To: Ministers of Finance of EU Member States

15 June 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Revision of the Energy Tax Directive

The Energy Tax Directive is of tremendous importance as a means of enabling Member States and the European Union as a whole to comply with the EU climate policy targets in a cost-efficient way that safeguards prosperity. Unfortunately the existing Directive does not fulfil this purpose. It is in urgent need of revision.

In order to ensure that the revision de facto contributes to real reductions of greenhouse gas emissions across Europe, our organisations call on you, during the ECOFIN meeting next week, to support proposals that:

- make it easier for member states to use fuel taxes as a means to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels by raising the minimum tax on diesel considerably. This also requires allowing Member States to tax fuel use or CO\textsubscript{2} emissions from activities covered by the EU Emission Trading Scheme.

- introduce a fully mandatory minimum tax on all non-ETS uses of fossil fuels at at least the same level as the CO\textsubscript{2} price within the EU Emission Trading System, i.a. to prevent distortions in the heating market.

- ask the Commission for an evaluation of the Directive and a proposal for its modification no later than 2016, in line with article 29 in the Commission proposal.

We remain at your disposal to discuss these suggestions and the specific provisions of the Directive in detail.

Yours faithfully,

Anselm Görres
President, Green Budget Europe

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Secretary General, EEB

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