To: The Environment Ministers of EU member States

Brussels, 3rd December 2010

Concerning: Reform of environmentally harmful subsidies

Dear Minister,

The European Council\(^1\) called for a roadmap for the elimination of environmentally harmful subsidies (EHS) in June 2006. The Environmental Ministers of the Member States have reiterated this call a number of times. As a result of this call, the European Commission commissioned a study providing practical methodology for EHS identification, assessment and quantification. This study has been available on the Commission’s website since this year\(^2\).

We would like to ask you to inform us about the situation of identification, assessment and quantification of EHS in your country. We would also like to know whether you used for this purpose the methodology described in the above-mentioned study. Please inform us also about the past measures to eliminate EHS and also about concrete plans for the removal of EHS in the future in your country.

Thank you very much in advance for your reply.

Yours sincerely,

John Hontelez
Secretary General
European Environmental Bureau

Dr. Anselm Görres
President
Green Budget Germany

---

\(^1\) Para 24. of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, approved by the European Council in June 2006. “By 2008, the Commission should put forward a roadmap for the reform, sector by sector, of subsidies that have considerable negative effects on the environment and are incompatible with sustainable development, with a view to gradually eliminating them.”