



MILJØPARAGRAFEN, § 112 I GRUNNLOVEN

DIN, MIN OG NATURENS LOV

Vi og naturen hører sammen. Naturen har egne lover som mennesker ofte bryter. Når vi forurenses luft og vann eller utrydder arter, ødelegger vi både for kloden og oss selv. Men vi vet ikke alltid hvor mye skade vi gjør. Derfor må vi ha lover som kan beskytte miljø og klima også for framtidens barn og voksne.

YOURS, MINE AND NATURE'S LAW -

ARTICLE 112 OF THE NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION.

by Mette Newth,

board member of Grandparents Climate Campaign:

1) About the folder.

The 4 page folder aimed at children aged 9 -13 concerning Article 112 of the Norwegian Constitution, is produced by the two non-profit Norwegian organizations Grandparents Climate Campaign* and The ECO-Agents *. The producers wish to encourage children

and adults to feel real ownership to Article 112, hence the title: YOURS, MINE AND NATURE'S LAW.

The folder is funded by UNESCO Norway. The folder was launched countrywide on June 5, UN's World Day of the Environment, presented to all members of Parliament and the Government, and distributed to pupils in Norwegian secondary schools across the country. The distribution of the folder and the discussions about its content amongst young and old will be an ongoing process.

Original Norwegian text and English translation by Mette Newth (mcnewth@online.no)

2) English translation:

Cover: Page 1

Headline:

YOURS, MINE AND NATURES LAW

- ARTICLE 112 OF THE NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION

We and Nature are one family. Nature has its own laws that we humans often break. When we pollute air and water or wipe out species, we ruin for Earth and for ourselves. But we do not always know how much damage we cause. Therefore we must have laws that protect Earth's environment and climate, laws that can keep the planet safe for children and adults of the future.

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The Constitution is the law above all laws. Norway's Constitution was made in 1814, and our "Eco"- Article was added in 1992, 5 years after United Nations published its world report on global environment: "Our Common Future". The report introduced "sustainable development", a concept we now often use. This means: development that secures today's needs, without jeopardizing the needs of future generations.

The "Eco"- Article states:

- that we all have the right to a healthy and diverse nature. But Nature's gifts must be used sensibly, and we must always consider the people of tomorrow and their right to inherit a sustainable planet Earth.

- that we all have the right to know the state of nature, and to be informed of Nature's limit of toleration. We must also be informed of possible dangers. For example, of what damage can be done to marine life in Arctic waters during deep sea oil-drilling.

- that the government must follow the demands of the Eco-Article.

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Better safe than sorry.

At home we keep fire-alarms for safety. When hiking or skiing in the Norwegian mountains, we follow "the mountain code" that tells us to turn before the weather gets bad. This sensible action has its own name: *to be proactive*. Or in other words: "better to be safe than sorry". For the safety of all nature, it is very important that we humans obey the proactive - code, because no one knows for certain exactly how much Nature can endure - i.e. emissions of greenhouse-gases.

For the children of the future, it is vital that the people of today take good care of the earth, air and water, as this is the basis for a good life for unborn generations. Therefore we must remember that we do not own planet Earth, we only borrow it from all generations of children to come.

Who decides?

Since the Eco-Article was added to our Constitution, the destruction of Earth's environment has increased alarmingly, and Earth's fever has become dangerously high.

This the world's climate scientists know. Also politicians in Norway and the world must know that they do far too little for Nature and the children of the future.

Who decides that actions move so slowly? Of course, governments must abide by the law, but are we adults astute enough to remind politicians of their duty? We Norwegians are fortunate that have a Eco-Article in our Constitution. But if we do not say "STOP" when the law is violated, we will betray all children. Children have rights, but they do not have power. We adults must never forget that.

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Article 112 of the Constitution: Paragraph 1.

Every person has a right to an environment that is conducive to health and to a natural environment whose productivity and diversity are maintained.

Note: Page 2 and 3 of the folder also contain related statements from 2 Eco-agents Kaja and Elias, Norway's Ombudsman for Children Anne Lindboe and popular writer/comedian Knut Nærum.

3) Complete and authorized English translation of (former Article 110b

now) Article 112 of the Norwegian Constitution* :

Every person has a right to an environment that is conducive to health and to a natural environment whose productivity and diversity are maintained.

Natural resources should be managed on the basis of comprehensive long-term considerations whereby this right will be safeguarded for future generations as well.

In order to safeguard their right in accordance with the foregoing paragraph, citizens are entitled to information on the state of the natural environment and on the effects of any encroachment on nature that is planned or carried out.

The authorities of the State shall issue specific provisions for the implementation of these principles.

My comment: The Constitution was amended by Parliament on May 13th. 2014. Parliament emphasized the duties of the state authorities to implement (execute) these principles (Paragraph 3.)

4) About the organisations:

ECO-AGENTS

Miljøagentene

Mariboes gate 8, 0183 Oslo, e-post: post@miljoagentene.no

Eco-agents are the environmental organization for children in Norway.

The Eco-agents is a unique combination of children's culture and a profound commitment to the environment. This distinctively Norwegian phenomenon has now existed since 2006, and a generation of young adults is already carrying a lot of our involvement and insight with them.

Our aim is to stimulate the children's interest and love for nature, and to make them realize that the way we live our lives have influence on the environment. Eco-agents always focus on possibilities, and our goal is to make the voices of the children heard.

Please contact us by post@miljoagentene.no or phone +47 969 01 820.

Visit <http://miljoagentene.no>

Grandparents Climate Campaign (GCC),

Besteforeldrenes klimaaksjon

Postboks 10, 5641 Fusa, e-post: post@besteforeldreaksjonen.no

Grandparents Climate Campaign (GCC), Norway are committed to the struggle for a healthy planet for coming generations. GCC was established 2006 by a group of concerned elders, many of whom formerly held influential positions or high office in Norway. Counting around 1000 members and several local chapters, GCC is regarded as an important voice, underscoring the ethical dimension of intergenerational justice. GCC will relentlessly remind political leaders of their responsibility to protect the rights of young people and future generations.

Visit www.besteforeldreaksjonen.no

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