

GreenBudgetEurope

European expert platform on environmental taxation and green fiscal reform

European Parliament
Ms Sharon Bowles
Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
ASP 10G201
Rue Wiertz 60
B-1047 Brussels

Fiscal consolidation, structural reforms and carbon taxation at the European Parliamentary Week (20-22 January)

11 January 2014

Dear Ms Bowles,

It is with great interest that we take knowledge of the programme of the European Parliamentary Week on the European Semester Cycles 2013 and 2014 from 20 - 22 January 2014.

We are particularly interested in the topic 2 on "Fiscal consolidation and structural reforms: exchange of best practices".

We are convinced that the European Semester provides a particularly powerful opportunity to implement new innovative political solutions and to contribute to the required fiscal consolidation with the least economic impact.

We would like to invite you to consider the findings of a major study on carbon and energy tax and pricing reforms in six EU Member States as best practices and would like to offer a short presentation of this study during the meeting.

The study fully underlines the priorities on tax shift set in the Annual Growth Survey 2014, showing that carbon and energy taxes can produce better economic results than conventional taxes, as well as helping to cut emissions. They offer less pain, and more gain. The economic benefits of avoiding the negative impacts of conventional taxes work across the economy, benefitting the least well-off across their household budget and in terms of their expendable income.

Rising energy bills are however a massive political issue in many European countries. Driven by the cost of fossil fuels, consumer energy prices are rising everywhere. Energy taxation however tends to produce a benefit for consumers overall when judged against other forms of taxation.

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Members of Parliament around Europe should think hard about fiscal, social and environmental sustainability when formulating policies to bring about a recovery within the European Semester.

Therefore, we would be delighted to present the study which was also very welcomed by the highest level in Ministries of Finance and Environment in Spain, France, Hungary, Poland, Germany and UK.

Please find attached the study and the executive summary. Don't hesitate to come back to us with any question or suggestion.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Anselm Görres
Green Budget Europe President