years, at a time of massive challenges and transformations. What do you enjoy most about your work?*

My work, especially at WIFO, is very diverse and varied. Together with our employees, we are in direct contact with politicians and top officials and come up with proposals that can actually be implemented. We don't work in an ivory tower, but are guided by real political and social realities.

*WIFO sees its task as fulfilling a bridging function between economic research and its political application. What is the biggest challenge for you?*

Independence is the essence of WIFO's work, because this is where the credibility of our research is anchored. The scientific nature of our work enables us to analyze ideas objectively. In addition, we examine the fact-based effects of political decisions and the side effects they entail. In addition to retrospective evaluations, the scientific toolbox at WIFO also contains simulation models that are used to make recommendations for action for the benefit of as many people as possible. if bureaucratic hurdles in the processing of research projects were removed.



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**Role in the member organization:** Director of the Austrian Institute of Economic Research



*They have a wealth of international experience in communicating scientific findings to decision-makers. The CCCA fulfills a similar task as a service point for the Austrian Climate Research Network. How does the CCCA help with your work today and how can it work even better in the future?*

My personal points of contact with the CCCA are still relatively small, but there are many people at WIFO who work specifically in climate economics. Above all, the exchange within the network opens up perspectives, but also areas of tension between different disciplines. The overall goal is to preserve the basis of our existence, but there are different incentives to achieve this goal. A diverse, broad-based network helps us to endure and explore tensions and develop joint solutions.

*Where do you see the most important levers on the way to a sustainable future?*

As an economist, I would say that we must primarily use those mechanisms within our society that we know are efficient and effective, and experience has shown that these are market mechanisms. We need to ensure much more than before that the markets can also function. The example of emissions trading shows that framework conditions need to be created and how something like this can then be successfully implemented. This must also succeed for housing, traffic and international transportation. The magic word here is cost transparency.

