



GREEN BUDGET GERMANY (GBG)

FORUM ÖKOLOGISCH-SOZIALE MARKTWIRTSCHAFT

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## **MBIS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS IN THE EU**

GREEN BUDGET EUROPE (GBE) LAUNCHING CONFERENCE 25.09.08

### DRAFT AGENDA

**Venue: Maisons des Associations Internationales, 40 rue Washington, 1050 Brussels**

### SESSION 1 – GREEN BUDGET EUROPE

**9:45 Dr. Anselm Görres, introduction to the role of Green Budget Europe**

Environmentally Harmful Subsidies (EHS) and the EU Energy Tax Directive: two possible avenues for Green Budget Europe (GBE) to positively influence EU policy.

**10:30 Dr. Martin Bursík** (Vice-Premier and Minister of Environment, Czech Republic)\*

Discussion of the removal of EHS in all relevant sectors – a national perspective. Possibilities and potential for EHS removal, the role of national actors in this process, etc.

**10:50 Patrick Ten Brink** (IEEP, Brussels)

Quantifying EHS in the EU: the cost of EHS to the EU economy; highlighting areas for potential action.

**11:10 András Lukács** (Clean Air Action Group, Hungary)

The actual Green Budget Proposal issued by the Clean Air Action Group and Hungary's progress concerning the reduction of EHS.

**11:30 ...COFFEE ...**

### SESSION 2 – WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Workshop presentations approx. 10 minutes duration, leaving a minimum of 20 minutes for discussion.

### **FORUM ÖKOLOGISCH-SOZIALE MARKTWIRTSCHAFT e.V. (FÖS)**

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**11:45 Green Budget Europe**

A discussion of the future role of the GBE platform and the route to real progress. The proposed forum on Market Based Instruments (MBI) for the environment, and ways of involving GBE.

**Chair: Kai Schlegelmilch (GBG)**

Comments invited from: Mag. Klemens Riegler (ÖSF, Vienna), John Hontelez (EEB, Brussels), Prof. Paul Ekins (Green Fiscal Commission, London), Alexander Wiedow (DG-TAXUD, Brussels), Robin Miège (DG-ENV, Brussels).

**11:45 Energy and Transport**

Transport Expert from CER\*, Nils Axel Braathen (OECD, Environment Directorate, Paris), Alfonso Gonzalez-Finat (DG TREN, Brussels), Søren Dyck-Madsen (Danish Ecological Council, Copenhagen)\*

**11:45 Agriculture, Fisheries and Biodiversity**

Dr. Emma Comerford (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK), Anja von Moltke (UNEP, Geneva), Markus Knigge (Pew Environment Group, USA), Martina Fleckenstein (WWF, Germany)\*

13:15 ...LUNCH...

**SESSION 3 THE EU ENERGY TAX DIRECTIVE****14:15 Yannis Paleocrassas** (former Minister of Finance, Greece)

The forthcoming revision of the EU Energy Tax Directive for the more targeted and coherent use of energy taxation, integrating energy efficiency and environmental aspects, for adoption by the end of 2008. Progress at the EU-COM.

**14:45 Kai Schlegelmilch** (Green Budget Germany)

GBE's approach to the Energy Tax Directive, importance of real changes and improvements, the need to move towards real harmonisation and not the lowest common denominator.

The Green Paper on MBIs for environmental policy, the outcome of the green paper consultation.

The European forum for MBI in environmental policy – should it be used e.g. to advise on the best ways of reviewing the Directive?

**15:15 (Fishbowl) discussion of the 2008 review of the Energy Tax Directive.**

16:00 ...COFFEE...

**16:15 SESSION 4 REFLECTIONS & COMMENTS, OUTLOOK**

One representative attending each workshop (agreed in advance) will report back to the main conference on the main findings of the workshops (5 minutes each):

- **Prof. Paul Ekins** (Green Fiscal Commission, London) on Green Budget Europe
- **Nils Axel Braathen** (OECD, Environment Directorate, Paris) on Energy and Transport
- **Dr. Emma Comerford** (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK) on Agriculture, Fisheries and Biodiversity.

Reflections and comments (of 5 minutes duration) from:

- **Marie Briguglio**, Malta Environment & Planning Authority\*
- **Pedro Herrera**, Institute for Fiscal Studies, Madrid\*
- **Dr. Franz Fischler**, Ökosoziales Forum Europa, Vienna
- **David Gee**, EEA: Science, policy and innovation, Copenhagen
- **Robin Miège**, DG-ENV, Brussels

17:30           Wrap-up: Should include concrete next steps and Green Budget Europe's goals, as well as a brief outlook for the next day (emphasis on subsequent EU Presidencies, DGs ENV and TAXUD)

- Kai Schlegelmilch
- Dr. Anselm Görres

Note: Throughout the conference, response(s) to the EU-COM's follow-up on the Green Paper on MBIs for environmental policy will be a main point of emphasis.

**18:00 End of the conference**

#### Conference Partners:

