

## **Annual Report of the Clean Air Action Group (Hungary) about the year 2002**

The **Clean Air Action Group** National Environment Protection Association has 126 member organizations. It carries out environmental activities, independent of party politics, to promote a sustainable development which is based on solidarity and which preserves the advantageous endowments and traditions of Hungary. These activities are implemented in the following ways:

- Supporting local environment protection initiatives, non-government organizations and groups of local residents; promoting citizens' participation in the decision-making;
- Environment and nature protection awareness raising, information, counselling and representation of interests;
- Contributing to the work of the Hungarian Parliament, the ministries, regional agencies and local governments; commenting on professional policy programs and draft regulations;
- Preparing analyses and statements of opinion which promote the implementation of national programmes and of the international environment protection principles;
- Representing environmental values in professional organizations and events.

**Green budget reform** — recommendations for establishing an eco-social market economy: taxes should stimulate reducing environment pollution and saving materials and energy, and should not burden wages, innovation and creativity. Granting state subsidies to activities which damage gravely the environment and human health should be stopped, and the resources saved this way should be spent on assisting activities which are in line with sustainable development.

**Project leaders:** András Lukács, Lázár Pavics and Zoltán Szabó

**Activities:** Gathering Hungarian and foreign information, compiling data analyses, studies and statements, elaborating recommendations for amending legal regulations. We prepared a package of specific modification proposals for the bill on the amendment of tax laws and for the State Budget Bill of Hungary for 2003.

We participated actively in the campaign of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) on "Environmental Fiscal Reform", and coordinated the campaign in Hungary (Zoltán Szabó).

Together with Danish and Austrian organizations we took part in the editing of the Green Budget News electronic newsletter published by Green Budget Germany (FÖS).

We gave numerous lectures both in Hungary (at conferences and in various universities and colleges) and abroad (in Brussels, Copenhagen and Warsaw).

On 15<sup>th</sup> November 2002 the Environmental Committee of the Hungarian Parliament organized a conference about the green budget reform. The event had been initiated by the Clean Air Action Group, which also took an active part in the organization.

In the State Budget Working Group of the Hungarian Parliament's Environment Protection Committee András Lukács, Lázár Pavics and Zoltán Szabó (secretary of the Working Group) represent the Clean Air Action Group.

**EU and other international relations** — Our aim is to adopt from the international practice the environment protection regulations which ensure mutual advantages, while preserving our natural and cultural endowments by moderating the deforming effects of the market.

**Project leaders:** András Lukács and András György Tóth

**Activities:** exchanging experience, participating in international conferences, maintaining continuous relations with foreign organizations (primarily through electronic channels), analyzing foreign experience, providing information and enhancing understanding in connection with the adoption of EU regulations. As a member organization of the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E), of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and of the Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe), we actively participated in the work of these organizations. We closely cooperated with the Institute for Transport and Development Policy (ITDP) based in New York, with the Austrian Traffic Club (VCÖ), the Polish Institute of Sustainable Development (INE) and with other organizations.

**Built environment and protection of green areas in and around Budapest** — with special regard to handling conflicts that came up in connection with some green areas, underground garages, high-rise buildings, transport and commercial facilities, residential areas and office buildings.

**Project leader:** Mária Schnier

**Activities:** Evaluating from an environmental aspect the development projects in Budapest, in the districts of the capital and in the settlements of the Budapest Agglomeration; supporting the interests of residents and the work of local organizations, participating in the meetings of the City Operation Committee of the Budapest Municipality and in the meetings of the Development Committee of the Local Government of District XI of Budapest (commenting on metropolitan and district draft regulations and re-zoning); organizing public forums and demonstrations. In the capital and the neighbouring settlements we commented on planned regulations and individual investment projects, and we participated in conciliatory negotiations.

We registered with the Environment Protection Inspectorate our intention to comment on the environmental impact assessment of every shopping mall planned in the Budapest Agglomeration.

Some of our successful initiatives were: our conferences on the proposed legal regulation for the protection of trees, which we prepared together with the Environmental Management and Law Association (EMLA); protection of the trees in the Béla Bartók Street in Budapest; urban climate assessments of the Millennium City Centre of Budapest's Ferencváros District.

Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June we campaigned to collect signatures for a bus lane in the Béla Bartók Street in District XI of Budapest.

On 17<sup>th</sup> December we held a demonstration in the junction of the Bocskai Road and Fehérvári Road in District XI of Budapest for improving the situation of the Budapest Public Transport Company (BKV) and of the above-ground public transport, and for stopping the pointless subway station construction in the junction.

**Regional development policy** — housing policy, brown fields, urban sprawl, sustainable land use based on solidarity, regulatory issues.

**Project leader:** Erzsébet Beliczay

**Activities:** For the revitalization of brown fields we cooperated with American, Czech and Israeli staff members of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP), we prepared recommendations for the regulatory and financial instruments of the subsidies, we held conciliatory discussions with decision-makers, planners and investors.

In order to stop the sprawl of settlements we cooperated with the non-government organizations of the settlements in the Budapest Agglomeration, as well as with planners, various authorities and decision-makers.

We elaborated the housing policy concept of the Clean Air Action Group. We organized a joint press conference with the National Association of Large Families who have a similar approach to the housing issue.

In order to improve the environmental state of settlements we initiated urban climate assessments.

We held conciliatory discussions for the modification of the Act on Local Governments and of the rules of procedure concerning regional planning.

In order to enforce the principle of sustainable development we expressed our views on the national and regional development plans (National Environment Protection Programme of Hungary, National Development Plan, National Nature Protection Primary Plan, National Waste Management Plan).

We gathered arguments against spreading shopping centres and other development projects which are disproportionate to the sustaining power of settlements, and we regularly published these arguments through the press.

With a view to enforcing the principles of sustainability we participated in the work of various professional organizations: Hungarian Society of Urban Sciences, Urbanissimus Club („Metropolis Dialogue” series), Hungarian Society of Sociology, Society of Building Sciences, World Heritage Foundation, Society of Architectural Biology.

**Transport policy** — reducing the detrimental environmental effects of transport, satisfying mobility needs regardless of the age, health and financial status of citizens, supporting public transport and railway freight transportation, making efforts to improve the conditions of pedestrian and cycling traffic.

**Project leader:** András Lukács

**Activities:** We prepared studies, professional papers and recommendations for amending laws, held conciliatory discussions aiming to reduce the social costs of transport.

We urged improving the situation of railway freight transportation and of public transport.

We commented on road (M0 and M3 motorways, road No. 10, etc.) and other development plans.

We supported the preparatory work to set up the Budapest Transport Association.

We commented on documents for the transport development of Budapest.

We elaborated statements of opinions in connection with the planned 4<sup>th</sup> metro line.

We carried out assessments about the impacts of strengthening road surfaces to the axle-load bearing capacity of 11.5 tons.

We participated in the preparatory studies concerning the development of suburban railways.

We commented on the draft document „Hungarian Transport Policy 2002 – 2015”.

We expressed our views on the draft government proposal for the long-term strategy of the environment-friendly development of transport and transport infrastructure and on the related action programme.

**Energy policy** — energy saving and energy efficiency, strengthening the energy-saving attitude of the different branches of economy, assessing the consequences of carbon-dioxide trading, awareness raising in connection with the environmental impacts of energy and the liberalization of the energy market, making known the experience of foreign countries.

**Project leader:** Erzsébet Beliczay

**Activities:** Awareness raising, preparation of statements of opinion and proposals, articles, lectures, conciliatory discussions, participation in various events in order to:

- raise public awareness on the real costs of energy;
- promote energy saving of flats and budgetary establishments (supporting the renovation of buildings and the modernization of heating systems);
- enhance the competitiveness of district heating and the recognition of the positive externalities of cogeneration (CHP);
- select energy types in conformity with the endowments of the individual settlement or user (district heating, renewable energies);
- reduce energy consumption through indirect interventions (improving public transport, keeping under control the sprawl of settlements, constructing ecological buildings).

As a member we actively participated in the work of the Energy Interest Reconciliation Council, the Industrial Energy Consumers' Association and the Environment Protection Club of the Hungarian Electricity Works.

**Environmental conflicts brought to law**

- Protest at the State Attorney's Office against the subsequent approval by the Budapest Municipality to form a construction site from the Csalitos area in Csepel District.
- Petitions to the Constitutional Court: (1) because of the subsidy appropriated for the construction of the M3 motorway in the Act on the State Budget of Hungary, and (2) because of a smaller increase of the excise tax of diesel oil than had been prescribed by the law.
- Three lawsuits in connection with the northern section of the M0 motorway (road No. 322, northern bridge, Káposztásmegyer junction).
- Supporting two lawsuits against the M0 motorway section planned between Csömör and Árpádföld (at present the cases are before the Supreme Court of Hungary).
- Appealing twice at the Environment Protection Inspectorate in the case of the Biatorbágy Cable Factory. (Negotiations with the factory led to a compromise.)
- Appealing at the Central Danube Valley Environment Protection Inspectorate because of the plan to widen the lower Buda-side quay of the Danube in Budapest.

**Environmental education, PR, noted days** — maintaining relations with governmental, professional and non-governmental organizations.

**Project leader:** Ágnes Hajtman

**Activities:** Programmes and events, setting up information stands, playhouse, quiz shows, preparation of leaflets. Environment protection lectures and classes in primary and secondary schools, as well as at universities and colleges.

Participation with our own stand, with lectures and presentation of our monthly magazine „Lélegzet” in the following major events:

14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February: National Meeting of Environment and Nature Protection NGOs, Szarvas

22<sup>nd</sup> April: Earth Day, in the Budapest City Park

26<sup>th</sup> April: Earth Day, green programme organized at the College of Modern Business Sciences (Gergely Simon)

26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April: Flower Exhibition, Budapest

17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July: National Touristic Meeting of Hungarian University and College Students, Dunapataj (Gergely Simon, András Lukács, Péter Lenkei)

1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August: Sziget Festival, Budapest (Klára Mikola, Gergely Simon)

22<sup>nd</sup> September: European Car-Free Day in Budapest on the Andrassy Avenue (co-organization with the Budapest Metropolitan Government — Ágnes Hajtman, Gergely Simon, Péter Lenkei)

27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September: „Civiliáda” (National Exposition of NGOs), Budapest

**Environmental Advisory Office** — on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the office of Ulászló Street in Budapest, or by appointment.

**Head of Office:** Péter Lenkei

In 2002 our Office was contacted in 640 registered cases with environmental questions. Our clients are local residents, civil organizations, journalists and students. In the counselling we can rely on the **Board of Experts** of the Clean Air Action Group, which has more than 100 members. We had about 240 cases which could not be solved by simply providing the available information, but need more thorough work. The requests arriving to our Office characteristically belong to the following fields: construction work, chopping down trees, transport problems, health concerns, as well as soil, water, air and noise pollution, ragweed, waste, energy saving, radiation. In some cases we perform surveys on the spot, participate in public hearings, formulate petitions, make announcements on behalf of complainants who do not want their names to be mentioned, and prepare expert's opinions.

**Maintaining relations with member organizations and civil groups requesting support**

**Project leader:** Judit J. Halász

In 2002 the number of our member organizations rose from 116 to 126.

**Activities:** Through counselling and personal participation supporting the programmes, campaigns and events of our member organizations, cooperating organizations and other civil groups, and monitoring their civil actions before courts. For the last twelve years we have been holding regular biweekly open meetings to discuss current environment protection problems and to exchange experience; from time to time we invited officials of the ministries, as well as development and planning specialists for evening debates and for providing information.

We organized in-situ meetings in the concerned areas (Biatorbágy, Pécs-Pogány, Római part District of Budapest, Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing).

The regular meetings are held in general on Fridays from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Podmaniczky Hall of the Budapest City Protection Society (Budapest VI., Eötvös u. 10.).

In order to promote the introduction of new methods for **ragweed control** we organized meetings and press conferences for NGOs, institutions, ministerial and local governmental agencies with special regard to participation in the national and local campaigns, as well as to the meetings of the Environment Protection and Social Issues Committee of the Hungarian Parliament (Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Health and Ragweed Section of the National Meeting of Environment and Nature Protection NGOs).

We announced a competition for educational institutions and non-government organizations. We prepared the database of institutions and NGOs dealing with allergenic weeds.

### **Publishing the monthly LÉLEGZET („Breath”)**

Our monthly magazine, published in 3500 copies, is distributed free of charge to Members of the Hungarian Parliament, to the ministries, to journalists, to our members and to numerous green organizations. Libraries, enterprises and private persons account for the majority of our subscribers.

**Editor-in-chief:** Klára Mikola

**Permanent columns:** EU accession (supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), green budget reform, transport, protection of trees and news about chopped down trees, protection of green areas, news of the Clean Air Action Group, selected cases of the Environmental Advisory Office. We placed all the previously published issues of the LÉLEGZET onto our home page ([www.lelegzet.hu](http://www.lelegzet.hu)) and we had also a subject finder prepared for it.

### **Media relations**

**Project leader:** András Lukács

In 2002 the Clean Air Action Group appeared on about 500 occasions in the printed and electronic press (not counting our monthly LÉLEGZET).

We regularly prepared press releases on current issues for the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) and for journalists dealing with environment protection.

We have permanent programmes (90 minutes a week) on the Civil Radio (Ágnes Hajtman) and the Fiksz Radio (Klára Mikola).

### **Parliamentary and municipal elections**

We initiated that the candidates for Prime Minister sign specific commitments that the future government would support environment protection if they were elected. Péter Medgyessy signed (with some small modifications) the environment and nature protection commitments that we had prepared (it can be now found on the home page of the Ministry of Environment and Water Management)! Afterwards he became the Prime Minister of Hungary!

We compiled recommendations for the candidates for mayor of Budapest. Two candidates, Pál Schmitt, and Erzsébet Gy. Németh signed an agreement with the Clean Air Action Group committing themselves they do their utmost to implement the recommendations in case they are elected. Although neither of them has been elected mayor, as a result of the elections the parties supporting these candidates have the largest factions within the Budapest Municipality!

### **Studies and publications** (besides papers published in our monthly LÉLEGZET):

1. Ángyán, József – Podmaniczky, László (Institute of Environment and Land Management, Gödöllő University for Agricultural Sciences): Recommendations for the agricultural chapters of the State Budget Bill of Hungary

2. Ángyán, József – Podmaniczky, László (Institute of Environment and Land Management, Gödöllő University for Agricultural Sciences): Recommendations for the agricultural chapters of the State Budget of Hungary for 2003
3. Beliczay, Erzsébet: Proposals for an environment-friendly housing policy to support citizens' feeling secure and leading a normal life
4. Beliczay, Erzsébet: Green Pack (Zöld Csomag), educational CD (published by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe /REC/)
5. Beliczay, Erzsébet – Lukács, András: Recommendations for Budapest. What do we expect from local governments between 2002 and 2006?
6. Fülöp, Sándor – Lukács, András – Radó, Dezső: Proposal to amend the government decree about the protection of trees
7. J. Halász, Judit (ed.): Authorities, institutions and non-governmental organizations dealing with weed control in Hungary (only on CD and on the Internet)
8. Lukács, András: Are motorways economical?
9. Lukács, András: Transport and environment protection. Dénes Gábor College (video)
10. Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár: Are railways uneconomical?
11. Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár – Szabó, Zoltán: The need and possibilities for an eco-social reform of the state budget of Hungary
12. Lukács, András – Rádics, Tamás – Varga, Mihály: Communication arguments and reasons of the study „The need and possibilities for an eco-social reform of the state budget of Hungary” (PR techniques of the reform)
13. Lukács, András – Schnier, Mária: About the 4<sup>th</sup> metro line and the transport of Budapest
14. Lukács, András – Szabó, Zoltán: Protection of arable lands and green surfaces by means of economic instruments
15. Pavics, Lázár: Proposal to establish an Embargo Compensation Fund
16. Pavics, Lázár: Potential economic impacts of a setback in Hungarian-Russian trade relations
17. Szabó, Zoltán: Energy taxes in the European Union
18. Szabó, Zoltán: co-editing the Green Budget News European electronic newsletter
19. Tanyi, Anita: State subsidies in Hungary in the field of energy and water management
20. Tanyi, Anita: Energy subsidies in the European Union
21. Tanyi, Anita: Proposals to improve the system of environment protection fines
22. Tanyi, Anita: Environment protection taxes and charges in the European Union
23. Tanyi, Anita: External costs of transport in Western Europe
24. Ungvári, Gábor: About the regional economic impacts of developing the Pécs-Pogány Airport

### **Home page**

We have started updating and renewing our home page [www.levego.hu](http://www.levego.hu).

## **Library**

We catalogued our stock of books and documents. The complete catalogue together with a search program is available on our home page.

## Financial Report of the Clean Air Action Group for the Year 2002

Simplified balance of the year 2002 and result calculation on the 31.12.2002.

### Simplified balance

| Item                   | HUF 1000     |
|------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Assets</b>          |              |
| Bank + cash            | 4 393        |
| Receivables            | 446          |
| Debts                  | 918          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>5 757</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>     |              |
| Financial result       | 1 809        |
| Short-term liabilities | 202          |
| Property               | 3 746        |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>5 757</b> |

### Result calculation

| Item   | HUF 1000     |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Incomes</b>                               |              |
| Income for main activity                     | 39 462       |
| <b>Expenses</b>                              |              |
| Salaries                                     | 6 755        |
| Taxes on salaries                            | 3 652        |
| Other expenses                               | 28 242       |
| Investment                                   | 850          |
| <i>Loss for main activity</i>                | <i>37</i>    |
| Business incomes                             | 2 574        |
| Business expenses                            | 728          |
| Result before taxation                       | 1 846        |
| Corporate tax liabilities                    | 0            |
| <i>Result after taxation</i>                 | <i>1 846</i> |
| <b>Loss of the organization's activities</b> | <b>1 809</b> |

**Specification of supports and incomes received by the Clean Air Action Group  
in the year 2002**

| <b>Source of income</b>  | <b>Aim of the support</b>  | <b>HUF 1000</b> |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Hungarian Parliament   | Operation  | 760             |
| Ministry of the Environment<br>(State Environment Protection Fund) | Green budget reform, Improving public transport, Empowering for public participation, Assisting the activities of member organizations, LÉLEGZET („Breath”) monthly magazine, Internet home page | 13 200          |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs  | EU Supplement of the LÉLEGZET  | 2 600           |
| Public Foundation for a Nature- and Society-Friendly Development   | Green budget reform  | 3 500           |
| „Green Interest” Foundation  | Car-Free Day   | 950             |
| Hungarian Traffic Club   | Operation  | 3 208           |
| National Society of Conservationists (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) | EU accession, transport and environment  | 800             |
| Soros Foundation   | Environmental counselling  | 500             |
| Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) | Green budget reform  | 692             |
| European Commission  | Environmental counselling  | 2 323           |
| Rockefeller Brothers Fund  | Urban sprawl   | 7 374           |
| United States Information Service (USIS)                           | Public participation   | 1 243           |
| European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E)            | Against motorway construction  | 168             |
| Corporate donation   | Car-Free Day   | 215             |
| Sum received from 1% of personal income tax                        |  | 792             |
| Membership fees, legal membership fee                              |  | 637             |
| Business incomes (studies, publications)                           |  | 2 574           |
| Other (civilian service)   |  | 366             |
| Interest incomes   |  | 134             |
| <b>Support and income in total</b>                                 |  | <b>42 036</b>   |

**Specification of other expenses of the Clean Air Action Group in the year 2002**

| <b>Item</b>                             | <b>HUF</b>        |
|---|-------------------|
| Experts' fees                           | 3 335 040         |
| Support for Hungarian organizations     | 9 609 280         |
| Membership fees in other organizations  | 136 857           |
| Phone, fax, Internet                    | 2 943 894         |
| Printing cost                           | 610 234           |
| Travelling expenses                     | 833 797           |
| Season tickets, car cost refund         | 1 051 986         |
| Office rent, public utility costs       | 2 703 524         |
| Stationery                              | 1 207 033         |
| Post                                    | 625 434           |
| Books and journals                      | 633 744           |
| Conference cost                         | 285 936           |
| Cost of civilian service                | 1 073 990         |
| Meal tickets                            | 158 200           |
| Representation cost                     | 147 077           |
| Banking costs                           | 202 307           |
| Broad-sheet cost                        | 22 789            |
| Training course                         | 116 600           |
| Advertisement fee (Car-Free Day poster) | 105 000           |
| Accounting service                      | 700 000           |
| Other expenses                          | 1 739 400         |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>28 242 122</b> |

## **Work Plan of the Clean Air Action Group (Hungary) for the year 2003**

### **I. General**

1. We will work continuously for the implementation of the goals formulated in the statement „Expectations of Environment and Nature Protection NGOs from the Government of the Republic of Hungary between 2002 and 2006 in order to Ensure the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development”, accepted unanimously by the 12<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs held in Szarvas, in February 2002.
2. We will enhance our information providing activities towards the population, the media and the decision-makers. Within this field it is a priority task that our monthly magazine LÉLEGZET („Breath”) assists readers in finding orientation in environmental issues. Main target groups of the magazine are the media, students of higher education institutions, politicians, middle-level managers of the business sphere, experts specialized in environment protection issues, as well as NGOs.
3. We will continue to hold our regular meetings every other week.
4. We will significantly increase the number of our members.
5. We will improve our co-operation with other Hungarian environment and nature protection organizations, and with other NGOs.
6. We will enhance our co-operation with foreign environment and nature protection NGOs, especially with movements working in the European Union.
7. We will keep regular connection with the concerned EU institutions.
8. In our monthly „Lélegzet” we will give an account of each of our official visits abroad.
9. We will maintain continuous relations with officials of the relevant ministries and other authorities.
10. We will pay special attention to questions of public health and environmental sanitation. We are ready to co-operate with the governing body of the national public health programme and with the supreme national consultative council of the Hungarian health care system.
11. We will organize professional and other events to encourage the exchange of opinions and information.
12. At least once a year we will call together the plenary meeting of the Clean Air Action Group’s Board of Experts.
13. Directly and through our member organizations we will keep monitoring the environment protection programmes of local governments, as well as the planning and implementation thereof.
14. We will maintain and operate our Environmental Advisory Office.
15. We will provide professional assistance for the implementation of environmental educational and school programmes.
16. We will lay strong emphasis on organizational development questions.

17. We will address environmental problems related to sports.
18. We will aid our member organizations in raising funds.

## **II. State budget and taxation system**

1. We will continue our professional and information providing work in order to make the state budget and the taxation system more environment-friendly.
2. We will prepare our alternative state budget proposals for 2004.
3. We will urge that a detailed statement is prepared showing state subsidies granted to activities which severely pollute the environment and damage human health. We will participate in the related professional work.
4. We will prepare a new publication for the general public about the green budget reform.
5. We will continuously monitor the use of the Environment Protection Fund and make suggestions if necessary.
6. We will closely co-operate with Hungarian and foreign organizations and individuals who work for the green budget reform.
7. We will participate in the campaign of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) for the environment protection fiscal reform.
8. We will take part in the international campaign co-ordinated by Green Budget Germany (FÖS).
9. We will contribute actively and with initiatives to the work of the State Budget Working Group at the Environment Protection Committee of the Hungarian Parliament.
10. Together with Czech and Polish non-government organizations we will prepare a study about the possibilities of green state budgets in the countries joining the EU in 2004.

## **III. Transport**

1. We will organize a campaign to improve public transport in Budapest. We will urge that the funds proposed for the planned 4<sup>th</sup> metro line and for major road investment projects should rather be spent on the efficient operation, maintenance and renovation of the existing public transport network. We will elaborate proposals to solve in a lasting manner the funding problems of public transport.
2. We will urge that the Budapest Transport Association should be established as soon as possible, and that joint public transport passes should be introduced as a first step.
3. We will continue our campaign to improve railway transport.
4. We will expedite that an increasing volume of long-distance transport should be diverted from roads to railways.
5. We will monitor the activities of the Hungarian Parliament, the Government, the local governments and the regional development councils in the field of transport, and we will express our views and work out recommendations in questions involving environment protection.

6. We will promote stronger public participation in decisions related to transport. Within this field we will participate in interest reconciliation discussions with the ministry responsible for transport, and we will urge that the work of the Budapest Transport Forum should be restarted, in which we wish to take an active part.
7. We will pay greater attention to the protection of green areas, especially to flora damages caused by motorized road vehicles and to land occupation by transport.
8. We will continue our information providing activities in order to make the external costs of transport known, and we will expedite that these should gradually be built into the prices, with special regard to heavy trucks.
9. We will continue our activities in order to calm urban traffic, and within that especially to introduce parking regulations and 30 km/h speed limit zones, as well as to improve in general the conditions for pedestrian traffic.
10. We will enhance our co-operation with cycling organizations to ensure better conditions for bicycle traffic.
11. Co-operating internationally we will make efforts to attain that the development of railways be given preference instead of constructing new motorways in Hungary.
12. Also by attracting public attention and through awareness raising we strive to restrict the fragmenting and landscape destroying effects of road construction projects, with special regard to the M0, M3 and M7 motorways. We will monitor the plans related to motorway construction by taking into consideration the environment and health protection viewpoints of the affected population and area. We will initiate and support legal proceedings, if necessary.
13. We will comment on the drafts of the new Hungarian Transport Policy now in preparation.
14. We will monitor the regional development policies of the Government and the local governments with special attention to the development of transport. We will evaluate the results on a continuous basis, and will forward our comments and suggestions to those concerned.
15. We will urge that transport and environment protection Technical Directives should be elaborated for the planning of shopping malls, petrol stations, underground garages and other establishments attracting a lot of traffic.
16. We will actively participate in the organization and arrangement of the European Car-Free Day's events in Budapest and in the country.
17. We will extend and intensify our international relations, especially with the European Federation for Transport and Environment and its member organizations, as well as with other environment protection organizations dealing with transport.
18. We will urge for an immediate revision of the concept about the development of regional airports.
19. We will urge that the salting of road surfaces should be substantially reduced and that other methods should be applied to prevent slippery road conditions.

#### **IV. Regional development, building and construction**

1. We will urge the reform of the regional planning and building procedures, and in connection with that the amendment of the Act on Local Governments, the Act on Regional Planning and the Act on Building and Construction, as well as of the Government Decree about the National Settlement Planning and Building Requirements, and the National Territorial Planning Scheme.
2. We will promote the elaboration of a system of economic incentives and regulations contributing to sustainable regional development.
3. We will continue our commenting work regarding the regulatory plans and other development projects of local governments.
4. We will pursue our programme connected with the revitalization of brown fields. We will assist co-operation between local governments, businesses and local residents. We will support setting up central funds needed for the revitalization.
5. We will promote the protection of trees and green surfaces in and around settlements. We will urge the creation of new green surfaces.
6. We will promote the elaboration of a system of economic incentives contributing to sustainable regional development.
7. From the aspect of sustainable development we will comment on the proposed texts and/or amendments of the National Development Plan, the Budapest Urban Building Frame Regulation, the Budapest Development Concept, the National Environment Protection Programme and the National Nature Protection Primary Plan, as well as on other draft documents.
8. We will make efforts to enforce environmental considerations in the housing policy. We will continue our encouraging and awareness raising activities to promote the renovation of the existing stock of buildings.
9. We will support and propagate the activities of local governments putting into practice the principles of sustainability. We will assist them in their efforts to raise the funds needed for that aim.
10. We will initiate that urban climate assessments be made compulsory in order to ensure better environmental conditions for urbanized areas.
11. We will assist local NGOs and groups of residents in their efforts for a better environment and for aesthetic public places.
12. We will initiate a dialogue between businesses and local communities, as well as local governments to promote environmentally sound development projects. We will support voluntary agreements furthering environment protection.
13. We will make efforts to enhance the standard of landscape protection and visual culture.

#### **V. Energy**

1. We will continue our professional and information providing activities with special regard to energy prices and the enhancement of energy efficiency. Our main objective is to ensure that energy prices and the different state funds jointly motivate energy saving.
2. We will support that CHP be used more extensively and that competitive and environment-friendly heating systems be implemented.
3. We will encourage stronger public participation in decisions concerning energy policy. Within that we will keep participating actively in the work of the Energy Interest Representative Council and in the interest reconciliation work going on at the Ministry of Economy.
4. We will promote the implementation of government resolution No. 2206/2000 on climate protection.
5. We will monitor the main energy policy developments in the European Union: the endeavours to introduce a uniform energy tax, the trading of rights connected to environmental pollution, and the energy liberalization.
6. We will support the use of renewable energy sources that fit in well with the natural endowments of Hungary.

#### **VI. Protection of air quality by other means**

1. We will take steps in order to reduce industrial air pollution sources, including power plants and waste incineration works.
2. We will promote solving the problems related to allergenic weeds, with special regard to prevention.