



A EUROPEAN PROJECT ORGANIZED BY GBG/FÖS

THE GREEN BUDGET EUROPE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A EUROPEAN EXPERT PLATFORM FOR ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS
IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Concept and Goals

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A. INTRODUCTION

There are many useful roles for a European MBI-platform, in promoting debate and political progress both on the international and EU level and within the member states. They go **far beyond just creating a network and a platform for exchange** of ideas and information, and may lead towards a **one-stop-shopping facility for all MBI issues** and, within limits, also to a strong media and campaign (support) capacity.

The launching conference for Green Budget Europe (GBE) took place on **September 25th 2008** in the Maison des Associations Internationales in Brussels. The conference, entitled

“MBIs for the Environment – Prospects for Progress in the EU”

focussed on dismantling Environmentally Harmful Subsidies and the EU Energy Tax Directive. The day in *rue Washington 40* made very clear: **By no means do we start at zero. Over the last years, a strong network of colleagues and friends has developed, involving many countries and organisations, that share fundamental convictions and a large body of both theoretical and practical knowledge about the supremacy of MBI-policies.**

B. GOALS AND MEANS OF GREEN BUDGET EUROPE

The primary objective of Green Budget Europe is to enable the European Member States and so the European Union as a whole to fulfill their climate targets and to secure the avoidance of a global warming in excess of 2°C. To this end we are planning:

- the cooperative development of **new concepts** of economic instruments in environmental policy with our European partners

- the **evaluation of existing and already implemented instruments**
- the **improvement of existing instruments** in environmental policy
- and the **active dissemination and circulation of those concepts** within the EU Member States and on the European and global level. This will include the organisation of conferences, the issue of policy papers and the publication of our work in the media and in the internet.

The focus lies on market based policy instruments, which serve to incentivise a higher energy efficiency and the reduction of CO₂-emissions in all relevant Kyoto-Sectors (Annex A). These instruments are primarily energy taxation, ecological fees and charges, as well as emission trading, but also heavy vehicle charging and many other measures that create market incentives.

Another important element would be the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies, as well as positive subsidies, for instance to renewable energies. In addition, the review of the EU budget should be thus influenced that climate and environment issues are really adequately reflected. This is especially important for all European measures concerning the financial crisis.

So Green Budget Europe, which serves as a competence center in what regards economic instruments in environmental policy in the European Union, will have to do **more than drafting papers** to make sure that there will be a visible impact. In this way we will be able to establish optimal ways of action, propose the reform of existing legislation and promote the implementation and discussion in avoidance of double-work in different Member States.

A realistic roadmap for GBE

Stages and Steps		Before	2008	2009	2010	After
1	Building network	Grown with colleagues+ friends over the years!	"First trading period" Grow members, include business world			"Second trading period"
	Shared basic ideas + goals		Internal evolution of more precise GBE-positions			
2	Infrastructure and funding		Sharing office with GBG, small financial commitment for all		Own office in BXL?	
	Defining roles and membership		"Start simple, complications will follow automatically" (Franz Fischler)			
	Regular meets and events		Kick-off BRX	Annually 1-2 EU-wide conferences, 1 meeting SteeCom		
3	GBE position papers for EU			Energy tax dir	From reactive to proactive agenda	
	Aiding activities in MS				Aiding MS debates, regional GB groups...	
	Extended activities					To be defined later

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GBG

Green Budget Europe - Launching – Exhibit 30

The long term result of these activities will be to advance innovative consumption and production patterns in all relevant sectors of the European society. These objectives relate directly to the objectives of the 6th EU-Environmental Action Plan and the Göteborg-Strategy which is part of the European Lisbon Strategy.

C. STRUCTURE OF GREEN BUDGET EUROPE

The structure of GBE consists of different roles held by committed individuals. Every Member contributes according to its personal preferences and competencies. Individuals do not only represent themselves, but indirectly organisations or institutions which they are associated with. But they should work with GBE as independent personalities in the sense that they are not delegates chosen and sent by an organisation but responsible individuals with their own convictions and activities.

„Patrons“ (VIPs) are prominent people and multipliers, that can open doors and support us, but are not expected to cooperate on a day-to-day basis. They represent GBE in their institutions and in the public of their country. We hope to identify one VIP per country.

„Active Members“ (AMs) are renowned MBI experts, that will fulfil a part of the organisational and strategic tasks of GBE. We expect a close cooperation between all AMs. They are our most important partners in every country. There will be 1 to 3 AMs per country.

The **„Steering Committee“ (SteeCom)** is a subset of the active members. It is defined as the leading body of GBE, in which decisions will be made. It should encompass not more than 15 persons from eastern and western Europe, women and men, from bigger and smaller countries.

The **„Council of Experts“ (ConEx)** will be constituted by further experts. They will be the intellectual base of GBE in European Countries and beyond. They could also be recommended as conference speakers for non-GBE-events or as MBI-Consultants.

The **„Office“ (Off)** is the GBE working-level and for the time being identical with the GBG-Team.

Other potential partners and contacts will be organized in the **„Circle of Friends“ (Friends)**. They receive priority information and, among other purposes, allow the affiliation of individuals from institutions that forbid more active cooperation. This applies mostly to civil servants and other officials.

„Sponsors“ are persons or institutions who contribute financially to GBE. The role of a sponsor can be combined with any other role listed above. The sponsors do not form an own body.

For practical ease, we established an **"Anchorperson" for each country "delegation"**, responsible for coordination and liaising within the delegation, so for operative purposes, the office will only have to deal with one person.

D. FINANCES OF GREEN BUDGET EUROPE

There is a minimum contribution of 10.000 € for the first period from 2008 to 2010 for member country delegations, with no reduction for members entering after 2008, and a higher contribution of 15.000 € for more affluent states. The SteeCom approved the following definition of less and more affluent states:

Less affluent: Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Malta

More affluent: Austria, Confederation Helvetica, Denmark France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA

Moreover the SteeCom decided over financial contributions of corporate members. They should pay annual fees between 1000 and 4000 € according to their annual turnover. GBE helps to provide contacts to get funding for those members in its function as an umbrella organisation. The yearly deadline for payment applying for all members is February.

Spending GBE funds: As a principle, membership contributions should cover only infrastructure cost of GBE, but these fully – both to give us a fast start and a degree of independence from often incalculable project financing. **Travel expenses** of GBE-members to participate in GBE events or project meetings should be fully financed by sources from member states or project sponsors. Only travel expenses of the GBE-office team or of members of the Steering committee will be reimbursed if no external sponsor can be found. With about 50% of GBG's activities being international, contributions should also raise about 50% of the total GBG expenses. Of course, **GBG will give full account and the necessary transparency to the SteeCom.** As a German "Verein" (association), GBE has to publish its annual statements that need to be approved by independent "Kassenprüfers". **Project financing on top:** Any projects going beyond the regular basic activities and infrastructure needs

should and cannot be financed by GBE or GBG. As a rule, **GBE-conferences should in part be financed by entry fees**, following the GCET example and our principle of honest prices. Of course, reductions could apply for members, speakers, students etc.

E. GBE-EVENTS IN 2009

GBE takes into account Windows of opportunity like those listed below of the table to assure that our thematical work does not only float through the universe, but is visibly impacting on the development of the European society.

2009	Day	Time	Place	Type	Event/ Title	Location	Administration	Comments
January	Thu. 29.	9.30 am - 4.00 pm	DK	Conference	International Conference on Green Taxes	Danish Parliament, Copenhagen	The Danish Ecological Council in co-operation with Green Budget Europe and Concito.	Speeches of Kai Schlegelmilch, Mikael Skou Andersen and Søren Dyck-Madsen
February								
March								
April	Tue 28. and Wed. 29.	8 pm and 9am to 5 pm	CZ	Meeting	First physical Meeting of the SteeCom of GBE.		GBG, CZ	
May	?		CH	Speech	EFR	Bern	GBG/ Anselm/ Philippe de Rougemont	Date and place to specify.
June	?		DE	Conference	EFR in Germany and Europe	Berlin?	GBG	In German Language only.
July	Wed. 15./ Thu. 16.		UK	Conference	Resource productivity, environmental tax reform and sustainable growth in Europe	Kings Colledge London	The Anglo German Foundation, Kings Colledge London and Partners.	
	Fr. 17.		UK	Conference	GBE Annual Conference	Kings Colledge London	Green Fiscal Commission and GBG.	
September	Wed. 23. to Fri 25.		PT	Side Event(s)	The Tenth GCET/ Water Management and Climate Change		GBG/GTZ	GBG intends to offer an EFR-training with GTZ likely a day before the conference.
October								
November								
December								
Windows of opportunity						Events with external participants		

End of March 2009 - Final Meeting Barroso high level group

The energy tax directive is due early 2009 together with other fiscal measures

September 2009 - Elections for the German Parliament