



## Austerity Theater

July 17, 2023

### Does Spain really need a Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge?

Well, the country's reproduction rate has fallen dramatically, with the demographics [heading into a tailspin](#). This is what [decadence](#) really means. So maybe, just maybe, the government should look into it.

But does Spain really need [Teresa Ribera](#)?

She's the minister in charge of [MITECO](#), the department in question. She hit [international notoriety last week](#) when video of her riding a bicycle to an EU "climate summit" proved to be something other than a valiant commitment to climate-crisis austerity.

While she intended her cycling to hit the news cycle, *how* it hit proved . . . hilarious.

She had arrived at the summit via jet — and not a *commercial*

airliner — and then was transported by limo to a spot a hundred meters from the event, stopping to get on her bicycle and pedaling the last bit.

For the show.

Why she thought she'd get away with what Pete Buttigieg had failed at in 2021, as *The Daily Wire* [noted](#), I don't know. Maybe our leaders think we're that stupid. Or perhaps they haven't completely transitioned to the Age of the iPhone and Internet Challenge.

We must wonder: Do our leaders really believe their own climate prophecies?

They don't seem to, any more than they believed, in the thick of the pandemic, that masking up and social distancing was something that they, too, should do.

That could be one take-away. But another is that they *do*, but they know that climate austerity, like the lockdowns, make sense only if most people comply. They are *not* "most people." *They* are special.

For them, the elites, austerity is just a show.

To set us up to suffer — *for real*.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.