

by **A. Bettini**

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About “scientific consensus on climate change”

It has been with great astonishment that I found published on the 44/6 issue of EPN, a journal of a scientific Society, the article “Scientific consensus on climate change”.

Climate change is a complex physical phenomenon or better a set of physical phenomena that are being scientifically studied, including their possible anthropic causes. It is also a highly politically sensitive issue. As scientists we

should, I think, keep the two aspects well separated.

On the contrary, the article published by EPN pretends to prove the existence of human-caused global warming, “by consensus”. The point here is not whether the theory of human caused global warming is true or not, but the means that is used to proof that. Consensus rather than experiment. “Consensus can be measured; if it is large enough it proofs the theory”.

This is an extremely dangerous behaviour. Consensus is the instrument of democracy. Science is not democracy; it rests on the Galilei scientific method. Abandoning that will bring us back to the Middle Ages. It is astonishing to find this view in a Journal of a scientific society.

I would like to ask you to publish my letter.

Thanks for your attention. ■

The Editor responds

Europhysics News offers its readers a forum to publish articles which are interesting to a wide readership and which satisfy accepted scientific standards. The Feature by John Cook

meets both criteria. Prof. Bettini claims that the author uses consensus to prove the existence of human-caused global warming, but this is not the case. What the author does show is that there is

a much larger consensus among climate scientists than the public thinks. The quote “Consensus can be measured; if it is large enough it proofs the theory” does not appear in the article. ■