



European expert platform on green taxation and green fiscal reform

EU EXTENDS COAL MINING SUBSIDIES END DATE

[Brussels, 10th December 2010] The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and the European expert platform on market-based instruments, Green Budget Germany, have been angered by the European Commission's decision to end coal mining subsidies in 2018 and not 2014 as had been originally proposed.

The German Government have worked hard to change the Commission's position and extend state aid for coal to ensure it matched their domestic timetable, along with other EU coal mining countries.

"This decision completely undermines the EU's targets on climate, energy and sustainability. While decisions are made in Cancun on the one hand to reduce carbon emissions the EU is lining the pockets of polluting coal companies with the other hand, using public money," Said John Hontelez, Secretary General of the EEB.

"The money would be better spent investing in sustainable energy technologies that help create and maintain a local workforce. At least we can see the back of this sorry saga by 2018," continued Hontelez.

"In times of fiscal austerity and widespread cost-cutting in many EU Member States, the decision to prolong environmentally harmful subsidies for coal mining – which were worth a staggering 3 billion Euros in Germany and Spain alone in 2010 – is one that is extremely hard to justify," said Jacqueline Cottrell, manager of Green Budget Europe.

The EEB, the largest federation of environmental citizens' organisations in Europe, has long campaigned for the abolition of EU environmentally harmful subsidies. The decision was formally agreed at the Council meeting on Competition.

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Below you can find a link to the letter GBE sent to Government Representatives:
<http://www.foes.de/pdf/GBE%20coal%20subsidies%20letter%20for%20Gov.%20Rep%20-%20for%20HP.pdf>

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