Proposal to collaborate further work on car taxation and subsidies

Dear Mr. Semeta,

We were grateful for the important contributions from Mr. Walter Deffaa and Ms. Katri Kosonen of DG TAXUD to the Green Budget Europe Annual Conference in Budapest in July 2010. We have been encouraged by the apparent commitment of DG TAXUD to steer Europe towards an environmentally more sustainable path by means of appropriate taxation systems. Mr. Deffaa’s presentation of the Commission’s plans for the revision of the Energy Tax Directive and Ms. Kosonen’s presentation about the study on car taxation evoked great interest among the participants of the conference. Naturally, both topics deserve further discussion and investigation. We would like to offer our cooperation in these matters.

The enormous volume of exemptions and reductions in company car taxation and the likely harmful economic, social and environmental effects of such subsidies to company car use is a largely unknown issue amongst the general public as well as decision-makers. Therefore, the more in-depth research on this topic facilitated by the Commission is very useful and timely.

In order to discuss in more detail the results of the study and the necessary measures stemming from it, as well as in order to give it more publicity, we would like to propose to organize a conference in Brussels jointly with the Commission in late autumn this year or early next year.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

[Address]

[Date]
year. We would like to ask for your support for this, so that we can discuss the issues raised by the research and possible policy responses to it on a practical level with DG TAXUD and other relevant bodies. Many other organisations, including Green Budget Germany (the parent organisation of Green Budget Europe), have also been working on environmentally harmful subsidies for company cars, and could also present their findings and contribute their expertise to the debate.

Yours sincerely,

John Hontelez  
Secretary General  
European Environmental Bureau

Anselm Görres  
President  
Green Budget Europe