

# *Let's Schmooze*

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## **Who Gets Stuck With the Tab?**

Increasingly, as the difficult global environmental talks struggle on, that seems to be the emerging question ~ who gets stuck with the tab? Everybody seems to want the "other guy" to get stuck with the tab for cleaning up the environment.

Currently, it is playing out ~ right now ~ in Poland. Negotiators are still trying to put some "teeth" into the 2015 Paris Climate Accord, signed by hundreds of nations a few years ago.

However, many want to make promises, but not "ante up." They don't want their promises to cost them.

Developing countries argue that the established industrial nations have historically caused the environmental problems, and that it is not fair for the rest of the world to clean up their mess. They argue that the established industrial nations should shoulder most of the economic burden of an environmental clean-up.

Oil-exporting nations such as Kuwait, Russia, Saudi Arabia and the USA argue that eliminating fossil fuels will cost them billions in lost sales. They argue that it is unfair for the oil-producing nations to suffer disproportionate economical losses from lost fossil fuel sales.

Middle and lower population classes argue that environmental clean-up is a luxury that they can ill afford. They are too busy trying to get by on a day-to-day basis. They argue that environmental clean-up is an elitist interest, and that the upper classes are trying to cure climate woes on the backs of ordinary citizens.

The Yellow Jacket protests in France and other countries in Europe is a case in point. These protests are getting worse by the day. The protesters argue that environmentalism is only for rich people who have the wealth and luxury-of-time to mess with it.

Ergo, many agree that an environmental clean-up is a good idea, but don't want to get stuck with the "economic" tab.

And, while global humanity is arguing over who is going to get stuck with the tab, our environments keep spiraling down the drain.

Time is of the essence.

Will global humanity get all this sorted out before it is too late to do anything about it?

~ 'til we meet again ~