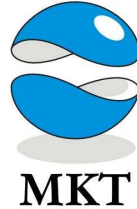


GreenBudgetEurope



Levegő Munkacsoport



GBE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

REMOVING ENVIRONMENTALLY HARMFUL SUBSIDIES: POSSIBILITIES AND BENEFITS

**Thursday, July 8th – Friday, July 9th 2010
Andrássy University Budapest**

2010-05 programme long v15/02.07.2010

GREEN BUDGET GERMANY (GBG) • FORUM ÖKOLOGISCH-SOZIALE MARKTWIRTSCHAFT e.V.
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GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG Konto 804 371 3000 · BLZ 430 609 67 · IBAN DE87430609678043713000
Gemeinnützig zur Förderung wissenschaftlicher Zwecke laut Finanzamt München für Körperschaften

THE CONFERENCE TOPIC

There are many subsidies which are harmful to the environment. These include **direct subsidies**, like aid from the state budget for the construction of airports and cement factories or subsidies for fossil energy use in households. However, **indirect subsidies** constitute a much larger share, e.g. tax reductions for company cars and excise duty exemption for aviation fuel. The resulting unpaid environmental and health costs are also indirect subsidies. These costs should be paid for by the polluter, not by society. These subsidies are financially hugely significant worldwide. **Their removal will benefit the environment and the economy and, if properly designed, can improve social equity as well. It can also help reduce the colossal deficit which states have accumulated as a result of the financial crisis.** Subsidy removal would make economies more efficient and reduce market distortions that favour environmentally harmful behaviour.

This topic is very timely in relation to the following:

- The **EU Sustainable Development Strategy** (2006) called on the European Commission to draft a roadmap for the removal of EHS in all relevant sectors. DG ENV has commissioned a study to provide practical guidelines for subsidy removal and indicators to enable policy makers to get a sense of the level and character of subsidies.
- The European Union is now preparing its **budget** for the period 2014–2020. It is very important to ensure that no EU funding is given for activities which worsen the state of the environment.
- The EU is currently in the process of revising the **Energy Tax Directive and the Eurovignette Directive**.
- The leaders of the **G20**, at their meeting in September 2009, committed themselves to phase out all subsidies for fossil fuels.

In recent years, a lot of experience has been accumulated concerning good and bad practices associated with the communication of subsidy reform and environmental fiscal reform (EFR) as a whole. Communicating the ways in which subsidy removal and EFR can be effective tools to address the current economic, social and environmental crises is the focus of the final conference sessions. The most important findings in this area will help improve such communication and enable the mainstreaming of green budget reform in the future.

The conference in Budapest will also help Hungary to prepare for the EU Presidency, which it will hold in the first half of 2011.

JULY 8TH 2010**8.00 Registration****MORNING SESSION**

Chair: Prof. Dr. Sándor Kerekes, Chairman of the Section for Environmental Economics, Hungarian Economic Association; Vice-Rector of the Budapest Corvinus University

9.00 Welcome Speeches

- 9.00 Prof. Dr. Árpád Kovács (President, Hungarian Economic Association)
András Lukács (President, Clean Air Action Group)
- 9.15 Dr. Anselm Görres (President, Green Budget Germany)
- 9.35 Zoltán Cséfalvay (State Secretary of the Ministry for National Economy, Hungary)
- 9.50 László Parragh (President of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President of the Hungarian Economic and Social Council)

9.50 Keynote Speeches**The current political field of action on EHS**

- 10.05 The EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the roadmap for the elimination of EHS
- Videomessage from Dr. Janez Potočnik (European Commissioner for the Environment)
- 10.20 Europe 2020 strategy and the elimination of EHS
- Dr. Jerzy Pieńkowski (European Commission, DG Environment)
- 10.40 OECD Work on Phasing-out Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Developments in the G20
- Helen Mountford (Environment Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – OECD)
- 11,00 The World Bank's Work for the Removal of Energy Subsidies
- Prof. Dr, Cees van Beers (Delft Technical University)
- 11.10 Q&A
- 11.20 Tea Break

11.40 Presentation and panel discussion

Subsidy removal – possibilities and ways forward

- 11.40 Environmentally Harmful Subsidies: Identification and Assessment
- Samuela Bassi (Policy Analyst, Institute for European Environmental Policy – IEEP)
- 12.00 Roadmap for Reforming Fossil-Fuel Subsidies
- Kerryng Lang (Research Officer, Global Subsidies Initiative)
- 12.20 Environmentally Harmful Subsidy Reform – Some Political and Social Considerations
- Dr. Stefan Speck (Project Manager, European Environment Agency – EEA)
- 12.40 Environmentally Harmful vs. Friendly Subsidies
- Dr. Aldo Ravazzi Douvan (Senior Consultant, Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea)
- 12.55 Discussion and questions
- 13.15 Lunch

JULY 8TH 2010

AFTERNOON SESSION

14.30 Parallel Workshops

A. EHS in transport

Chair: Dr. Attila Vörös, Director of the Institute for Transport Sciences, Budapest

- 14.30 Hidden Subsidies: External Costs of Transport
- Arno Schrotten (Senior Researcher/Consultant, CE Delft)
- 14.50 Greening Transport Taxation
- Jos Dings (Director, European Federation for Transport and Environment – T&E)
- 15.10 The Real Cost of Transport in Hungary
- Dr. Károly Kiss (President of the Experts' Committee, Clean Air Action Group, Hungary)
 - Lázár Pavics (em. Chief Counsellor of the Ministry of Finance; Chief Expert of the Clean Air Action Group)
- 15.30 EHS in Transport and their Impacts on the Environment in France
- Maryvonne Phantarangsi (Chargée de mission in environmental policy and business / Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Sea)
- 15.50 Study on the Tax Treatment of Company Cars in the EU

- Katri Kosonen (Principal Administrator and Economist in the DG Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission)

16.10 Discussion

16.25 Tea Break

B. EHS in the agricultural sector, water management, land use and construction

Chair: Ferenc Ligetvári, Professor, Szent István University; former Minister for Environment and Water Management, Hungary

14.30 **Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in the Hungarian Agriculture**

- Dr. László Podmaniczky (Associate Professor, Institute of Environmental & Landscape Management, Szent István University, Hungary)

14.50 **Only an Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainable Agriculture has a Future in Europe**

- Arnd Spahn (Agricultural Secretary, European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions – EFFAT)

15.10 **Irrigation subsidies in Spain – Analysis and Potential for Reform**

- Samuela Bassi (IEEP)

15.30 **Developers' Market – the Winner Takes Everything? Market-based Instruments for Sustainable Spatial Development in Hungary**

- Erzsébet Beliczay (Vice-President, Clean Air Action Group, Hungary); János Pál (Ecological Economist, Clean Air Action Group)

15.50 Discussion

16.25 Tea Break

Plenary session

Chair: Tamás Halm, General Secretary of the Hungarian Economic Association

16.45 Reports from the workshops, discussion

17.15 **Final Remarks to Conference Day 1**

- Dr. Benedek Jávör (Chairman, Parliamentary Committee for Sustainable Development, Hungary)

17.20 End of Conference Day 1

17.25 *Meeting of the Steering Committee of Green Budget Europe (by personal invitation only)*

19.00 Dinner (by personal invitation only)

JULY 9TH 2010

MORNING SESSION

Chair: Prof. Dr. habil. János Szlávik, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, tbc

9.00 Keynote speeches

Making progress on Environmental Fiscal Reform

09.00 tbc

- András Kármán (State Secretary for Taxation, Ministry of National Economy, Hungary) tbc

09.20 **The Future of Subsidy Removal – Overcoming Obstacles and Reducing Deficits**

- Prof. Mikael Skou Andersen (European Environment Agency)

09.40 **Potential Unfulfilled: EU Funding and Cohesion Policy can do more for Sustainable Climate and Energy Developments in CEE**

- Pavel Pribyl (Transport Coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Network)

10.00 **Europe 2020 and Environmental Fiscal Reform**

- John Hontelez (Secretary General, European Environment Bureau (EEB))

10.10 **Green Economic Stabilisation in Hungary**

- Dr. Károly Kiss & Lázár Pavics (Clean Air Action Group, Hungary)

10.30 **Environmental Taxation at EU level**

- Dr. Walter Deffaa (Director General, European Commission. Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union)

10.55 Q&A

11.20 Tea break

EHS in the energy sector

11.40 **Energy Subsidies: Harmful or Innocent?**

- Drs. Frans Oosterhuis (Senior Researcher, Institute for Environmental Studies, VU University Amsterdam – IVM)

12.00 **Energy Subsidies, Climate Change and Innovation**

- Prof. Dr. Cees van Beers (Delft Technical University)

12.20 **Macro-economics and Environmental Impacts of Eliminating Consumer Subsidies to Fossil Fuels: Results of a Modelling Exercise**

- Dr. Jean Chateau (Administrator, Environment Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – OECD)

12.40 Panel discussion

13.20 Lunch

13,20 Press conference

with Dr. Anselm Görres, Dr. Walter Deffaa, András Kármán (tbc), András Lukács

JULY 9TH 2010

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair: Zsófia Lakatos, Vice President at Hungarian PR Association, Managing Director of Hill&Knowlton Hungary

Communicating Subsidy Removal and Environmental Fiscal Reform Experiences at EU level and from various countries: Recommendations for the future

14.30 Communicating Green Budget Reform – the Experiences of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations

- Sándor Fülöp (Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations, Hungary)

14.40 How to communicate environmental topics – basics and experiences

- Ion Karagounis (Managing Director, Swiss foundation for environmental management Pusch)

14.50 Direct democracy and ecological tax reform

- Erwin Mayer (Consultant for Climate and Energy Policies, Denkstatt)

15.00 How Companies communicate on Sustainability: Good and bad examples taken from Sustainability Reports

- Gabi Hildesheimer (Director, Öbu – Swiss Network for Sustainable Business)

15.10 Communicating Subsidy Removal and Environmental Fiscal Reform Experiences in Germany and the US: Recommendations for the future

- Kai Schlegelmilch (Vice President, Green Budget Europe)

15.20 Danish Experiences with Green Tax Reforms – and Lessons Learned

- Søren Dyck-Madsen (Climate and Energy Policy Officer, Danish Ecological Council)

15.30 Tea Break

15.50 Communicating Green Budget Reform in Hungary

- András Lukács (President, Clean Air Action Group, Hungary)

16.00 Four Levels of Social Responsibility

- Dr. Péter Szeles (President, Hungarian Public Relations Association)

16.10 Round table with panellists, journalists and communication experts

17.40 End of Conference

VENUE

Andrássy University, Conference Room,
Pollack Mihály tér 3, H-1088 Budapest

Phone: +36-1-266-3101

Public Transport: metro stations Astoria (M2), Kálvin tér (M3)

REGISTRATION

The conference is **free of charge**. It includes participation in the events of the conference, the conference materials and refreshments during the breaks. The organisers cannot reimburse travel and accommodation costs.

For registration, **please contact**:

Clean Air Action Group (CAAG)

Pf. 1676, HU-1465 Budapest, Hungary

Phone: + 361 411 0509

konf@levego.hu

The language of the conference is English and Hungarian with simultaneous interpretation (except for the Workshop on Agriculture, where only English will be used).

ABOUT US

Green Budget Europe (GBE) was founded in Brussels in September 2008 in response to the EU's growing influence on environmental and fiscal policy. It is an **EU-wide umbrella organisation to promote the use of Market Based Instruments (MBI) in environmental policy**. Members include researchers, politicians, business, and NGOs. New members welcome! If you would like to become a member please fill in the form overleaf and hand it to a member of staff or return to: Forum Ökologisch-Soziale Marktwirtschaft e.V. (FÖS), Schwedenstraße 15a, D-13357 Berlin. Alternatively you can become a member online at www.foes.de.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

- I would like to become an active member
(€200 annual contribution; voting member).
- I would like to become a supporting member
(€60 annual contribution; non-voting member).
- My company would like to become an active member
(at least €1000 annual contribution, voting member)
- My company would like to become a supporting member
(at least €500 annual contribution, non-voting member).
- I would like to become a supporting member at the reduced student fee
(€30 annual contribution; non-voting member).
- I would like to make an annual donation to GBG of
€ and receive information on GBG projects.
- I would like to make a one-off donation to GBG
of € and receive information on GBG projects.
- I would like to receive the e-mail newsletter Green Budget News free of charge and without obligation.

First name, title

Profession

Business data	Private/ NGO data
Street / P.O. Box	Street / P.O. Box
Postcode, Town	Postcode, Town
Institution / Company	Organisation / Institution
Function / Position	Function / Position
Fon / Fax	Fon / Fax
E-Mail / Web	E-Mail / Web

Place, Date, Signature

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