

René Boender does not consider Utopia to be unlikely

Al Gore may have got the science wrong - but he knows how to create a splash!

It's 17th October 2048; there are no less than 9,122,567,007 people living on Earth; at least 59% are women and 41% men: a direct consequence of global warming. What a prospect!

There are also more than 28 billion spiders. Just imagine what would happen if they were to become really smart and try to take over the world?

Because we need to have someone or something to fight and be afraid of, don't we? In 2048 for the first time in 25 years there have been no real wars between people. Everything is available in abundance. Faith is something to have faith in. And for politicians it's not just a matter of talking but also actually doing something. Due to scientific policy implemented in 2008, through photosynthesis there is now so much wheat grass and other grain species growing in the once arid deserts of Egypt and Ethiopia that we have enough to feed everyone. In 2008 we regularly ate meat and

fish! Now only on special occasions.

Energy has become a gift from the sun and where the sun shines the biggest solar collectors in the world have been built to transport the energy everywhere and to everyone. On the South Pole we have ozone factories constantly filling the holes. Water is now the great engine of the world. Roughly 70% of the Earth is water and only 30% is land. At least, for the time being. You have to wonder why we call our planet Earth? What will it be: Al Gore's inconvenient truth? Or the mission of the people of today. Everyone knows that Al

Gore's science is faulty but we should still thank him. With his Hollywood approach he has put the greatest challenge facing us today back on the international agenda. Green was once just a colour. Now it is a necessary requirement for sustainability. CO₂ was nothing more than the chemical name of a gas, but now it has become an 'attitude', a way to contribute to a better world! And that begins today.

By enabling scientists from all disciplines to work together new solutions have been found which people had not even dreamed of; a 'fusion of know how' is the key to remoulding the world. Let's start by giving the scientists the benefit of the doubt.

Who knows, perhaps in 2048 there will indeed be no more wars, plentiful food and Utopia could one day become a reality. Nothing is impossible, but we need to start in 2008.