

GreenBudgetEurope



Magyar Közgazdasági
Társaság

 Levegő Munkacsoport



GBE Annual Conference 2010

**Removing Environmentally Harmful Subsidies:
Possibilities and Benefits**

Thursday, July 8th – Friday, July 9th 2010

Andrássy University Budapest

THE CONFERENCE TOPIC

There are many subsidies which are harmful to the environment. These include direct subsidies, like aid from the state budget for the construction of airports and cement factories or subsidies for fossil energy use in households. However, indirect subsidies constitute a much larger share, e.g. tax reductions for company cars and excise duty exemption for aviation fuel. The resulting unpaid environmental and health costs are also indirect subsidies. These costs should be paid for by the polluter, not by society. These subsidies are financially hugely significant worldwide. Their removal will benefit the environment and the economy and, if properly designed, can improve social equity as well. It can also help reduce the colossal deficit which states have accumulated as a result of the financial crisis. Subsidy removal would make economies more efficient and reduce market distortions that favour environmentally harmful behaviour.

This topic is very timely in relation to the following:

- The EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) called on the European Commission to draft a roadmap for the removal of EHS in all relevant sectors. DG ENV has commissioned a study to provide practical guidelines for subsidy removal and indicators to enable policy makers to get a sense of the level and character of subsidies.
- The European Union is now preparing its budget for the period 2014–2020. It is very important to ensure that no EU funding is given for activities which worsen the state of the environment.
- The EU is currently in the process of revising the Energy Tax Directive and the Eurovignette Directive.
- The leaders of the G20, at their meeting in September 2009, committed themselves to phase out all subsidies for fossil fuels.

In recent years, a lot of experience has been accumulated concerning good and bad practices associated with the communication of subsidy reform and environmental fiscal reform (EFR) as a whole. Communicating the ways in which subsidy removal and EFR can be effective tools to address the current economic, social and environmental crises is the focus of the final conference sessions. The most important findings in this area will help improve such communication and enable the mainstreaming of green budget reform in the future.

The conference in Budapest will also help Hungary to prepare for the EU Presidency, which it will hold in the first half of 2011.

JULY 8TH 2010

8.00 Registration

Morning Session

Chair: Sándor Kerekes, Chairman of the Section for Environmental Economics, Hungarian Economic Association; Vice-Rector of the Budapest Corvinus University

9.00 Welcome Speeches

- 9.00 *Árpád Kovács (President, Hungarian Economic Association)*
András Lukács (President, Clean Air Action Group)
- 9.15 *Anselm Görres (President, Green Budget Germany)*
- 9.35 *Prof. Dr. Zoltán Cséfalvay (State Secretary of the Ministry for National Economy, Hungary)*
- 9.50 *László Parragh (President of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President of the Hungarian Economic and Social Council)*

9.50 Keynote Speeches

The current political field of action on EHS

- 10.05 Europe 2020 strategy and the elimination of EHS
 - *Videomessage from Janez Potočnik (European Commissioner for the Environment)*
- 10.20 EHS Reform – the European Commission's Approach
 - *Jerzy Pieńkowski (European Commission, DG Environment)*
- 10.40 OECD Work on Phasing-out Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Developments in the G20
 - *Helen Mountford (Environment Directorate, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development – OECD)*
- 11.00 The World Bank's Work for the Removal of Energy Subsidies
 - *Prof. Dr. Cees van Beers (Delft Technical University)*
- 11.10 Q&A
- 11.20 Tea Break

11.40 Presentation and panel discussion

Subsidy removal – possibilities and ways forward

- 11.40 Environmentally Harmful Subsidies: Identification and Assessment
 - *Samuela Bassi (Policy Analyst, Institute for European Environmental Policy – IEEP)*

- 12.00 Roadmap for Reforming Fossil-Fuel Subsidies
 - *Kerryn Lang (Research Officer, Global Subsidies Initiative)*
- 12.20 Environmentally Harmful Subsidy Reform – Some Political and Social Considerations
 - *Stefan Speck (Project Manager, European Environment Agency – EEA)*
- 12.40 Environmentally Harmful vs. Friendly Subsidies
 - *Aldo Ravazzi Douvan (Senior Consultant, Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea)*
- 12.55 Discussion and questions
- 13.15 Lunch

JULY 8TH 2010

Afternoon Session

14.30 Parallel Workshops

A. EHS in transport

Chair: Attila Vörös, Director of the Institute for Transport Sciences, Budapest

- 14.30 Hidden Subsidies: External Costs of Transport
 - *Arno Schroten (CE Delft)*
- 14.50 Greening Transport Taxation
 - *Jos Dings (Director, European Federation for Transport and Environment – T&E)*
- 15.10 The Real Cost of Transport in Hungary
 - *Károly Kiss (President of the Experts' Committee, Clean Air Action Group, Hungary);*
Lázár Pavics (em. Chief counsellor of the Ministry of Finance; Chief Expert of the Clean Air Action Group)
- 15.30 EHS in Transport and their Impacts on the Environment in France
 - *Maryvonne Phantarangsi (Chargée de mission in environmental policy and business, Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Sea)*

- 15.50 Study on the Tax Treatment of Company Cars in the EU
 • *Katri Kosonen (Principal Administrator and Economist in the DG Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission)*
- 16.10 Discussion
- 16.25 Tea Break

B. EHS in the agricultural sector, water management, land use and construction

Chair: Ferenc Ligetvári, Professor, Szent István University; former Minister for Environment and Water Management, Hungary

- 14.30 Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in the Hungarian Agriculture
 • *László Podmaniczky (Associate Professor, Institute of Environmental & Landscape Management, Szent István University, Hungary)*
- 14.50 Only an Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainable Agriculture has a Future in Europe
 • *Arnd Spahn (Agricultural Secretary, European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions – EFFAT)*
- 15.10 Irrigation subsidies in Spain – Analysis and Potential for Reform
 • *Samuela Bassi (IEEP)*
- 15.30 Developers' Market – the Winner Takes Everything? Market-based Instruments for Sustainable Spatial Development in Hungary
 • *Erzsébet Beliczay (Vice-President, Clean Air Action Group, Hungary); János Pál (Ecological Economist, Clean Air Action Group)*
- 15.50 Discussion
- 16.25 Tea Break

Plenary session

Chair: Tamás Halm, General Secretary of the Hungarian Economic Association

- 16.45 Reports from the workshops, discussion
- 17.15 Final Remarks to Conference Day 1
Benedek Jávör (Chairman, Parliamentary Committee for Sustainable Development, Hungary)

17.20 End of Conference Day 1

- 17.25 *Meeting of the Steering Committee of Green Budget Europe (by personal invitation only)*
- 19.00 Dinner (by personal invitation only)

JULY 9TH 2010

Morning Session

Chair: János Szlávik, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, tbc

9.00 Keynote speeches

Making progress on Environmental Fiscal Reform

- 09.00 The Hungarian State Budget and Environmental Fiscal Measures
 • *Ferenc Bathó (State Secretary for the Public Budget, Ministry of National Economy, Hungary)*
- 09.20 The Future of Subsidy Removal – Overcoming Obstacles and Reducing Deficits
 • *Mikael Skou Andersen (European Environment Agency)*
- 09.40 Potential Unfulfilled: EU Funding and Cohesion Policy can do more for Sustainable Climate and Energy Developments in CEE
 • *Pavel Pribyl (Transport Coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Network)*
- 10.00 Europe 2020 and Environmental Fiscal Reform
 • *John Hontelez (Secretary General, European Environment Bureau (EEB))*
- 10.20 Green Economic Stabilization in Hungary
 • *Károly Kiss; Lázár Pavics (Clean Air Action Group)*
- 10.30 Environmental Taxation at EU level
 • *Walter Deffaa (Director General, European Commission. Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union)*
- 10.55 Q&A
- 11.20 Tea break

EHS in the energy sector

- 11.40 Energy Subsidies: Harmful or Innocent?
 • *Frans Oosterhuis (Senior Researcher, Institute for Environmental Studies, VU University Amsterdam – IVM)*
- 12.00 Energy Subsidies, Climate Change and Innovation
 • *Cees van Beers (Delft Technical University)*

- 12.20 Macro-economics and Environmental Impacts of Eliminating Consumer Subsidies to Fossil Fuels: Results of a Modelling Exercise
- *Jean Chateau (Administrator, Environment Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – OECD)*
- 12.40 Panel discussion
- 13.15 Lunch

13.20 Press conference

with Anselm G rres, Walter Deffaa, Andr s Luk cs

JULY 9TH 2010

Afternoon Session

Chair: Zs fia Lakatos, Vice President at Hungarian PR Association, Managing Director of Hill&Knowlton Hungary

Communicating Subsidy Removal and Environmental Fiscal Reform Experiences at EU level and from various countries: Recommendations for the future

- 14.30 Communicating Green Budget Reform – the Experiences of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations
- *S ndor F l p (Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations, Hungary)*
- 14.40 How to communicate environmental topics – basics and experiences
- *Ion Karagounis (Managing Director, Swiss foundation for environmental management Pusch)*
- 14.50 Direct democracy and ecological tax reform
- *Erwin Mayer (Consultant for Climate and Energy Policies, Denkstatt)*
- 15.00 How Companies communicate on Sustainability
Good and bad examples taken from Sustainability Reports
- *Gabi Hildesheimer (Director,  bu – Swiss Network for Sustainable Business)*
- 15.10 Communicating Subsidy Removal and Environmental Fiscal Reform Experiences in Germany and the US: Recommendations for the future
- *Kai Schlegelmilch (Vice President, Green Budget Europe)*

- 15.20 Danish Experiences with Green Tax Reforms – and Lessons Learned
- *S ren Dyck-Madsen (Climate and Energy Policy Officer, Danish Ecological Council)*
- 15.30 Tea Break
- 15.50 Communicating Green Budget Reform in Hungary
- *Andr s Luk cs (President, Clean Air Action Group, Hungary)*
- 16.00 Four Levels of Social Responsibility
- *P ter Szeles (President, Hungarian Public Relations Association)*

16.10 Round table with panellists, journalists and communication experts

17.40 End of Conference

CHAIRS AND SPEAKERS



BATHÓ, Ferenc
State Secretary for the Public Budget, Ministry of National Economy, Hungary

Academic qualifications:
1971– Postgraduate Diploma in Economics (Budapest University of Technology and Economics)
1978– PhD

2000– Honorary Reader (University of Gödöllő)

Work experience:

1999–2010 Head of Budgetary and Fiscal Policy Department (Ministry of Finance)
2010– Deputy State Secretary for the Public Budget (Ministry for National Economy)

Main publications:

Economic, fiscal and monetary policy (BM, 1998)
The process of Hungarian budgetary planning (Sociology Research Institute – Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 1999)
The principles of a regulated general government (Financial Review, 2006)
Global flywheels – economic and financial studies – Vested interests and conflicts in the decision-making system of general government – (General Accounting Office, 2008)
Handbook for public finances – co-author (Complex, 2009)



CSÉFALVAY, Zoltán
State Secretary for Strategy, Ministry of National Economy, Hungary

Habilitation in Geography, Kossuth Lajos University, Debrecen, Hungary (1999); PhD in Geography, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary (1996);

Dr. Univ. in Geography, Kossuth Lajos University, Debrecen, Hungary (1986); MSc Department of Geography, Kossuth Lajos University, Debrecen, Hungary (1982). He is author of more than 80 studies on Private urban governance and gated communities in Europe; Transformation from central planning to market economy in Eastern and Central Eu-

rope; Globalisation – International division of labour; Change of housing and labour market. In 2000–2002 he was Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy; since 2002 he has been Professor of the Andrásy University Budapest.



JÁVOR, Benedek
Chairman, Parliamentary Committee for Sustainable Development, Hungary

Benedek Jávor was born in Budapest in 1972. He received his degree as a biologist in 1997 at ELTE University, where he also completed his PhD in biology in 2006. Since 1998 he has taught at the Department of Environmental Law at Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Budapest. Since 2000 he has become one of the most important players of the Hungarian green movement, he is the programme manager and spokesperson of Védegylet-Protect the Future, a major environmental NGO. In 2009 he co-founded LMP (Politics Can Be Different, the Hungarian green party) for which he was the spokesperson and a member of the party's board. In 2010, he was a candidate of the LMP at the national elections and was elected into the parliament. He is also Chairman of the Sustainable Development Committee of the Hungarian National Assembly.



KEREKES, Sándor
Chairman of the Section for Environmental Economics, Hungarian Economic Association; Vice-Rector of the Budapest Corvinus University

Professor Sándor Kerekes is founder of the Department of Environmental Economics and Technology at Corvinus University. He received an MSc in Chemistry in 1971 and PhD in Management in 1984 and DSc in 2003 from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 1986 he was a visiting research fellow in Moscow at the World Economic Institute. He finished the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School in 1994, following which he was a City Bank fellow at the Kenan Institute in Chapel Hill, USA.

Prof. Sándor Kerekes introduced environmental education at the Corvinus University in the early 1990s; he has authored several textbooks on environmental economics and management. He used to work as a trainer for UNDP, between 1990–1992 in the Ukraine, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan preparing and evaluating different development projects.

Sándor Kerekes has led a number of international and domestic projects in the fields of environmental regulation, resource economics and environmental management. Founding HCPC in 1997, his interest turned to the promotion of preventative environmental practices in the region. He was formally (1997-2007) the national co-ordinator of the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (UNIDO). He is co-chairman of the National Environmental Council and member of the President's Environmental Scientific Council of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was also the Dean of the Business Administration Faculty at Corvinus University (1994-1997 and 2002-2006). Since 2006 he has been the academic director of the MBA programmes of the Corvinus School of Management.



KOVÁCS, Árpád
Professor of Economics, University of Szeged, Hungary,
President, Hungarian Economic Association

Árpád Kovács received his first degree in Civil Engineering and second degree in Organisation from the Budapest University of Technology. He became PhD in economic and social sciences at the same university, where he also made his habilitation. He became full professor at the

University of Szeged in 2009.

In the first years of his career he worked for various Government departments and state-owned companies. He worked for the State Audit Office since its establishment (1990) which he left in 1996 to take over – as chairman of the board – the Privatisation and State Holding Company. One year later, he returned to the State Audit Office as President where he stayed until the end of his 12-year long tenure. He also served as Vice-Chairman then as Chairman of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions.

Besides other social engagements, he has been on the board of the Hungarian Economic Association since 1999, since 2002 as Vice-President and since 2008 as President.



LAKATOS, Zsófia
Vice President at Hungarian PR Association, Managing Director of Hill&Knowlton Hungary

Zsófia Lakatos is the Managing Director of Hill&Knowlton Hungary and the Vice-president of the Hungarian PR Association. She graduated from Budapest Business College, studied at California State University Northridge (CSUN) and received her MBA from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. She worked for Capital Communications

Financial, Corporate and Business Communications Agency for 8 years, following her career as the Head of Communications of the “Campaign against Climate Change” of the Ministry of Environment and Water. She was appointed to her current position in September 2008. She is a founding member of the Professional College of PR Agencies, the CSR Task Force and the MBA Purple Club, member of the Hungarian Association of Spokespersons, the US National Honor Society and the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars. She was the founder of the yearbook of the Budapest Business College, chief-editor of the college's student newspaper, columnist of the student newspaper of CSUN and of PR Herald. She is a well-known CSR expert, a frequent lecturer at conferences on sustainability.



LIGETVÁRI Ferenc
Professor, Szent István University; former Minister for Environment and Water Management, Hungary

Ligetvári received his basic (MSc) diploma from the Faculty of Landscape Architecture at the Horticultural University in Budapest. He later obtained an agricultural water management (MSc) degree from the Technical University in Budapest. His PhD was awarded by the Hungarian Academy of

Sciences (HAS) and he also holds the title of Doctor of HAS.

Working on regional development in the Balaton highlands gave him his first practical experience in his field. He began his role in an educational capacity as Professor's Assistant at the Horticultural University and moved up to become Associate Professor. During this period he worked with a research group, which focused on developing the agricultural region along the Tisza Valley.

Following this he spent seven years working on the issue of soil erosion in the Balaton highlands. Under his guidance, a rain simulator was developed to assist in this work, which also provided the opportunity to cooperate with other international research activities.

At the Environment and Water Management College at Szarvas (as University Professor) he

spent six years as Dean of Faculty and developed the field of waste management technologies for post-secondary education, which spread all over the country. In Gödöllő, at the Szent István University he taught environment politics and economy, dealing in particular with environment direction and waste water utilization.



PARRAGH, László
President of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President of the Hungarian Economic and Social Council

Dr. László Parragh has been the President of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry since October 2000. He finished his studies at the Faculty of Law at the Janus Pannonius University of Pécs achieving Cum Laude degree in 1988. He established the legal predecessor of Parragh Trading and Holding Plc. in 1989, and he has been the owner of this company since then. He has been Associate Professor at the Budapest Business School and the University of West Hungary since 2009. He is the President-in-Office of the Economic and Social Council. He has been the President of KA-VOSZ-Garantiqa Close Co., established in 2010, the President of the Board of Supervision of KA-VOSZ Close Co. since 2003, and the Vice President of Gy r-Moson-Ebenfurt Austrian-Hungarian Railway Corporation since 2003. He is member of the Board of Directors of several Hungarian companies.



SZLÁVIK, János
Professor, Director, Institute of Economics, Budapest University of Technology and Economics

János Szlávik (www.kornygazd.bme.hu) holds a M.Sc. degree in economics (Budapest University of Economics), and the post-graduate degrees of teacher of economics and international economic expert. In 1984 he received his PhD; in 1996 he became Dr. habil., in 2003 Doctor of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He has been head of department since 1997, since 2004 director of the Institute of Economics, BUTE. Research area: environmental economics; environment assessment; environment management theoretically and in practise; ecological economics; sustainable development on regional level, Local Agenda 21, economics of greenhouse gas mitigation.



VÖRÖS, Attila
Deputy Managing Director, KTI Institute for Transport Sciences Non Profit Ltd., Budapest

Dr. Attila Vörös holds a first degree in civil engineering (Hochschule für Verkehrswesen "Friedrich List", Dresden, GDR), a second degree in economics as well as a Euro-engineer's degree (Budapest University of Technology). Among other memberships in professional association, he is an invited member of the Transportation Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He spent his professional career with Betonút Service Provider and Construction Company Plc (1976–1979), and then with KTI Institute for Transport Sciences (www.kti.hu). He is also an associate professor at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. He authored 18 articles in transport engineering between 2003–2008 and attended – in most cases as a speaker – 40 conferences in and outside Hungary.

SKOU ANDERSEN, Mikael
European Environment Agency

The future of subsidy removal in times of financial crisis – overcoming obstacles and reducing deficits

Linkages between the current financial crisis and the increasing costs of energy and transport, which contributed to pushing sub prime lenders and others over the edge, need to be explored and better appreciated when devising strategies for overcoming the present economic difficulties. Increasing world market energy prices, as a result of scarcity and Asian ‘fever’, was damaging to Europe’s competitiveness, in particular for EU member states with poor energy efficiency performance, where they triggered higher prices and relatively more inflation. A long-term contribution to stabilise the euro as well as domestic inflation rates would arise from energy savings and improving energy productivity. Environmental fiscal reform, which phases out state aid for energy consumption and tax fuels according to their environmental impact, hence would be supportive for long-term convergence in the euro area. It is more important to keep this long-term relationship in mind, than to focus on the short-term impact of subsidy removal and energy taxation on inflation rates. It is in fact only when inflation is measured as ‘core inflation’ that the positive dynamics of environmental fiscal reform can be fully appreciated.

BASSI, Samuela
Policy Analyst, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), London

Environmentally Harmful Subsidies: Identification and Assessment

The presentation builds on the key findings of the study ‘Environmentally Harmful Subsidies (EHS): Identification and Assessment’. The study was a contribution to the European Commission’s ongoing efforts to investigate and reform environmentally harmful subsidies (EHS). The needs for EHS identification and analysis, the challenges for their assessment and the potential for EHS reform will be discussed. The presentation will provide an overview of three methodologies proposed by the OECD for the identification of EHS, the analysis of their impacts and

Prof Mikael Skou Andersen’s most recently published book is entitled: Carbon-energy taxation: lessons from Europe (Oxford University Press, 2009; co-edited with Prof. Paul Ekins, University College London). His publications also include: Market-Based Instruments for Environmental Management (Edward Elgar, 2000); The Innovation of EU Environmental Policy (Scandinavian University Press, 1997); and the monograph Governance by Green Taxes (Manchester University Press, 1994). Preceding COP-15 he was a member of the International Task Force on Economic Instruments and Energy Efficiency under the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED). More information can be found here:

http://www.dmu.dk/International/News/Archive/2009/MSA_about.htm



Samuela Bassi holds a degree in economics developing a focus on environmental economics. At the Institute for European Environmental Policy, which she joined in 2005, she contributes to research on market based instruments (including on environmentally harmful subsidies), industrial pollution, energy and climate policy, and the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.



the implications of their removal - namely the 'quick scan', the 'checklist' and the 'integrated assessment' methods – which were investigated in the study. Possible shortcomings and improvements of the methodologies will be highlighted, as well as their potential for practical use in a context of policy making. The presentation will also provide an overview of good practices, indicators for subsidy measurements and lessons learned from case studies investigating EHS in the energy, transport and water sectors.

<http://www.ieep.eu/publications/publications.php?pub=97581>

Irrigation subsidies in Spain – analysis and potential for reform

The presentation explores the case of water subsidies for irrigation in Spain, where arguably low water prices have led to over abstraction and threats to ecosystems. Three OECD methodologies have been used to analyse the subsidies in place: the 'quick scan', the 'checklist', and the 'integrated assessment'. The analysis reveals that the removal of irrigation water subsidies can help reduce water consumption, although the extent of this reduction will depend on local conditions. Investments in improved infrastructures and irrigation practices, as well as the introduction of flanking measures to support low-income farmers, will be important to minimise social impacts and ensure the effectiveness of subsidy reform.

<http://www.ieep.eu/publications/pdfs/2010/EHS-case-studies-Water.pdf>



Cees van Beers is Professor of Innovation Management and Head of the section, Technology, Strategy and Entrepreneurship. He holds a PhD in economics from the Free University Amsterdam. He also worked at the University of Leiden, the Institute for Research on Public Expenditure in The Hague and as associate professor on innovation economics. His current research focus is on the impact of Information Technology investments and adoption on firms' productivity and innovation performance, entrepreneurship and export behaviour and the sustainability effects of government policy failures (<http://www.tudelft.nl/cpvanbeers>).

VAN BEERS, Cees

Professor of Innovation Economics and Management, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands

Energy Subsidies, Climate Change and Innovation

This presentation dwells on two main questions:

1. The impact of energy subsidies on climate change
2. The impact of energy subsidies on innovation.

The first question is dealt with by presenting an investigation of the magnitude of the environmental impact of off-budget subsidies in the Netherlands with a special focus on energy subsidies in the sectors of agriculture, energy and transport. The calculations are based on a model approach that translates a particular

subsidy into price and quantity changes using empirical elasticities, followed by environmental effect estimates using pollution-intensity parameters. The results show, among others, that GHG emissions caused by off-budget subsidies contribute to more than 30 % of the policy targets specified by the Kyoto Protocol for CO₂-emissions reduction by the Netherlands. Reforming or removing off-budget subsidies is therefore an important strategy of effective climate policy.

The second issue aims at providing an additional compelling argument in favour of removing energy subsidies as this reduces the incentive for innovation in renewable energy technologies. The issue is addressed in a paper in progress in which preliminary results reveal that the off-budget electricity subsidies in the EU-15 affect the patents of renewable energy technologies in a negative way.

BELICZAY, Erzsébet

Vice-President, Clean Air Action Group, Budapest

Developers' market – the winner takes everything?

Market-based instruments for sustainable spatial development in Hungary
(Co-author: János Pál)

Hungary has gone through an unhealthy spatial development during the last two decades. There have been huge losses of high quality arable land and biotopes – similarly to many highly industrialised countries. The successes of some European, and other, regions prove that good governance and appropriate economical instruments can slow down the conversion of land. The billions of Euros spent on highway construction and other infrastructure developments, subsidies for housing and tax breaks for foreign investors have often had adverse societal, environmental and economical effects. Although the rush for sprawl has slowed down in the last few years, there are still more developments on greenfield land than on brownfield. The investments into large scale biomass power plants, waste dumps and sewage water plants, cause more transport needs, unnecessary energy consumption and barely affordable operation costs. The presentation gives an overview of the current and recommended market-based instruments for correcting the market failures in land use and project developments.

MA architect

Professional experiences:

1995– Freelancer - Environmental Expert

1992–1994 Partner of „Home and Environment” Ltd.

1988–1991 Partner of “Architent” Ltd.

1983–1988 Researcher, Institute for Building Science

1979–1982 Planner, Agrokomplex Group

1973–1978 Construction Manager, VASEP

Professional Affiliations:

Member: Chamber of the Hungarian Engineers, Society of Hungarian Sociologists, Society of the Hungarian Urban Planners





Degree: Doctorate (PhD) in Economics, 1997, University Paris-I (Sorbonne)

Former positions:

Economist at the CEPII (2001–2004)

“Chargé de mission” at French Central bureau planning (CGP, 1998–2001)

Researcher & Teacher Assistant at the University Paris-I (1996–1998)

CHATEAU, Jean

Administrator, Environment Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – OECD

Macro-economics and Environmental Impacts of Eliminating Consumer Subsidies to Fossil Fuels: Results of a Modelling Exercise

An OECD analysis done in 2009 suggests that if countries that subsidize the consumption of fossil fuels were removing these subsidies unilaterally, they would record real income gains. Based on the most recent price gaps estimated in March 2010 by the IEA for the year 2008, these real income gains are now simulated to reach up to 4% in oil producing countries and more than 2% in India in 2050. A different outcome would occur if all countries that subsidize fossil-fuel consumption were to remove these subsidies multilaterally. In this case, terms-of-trade changes associated with changes in world energy prices should lead to a different distribution of real income gains and losses across countries. Overall, GDP gains at the world level would be small, amounting to just 0.3% relative to the baseline scenario in 2050. But despite gains at the world level, these gains are unevenly distributed. India’s GDP is projected to increase by more than 2.5% in 2050 while Russia’s losses amount to -4%. The OECD analysis also provides further strong evidence on the environmental benefits of removing fossil-fuel energy subsidies. As mentioned by the G20 summit held in Pittsburgh in September 2009, our study shows that eliminating such subsidies would reduce greenhouse gases blamed for global warming by 10 percent by 2050.

DEFFAA, Walter

Director General, European Commission, Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union

Environmental Taxation at EU level

The presentation sets out the general framework for the EU tax policy and concentrates on environmental taxation in the context of the re-launch of the internal market and the exit strategy. The presentation describes the double role of the European Commission – the Commission as promoter of environmental taxation as an economic concept and a means to combine environmental, economic and social objectives, and the Commission as the watchdog of the internal market and facilitator of Member States' ability to implement ambitious policies in practice. With long-term sustainability of our civilisation at stake, the economic crisis and several social threats, environmental taxation seems to be one of the more logical means to address the challenges in a coherent and mutually reinforcing way. Now more than any other time in the past, there seems to be scope for wider use of environmental taxes, as well as for fiscal restructuring with more emphasis on environmental taxation. The presentation also addresses the key areas of EU action in this context (energy and vehicle taxation) and will review the past and possible upcoming initiatives of the Commission.

Walter Deffaa studied Economics at the Universities of Tübingen and TU Berlin. He received his PhD in economics at the University of Stuttgart-Hohenheim, and has been working since 1983 at the European Commission in Brussels where he is, since June 2009, Director General for Taxation and Customs Union. He has previously served as Director General of the Internal Audit Service (2004–2009), as Finance Director in the Regional Policy DG (2003–2004), as Director in the Secretariat General (2001–2003), as Director in DG BUDGET (1999–2001) and as chef de cabinet for Commissioner Wulf-Mathies (1997–1999). He was a visiting Professor at the College of Europe in Brugge, Belgium (1999–2009) and has published many articles on the EC budget and audit.

**DINGS, Jos**

Director of the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E)

Greening transport taxation

The presentation will go into several areas of green transport taxation such as lorry charging, car taxation and fuel taxation. It will summarise recent evidence on the impacts of transport pricing, and recent trends across the EU.

T&E is Europe's principal environmental organisation campaigning specifically on transport issues and draws its 49 member organisations from 21 EU Member States. T&E works on aviation, shipping, standards for cleaner vehicles and fuels, and European infrastructure charging and investment policy. As director, Jos carries responsibility for strategy, staffing, fundraising and external representation of T&E. Before joining T&E in 2004, Jos worked at CE Delft, an environmental consultancy, where he headed the transport division. Jos graduated in Mechanical Engineering at the Delft University of Technology.





Søren Dyck-Madsen is an expert in climate, energy, energy efficient building, integration of renewables in the energy system, the UNFCCC climate process and the use of market based instrument such as taxes, levies and trading systems in Denmark and EU; member of a number of working groups and steering committees on these themes in Denmark; member of the working groups for environmental fiscal reforms and building in the EEB; member of the advisory committee for Building Performance Institute Europe. Dyck-Madsen has written several booklets about Green Tax reform in Denmark.

DYCK-MADSEN, Søren

Climate and Energy Policy Officer, The Danish Ecological Council

Danish Experiences with Green Tax Reforms – and Lessons Learned

Green taxation has been in the political spotlight in Denmark for the last 15 years – be it positive or a negative. A major tax shift was made in 1994–98. Misuse of this green tax shift played a major role in the shift of Government in 2001. This was mainly due to a lack of proper communication of the obvious benefits, opening up the opportunity for lots of misinformation. Until recently it has been difficult to discuss Green tax reform in Denmark, but that has now changed. The lessons from these experiences are very much focused on the need for precise and understandable explanations and the difficulties of communicating Green tax reforms. (Link to presentation from GBE conference, Madrid 2009: http://www.old.ecocouncil.dk/download/091126_green_taxation_madrid.pdf)



Mr Sándor Fülöp was elected Hungary's first Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations on 26th May 2008. Mr Fülöp holds a degree in law from the Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences (1982) and a degree in psychology (1987). Between 1984 and 1991 he worked as a public prosecutor at the Metropolitan and the National Chief Prosecutor's Office. Following a short period of private legal practice at the international law firm Ruttner and Partners (1993-1994), Mr Fülöp acted, until his election as Commissioner, as the director of Hungary's principal non-profit environmental law firm: the Environmental Management and Law Association (EMLA). During his career at EMLA he has also held a number of international positions. He participated in the drafting of the 1998 UN ECE Convention on Access to Information, Access to Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention). Between 2002 and 2008 he was a member of the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention. Mr Fülöp has been a university lecturer on environmental law since 1997.

FÜLÖP, Sándor

Ombudsman for Future Generations

Communicating Green Budget Reform – the Experiences of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Future Generations

The Environmental Code has provided for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the state budget in Hungary since 1995. However, neither legal procedure (“environmental analysis”), nor rules of implementation have been created, nor has any practice been developed for it in the last 15 years. In the last year the Office of the Ombudsman for Future Generations has issued analyses and suggestions on a line of issues concerning budgetary issues and major planning acts, including the State Budget, the network plan of the National Railway Company, the Green Investment Scheme, the budgetary situation in connection with maintenance of the national gene banks and the national program for the Tisza River flood regulation. In all these cases we have learnt that the provision of the Environmental Code concerning SEA was simply overlooked. As a

consequence, environmental considerations were systematically neglected in the listed legislative and long range planning procedures. With the help of the National Environmental Council and the National Sustainable Development Council, the Ombudsman Office has started a campaign to change this situation.

GÖRRES, Anselm

Founder/manager ZMM Zeitmanager München GmbH
President of Green Budget Germany

New Situations Call for New Instruments and Approaches

The Euro Crisis underlines the necessity of sustainable state finances and creates new opportunities for greening budgets. In some ways, we are all Greece. Many European states have lived beyond their means and overstretched their creditworthiness, both in relation to international capital markets and to their own citizens, let alone the environment. We have seen that policies that take high deficits and high indebtedness into account are unsustainable, if only because they make governments and entire states extremely vulnerable to market pressure.

In order to return to a more sustainable path, states have to work a miracle. They need more financial discipline and austerity, but at the same time must preserve growth and by all means prevent a recession.

Green Budget Reform can be part of a solution. Cutting subsidies that are both fiscally and ecologically dangerous can be an important first step, raising green taxes a second one.

But fiscal measures are only part of the solution, though an important one. Two more elements are necessary. First, we need an overriding vision of a greener, cleaner and fairer capitalism. This “Ecostrojka” means rebuilding the entire economy, including industrial production, travel and transport systems, housing, agriculture, forestry and fishing. Courageous restructuring will create many new investments and jobs.

Second, we also need not new values, but a return to the very simple old values, such as those that even small children learn in kindergarten: **Don't take things that aren't yours, clean up your own mess, do not exploit weakness**, and so on. These rules for kids must go hand in hand with rules for adults like **Don't borrow more than you can pay back, don't lend more than then you afford to lose, don't sell products you don't understand yourself, etc.**

1959 to 1971 Schools in Frankfurt/Main, St. Blasien, Des Moines (Iowa, USA), and Munich, Bavaria
1972 to 1978 Study of Economics in Heidelberg and Geneva

1978 to 1984 Assistant Professor of Economics in Heidelberg, Stuttgart and Munich

- Doctoral Thesis about Work Time Reductions (35-hours-week)

- Internship at International Monetary Fund about International Free Trade Agreements

1984 to 1991 Management Consultant with McKinsey & Co., Munich Office, working for Clients

like Allianz, Daimler-Benz, Deutsche Bahn, Grundig, Krupp, Siemens

1991 to 1994 Management-buy-in in East Germany: Investor in Elpro Group; Manager TGA Berlin GmbH (500 employees/ € 40 Mill. turnover; largest building installation company in East Germany)

1994 to 1996 Partner of specialized Management Consultancy in Munich; Interim and Turnaround Management

Since 1996 Founder/ Managing Director of ZMM Zeitmanager München GmbH; one of Germany's leading Interim Management providers supplying

- Interim Managers (Rent a Manager)

- Project Managers, Experts and Consultants (Rent a Consultant)

- Rapid Recruitment for Permanent positions from pool ([QuickHire®](#))





Gabi Hildesheimer is Co-Director of Öbu – Network for Sustainable Business. During her studies of Biology, she earned a living working at the Zurich University of Arts as an assistant of visual communication. Gabi has been a member of the jury since the first time the Öbu award was presented in 1999, and has therefore seen hundreds of sustainability reports.

HILDESHEIMER, Gabi

Director, Öbu – Swiss Network for Sustainable Business, Zurich

How Companies communicate on Sustainability

Good and bad examples taken from Sustainability Reports

Since 1999, Öbu has awarded the Award for the best Sustainability Report - most recently in 2009 (<http://www.oebu.ch/de/artikel.php?id=534>). After a thorough and systematic assessment according to the GRI framework (<http://www.global-reporting.org/ReportingFramework/G3Online/>), each report is examined by a jury that approaches the report from a more comprehensive perspective. Key questions addressed in this second rating level are as follows: Is the information in the report exhaustive, relevant, coherent, reasonable, and designed for the specific target group? And is the overall impression positive?

Over the years, a large number of corporate sustainability reports have gone through the hands of the jury – good ones and bad ones. By looking at a number of submissions, this presentation will exemplify what are useful and successful means of communicating sustainability – also for topics such as environmental fiscal reform.



Member of the High Level Group on the Reduction of the Administrative Burden (chaired by Mr. Edmund Stoiber) – advisory body to the European Commission.

Member (on behalf of environmental organisations) of the Bureau of the Aarhus Convention (UNECE Convention on Access to Information)

1986-1996: Chairman, Friends of the Earth International

1988-1996: Founder and Chairman Milieukontakt Oost Europa, and Member of its Board until 2002

1991-1996: Member, Executive Committee, Environmental Liaison Centre International, Nairobi

HONTELEZ, John

Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau, Brussels

Europe 2020 and Environmental Fiscal Reform

In March 2010, the European Commission proposed a Europe2020 Strategy, a successor to the Lisbon Strategy. To promote a resource efficient Europe, it calls for “phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies, limiting exceptions to people with social needs”. In order to make the national tax systems more “growth friendly”, the Commission encourages “to shift the tax burden from labour to energy and environmental taxes as part of a ‘greening’ of taxation systems.” This sounds encouraging, but the big question is what the Commission can and will do to make this happen. The Commission has been timid on these issues for internal reasons and due to pressure from some Member States who think that tax policy

in particular should remain entirely national. How can we break through this stagnation? It is important to build upon a social consensus reached in the Spring Alliance (environmental, social, development NGOs and trade unions) supporting environmental fiscal reform. www.eeb.org, www.springalliance.eu

KARAGOUNIS, Ion

Managing Director

Swiss Foundation for Environmental Management Pusch

How to communicate environmental topics – basics and experiences

- Different topics – different ways to communicate
- What are easy topics and what are difficult ones? And why?
- How to deal with negative messages, such as introducing new taxes?
- Examples of different campaigns Pusch has realised
- Lessons learnt, consequences for communicating environmental fiscal reform
<http://www.umweltschutz.ch>

KISS, Károly

Associate Professor, Budapest Corvinus University; Chief Expert of CAAG

The Real Cost of Transport in Hungary

Scientifically based correct information about the social balance of transport is indispensable for national and local governments to make the right decisions about transport investments and pricing (taxation etc.) of transport. However, different experts often express greatly differing opinions on the content and size of the costs and benefits of transport. This has been the case in Hungary, too, where environmental economists on the one side and the majority of transport economists on the other side often produced results which

1984–1989: assistant to a Member of European Parliament
Lead anti-nuclear campaigner in the Netherlands 1973–1984.

Education

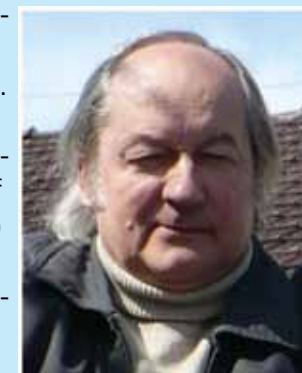
1983–1988 Studies in geophysics, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich ETH
1992 Doctoral Examination
2003–2004 Postcertificate study Executive MBA at the University of St. Gallen HSG

Employment

1993–1994 Scientific employee, Laboratorio Studi Ambientali, Dipartimento del Territorio, Lugano
1994–1999 Managing director, Swiss Association for Water and Air Protection VGL, Zurich
2000–today Managing director, Swiss Foundation for Environmental Management Pusch, Zurich <http://www.karagounis.ch>



Dr. Károly Kiss is Associate Professor of environmental economics and environmental policy in the Corvinus University of Budapest. Before his university career he was working in the Institute of World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. His main fields of interest: integrating environmental goals into the economy on macro level, environmental taxation, ecological tax reform, environment-friendly transportation and energy policies.



(Before the changes in 1990 he was a researcher for the former socialist economies.) Since 1990 he has been permanently co-operating with one of the most successful Hungarian NGOs, the Clean Air Action Group (CAAG). He is Chairman of the Experts' Committee of CAAG. His list of publications contains 270 items, including a dozen books, more than one hundred professional articles and several publicistic writings.

differed from each other, in some cases by several orders of magnitude. This situation prompted the Hungarian Ministry for Economy and Transport to commission experts of the two schools of thought to commonly prepare a study bringing the two views as close as possible. The study includes the following items concerning road and rail transport: direct revenues and expenditures of the public budget; non-budgetary subsidies; environmental, health and other external costs with special attention to climate change; positive externalities. The authors of the study are Gábor Albert, Mihály Békefi, István Kövesdi, Attila Vörös (KTI Institute for Transport Sciences Non-Profit Ltd., www.kti.hu) and András Lukács, Zsolt Horváth, Károly Kiss, Lázár Pavics, János Pál, Zoltán Szabó (Clean Air Action Group, www.levego.hu).

Green economic stabilization in Hungary

Environmental economists of the Clean Air Action Group have elaborated a green stabilization path for the Hungarian economy in crisis. On the one hand, the proposals aim at raising revenues for the budget both by increased environmental taxes and eliminating environmental harmful subsidies. These extra revenues could be used to reduce the social contribution paid by employers and directly reducing budget deficit. On the other hand, it was examined how the different branches of the “green economy” could contribute to combat acute crisis symptoms. These branches are as follows: transport, energy efficiency and improving insulation of buildings, renewable energies, organic farming, waste management.

Katri Kosonen works as a principal administrator and economist in the DG Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission. Before joining the Commissions she has worked in the Ministry of Environment, Labour Institute of Economic Research and the University of Helsinki, Department of Economics, in Finland. She has a post-graduate degree (VTL) in economics from the University of Helsinki.



KOSONEN, Katri

Principal Administrator and Economist in the DG Taxation and Customs Union of the European Commission

Study on the tax treatment of company cars in the EU

The study, carried out by Copenhagen Economics for the European Commission, examines the extent to which the EU Member States subsidise company cars through their tax systems and what kind of fiscal, environmental and economic consequences this may have. The study shows that the under-taxation of company cars is widespread within the EU and fiscal loss could

amount to € 54 billion for the EU as a whole (0.5% of GDP). Company cars account for more than 50% of the car stock in the EU. The favourable tax treatment increases the number of cars, encourages driving and favours bigger cars with higher emissions. Due to those combined affects the CO₂ emissions are estimated to be 4–8% higher than they would be in the case of neutral tax treatment.

The study is published as a Taxation Paper no 22 of DG TAXUD and can be found in the following address:

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/common/publications/services_papers/working_papers/index_en.htm

LANG, Kerryn

Research Officer, Global Subsidies Initiative, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Roadmap for Reforming Fossil-Fuel Subsidies

Fossil-fuel subsidies – estimated by the GSI to amount to roughly US \$500 billion per year – are, by their very nature, environmentally harmful. They encourage greater production and consumption of fossil fuels, incentivise wasteful energy consumption, increase greenhouse gas emissions, and skew the energy investment landscape – locking economies into a continued dependence on fossil fuels while raising barriers for investments in clean and renewable energy technologies. Not to mention they divert significant public funds away from other priorities such as health care, education or relieving fiscal debt. Governments are beginning to realise that taxing carbon with one hand while with the other continuing to subsidize fossil fuels, makes no sense. Since G20 Leaders announced, in September 2009, a commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies, there has been a concerted effort to reform these harmful subsidies. However, significant challenges – both political and practical – to comprehensive subsidy reform remain.

This presentation will outline the actions necessary at both international and national level to move along the path to reform, with a particular focus on the need to better understand subsidies for the production of fossil fuels.

Ms Lang coordinates the GSI's main research programme on fossil-fuel subsidies. This includes undertaking research on cross-cutting issues related to fossil-fuel subsidies and managing technical research projects such as country case studies to quantify producer subsidies. In addition, Kerryn follows and advises on the G20 initiative to phase out subsidies to fossil fuels and writes regular policy briefs on emerging issues.



Before joining IISD, she worked as a consultant with the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO) in Geneva and spent several years as International Adviser on trade and environment policy for New Zealand's Ministry for the Environment. Ms Lang holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts from Victoria University of Wellington and was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor in the Wellington High Court, New Zealand.



The Clean Air Action Group has nearly 20 years of experience in communicating green budget reform. The first study by CAAG making concrete proposals for such a reform was published in 1991. Since that time this idea has appeared already a number of times in official documents, e.g. the National Environmental Programs, the National Climate Change Program and even some official documents of the Finance Ministry. The press also reported about it on a number of occasions. However, when it comes to concrete measures, very powerful interest groups put pressure on the government and finally no change occurs. CAAG has been concentrating its efforts on some very concrete measures (e.g. the distance-based fee for trucks, see: www.levago.hu/kamionstop/eng/indexe.html) where the advantages of green budget reform can be very clearly explained and popular support might be gained.

LUKÁCS, András

President of the Clean Air Action Group

Communicating Green Budget Reform in Hungary

A geophysicist by profession, András has headed CAAG ever since its foundation in 1988. (CAAG serves as a national federation of 131 environmental NGO's. The main fields of activities of the CAAG are: greening the state budget, sustainable transport, sustainable energy policies, and sustainable urban development. Its activities include public awareness raising, consulting, and research, publishing and lobbying at the local and national levels.) He is author or co-author of more than 40 studies and several hundred articles on economic instruments for environmental protection, transport and environment, energy and environment, and urban sprawl. He has been the project manager of several national campaigns of CAAG dealing with transport. He appeared several thousand times in the press, including on the radio and television. He is a member of the Hungarian Economic and Social Committee, Vice-President of the European Section of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, and Member of the Steering Committee of Green Budget Europe.



Mr. Mayer received a Master of economics with focus on environmental economics degree from the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration

Company: Greenpeace CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) 1997–2008

Activity: Campaigner for Nuclear Energy, Climate and Energy policies, Renewable Energy sources and Transport.

MAYER, Erwin

Consultant for climate and energy policies, Denkstatt, Vienna

Direct democracy and ecological tax reform

Communicating perfect ETR models to the political decision makers is not a promising strategy because of their strong dependency to mostly carbon or energy intensive special interest groups. What could help is the alliance of business companies that are on average greener than their paid lobby groups plus the people who are normally greener and more interested in combating climate change than their votes at elections show. So although ETR and other green reforms have been rejected (e.g. in Switzerland 2000) in referenda, this way could lead to a stronger and more people engaging public debate on ETR and in the end lead to greener solutions than representative democracy is able to provide. I will present some opinion polls on this topic.

MOUNTFORD, Helen
 OECD Environment Directorate, Paris

OECD Work on Phasing-out Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Developments in the G20

In September 2009, G20 Leaders agreed to rationalise and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that lead to wasteful consumption. They asked four organisations – the OECD, IEA, OPEC and the World Bank – to advise them on the scope of energy subsidies and provide advice on how to phase-out fossil fuel subsidies. A draft joint report by the four organisations will be delivered to the G20 Finance Ministers in April 2010 and a final report to G20 Leaders in June. This presentation will highlight some of the recent work by the OECD on this topic, and the developments with country plans, to identify, rationalise and phase-out fossil fuel subsidies in the G20 context.

Helen Mountford is currently in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Environment Directorate, responsible for projects on fossil fuel subsidies and green growth. She has worked at the OECD since 1997 and as Head of the Division on Climate Change, Natural Resources and Environmental Outlooks since 2006. She was Acting Deputy Director for the Environment Directorate of the OECD from October 2009 to April 2010. Her work at the OECD has included a leading role in the preparation of the 2001 and 2008 OECD Environmental Outlook reports, as well as analysis of policies in the areas of water pricing, biodiversity incentive measures, market-based instruments, and reform of environmentally harmful subsidies. Prior to joining the OECD, Helen managed a local recycling company in the UK and worked for an environmental NGO in Australia. She is a national of both the UK and the US, and has Masters degrees in Environmental Economics from University College London and in Environmental Management from University of Melbourne.



OOSTERHUIS, Frans
 Senior Researcher, Institute for Environmental Studies, VU University Amsterdam

Energy Subsidies: Harmful or Innocent?

Energy subsidies are ubiquitous and, as with so many other common species, their presence is often taken for granted. If we want to know whether they are environmentally harmful or not (and if so, what to do about it) we will have to study their background, properties and behaviour in detail. A number of energy subsidies will be discussed to illustrate the complications that may arise in such an analysis. It turns out that not all energy subsidies are necessarily harmful to the environment. Nevertheless, a number of them could easily be removed or reformed, with at least some environmental benefit and without serious negative consequences.

Frans Oosterhuis has more than 25 years of experience with applied, policy oriented research on a wide range of environmental issues. His recent fields of research include, among others, the use and effectiveness of economic instruments in environmental policy, the impact of specific policies and instruments on innovation and the diffusion of cleaner technology, environmentally harmful subsidies, and the implementation and impact of EU environmental policy.





János holds a degree of Agricultural Environmental Management Engineer (Szent István University, 1999–2004)

Professional experiences:

2004 – Clean Air Action Group

Relevant publications:

2007 – PPP (Public-Private Partnerships) – Trick or Opportunity?

(http://levego.hu/kiadvanyok/ppp_public_private_partnerships_trick_or_opportunity)

2006 - The real costs of urban sprawl (http://levego.hu/kiadvanyok/a_varosi_terjeszkedes_valodi_koltsegei) (available only in Hungarian)

PÁL, János

Ecological economist, Clean Air Action Group, Budapest

Developers' market – the winner takes everything?

Market-based instruments for sustainable spatial development in Hungary (Co-author: Erzsébet Beliczay)

Hungary has gone through an unhealthy spatial development during the last two decades. There have been huge losses of high quality arable land and biotopes – similarly to many highly industrialised countries. The successes of some European, and other, regions prove that good governance and appropriate economical instruments can slow down the conversion of land. The billions of Euros spent on highway construction and other infrastructure developments, subsidies for housing and tax breaks for foreign investors have often had adverse societal, environmental and economical effects. Although the rush for sprawl has slowed down in the last few years, there are still more developments on greenfield land than on brownfield. The investments into large scale biomass power plants, waste dumps and sewage water plants cause more transport needs, unnecessary energy consumption and barely affordable operation costs. The presentation gives an overview of the current and recommended market-based instruments for correcting the market failures in land use and project developments.



1961: Diploma of economics at the Industrial Faculty of the Budapest University of Economics

1957–1961: economic planner in the Csepel Machinery Works

1961–1990: Deputy Head of the Department of Macroeconomic Planning in the National Planning Office

1970–1975: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, First Secretary responsible for economic cooperation in the Hungarian Embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia

1975–1990: Deputy Head of the Department of Planning of Economic Reforms in the National Planning Office

1990–1998: Chief Counsellor of the Ministry of Finance dealing with Financial Policy and International Economic Relations

PAVICS, Lázár

Em. Chief Counsellor of the Ministry of Finance; Chief Expert of CAAG

The Real Cost of Transport in Hungary

Scientifically based correct information about the social balance of transport is indispensable for national and local governments to make the right decisions about transport investments and pricing (taxation etc.) of transport. However, different experts often express greatly differing opinions on the content and size of the costs and benefits of transport. This has been the case in Hungary, too, where environmental economists on the one side and the majority of transport economists on the other side often produced results which differed from each other, in some cases by several orders of magnitude. This situation prompted the Hungarian Ministry for Economy and Transport to commission experts of the two schools of thought to commonly prepare a study

bringing the two views as close as possible. The study includes the following items concerning road and rail transport: direct revenues and expenditures of the public budget; non-budgetary subsidies; environmental, health and other external costs with special attention to climate change; positive externalities. The authors of the study are Gábor Albert, Mihály Békefi, István Kövesdi, Attila Vörös (KTI Institute for Transport Sciences Non-Profit Ltd., www.kti.hu) and András Lukács, Zsolt Horváth, Károly Kiss, Lázár Pavics, János Pál, Zoltán Szabó (Clean Air Action Group, www.levego.hu).

Green economic stabilization in Hungary

Environmental economists of the Clean Air Action Group have elaborated a green stabilization path for the Hungarian economy in crisis. On the one hand, the proposals aim at raising revenues for the budget both by increased environmental taxes and eliminating environmental harmful subsidies. These extra revenues could be used to reduce the social contribution paid by employers and directly reducing budget deficit. On the other hand, it was examined how the different branches of the “green economy” could contribute to combat acute crisis symptoms. These branches are as follows: transport, energy efficiency and improving insulation of buildings, renewable energies, organic farming, waste management.

PHANTARANGSI, Maryvonne

Chargée de mission in environmental policy and business, Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Sea

EHS in Transport and their Impacts on the Environment in France

During the last couple of years, harmful subsidies have been emphasized among the concerns of the French government. Keeping a “green” environment is a choice that could indicate the cancellation or the re-evaluation of certain harmful subsidies. It explains the decision process in abandoning a harmful subsidy. The decision could affect one of several sectors. Hopefully the action will have more benefits (environment, social, economic) than damages. The presentation will provide a short review of the economic theory of the harmful subsidies principles. Some cases of French harmful subsidies will be presented in air, maritime and road transport, and will give an assessment of their environmental impacts. The presentation will conclude with the next political steps in removal subsidies in France.

1998–present: Chief Expert of the Clean Air Action Group on Market-Based Economic Instruments for Environmental Purposes

He is author or co-author of a number of studies on green budget reform. Together with Károly Kiss he prepared the first such study for the Clean Air Action Group in 1991.

After two years in Scotland at the University of Aberdeen, having graduated in Economics, Maryvonne studied at the University of La Sorbonne in Ecological economics. Since 2009, she has worked at the French Ministry of Ecology as an economist. The main focus of her work is the evaluation of environmental policies on business. Her subjects of interest are green growth, global recovery plans, environmental performance and harmful subsidies, amongst others.





Jerzy Pieńkowski works on sustainable development issues in the chief economist unit of the Environment Directorate-General of the European Commission. He has a Ph.D. in economics from the Warsaw School of Economics.

PIEŃKOWSKI, Jerzy

Administrator, European Commission, DG Environment, Brussels

EHS reform – European Commission’s approach

The elimination of environmentally harmful subsidies is part of the EU’s sustainable development agenda. Calls for EHS reform have been included in the Lisbon Strategy, the EU Sustainable Development Strategy and the 6th Environmental Action Plan. In recent years, the Commission has been mainstreaming the progressive removal of EHS into its sectoral policies. It has been done, inter alia, as part of the Common Agricultural Policy health check, through gradual greening of transport and energy policies and the envisaged reform of fisheries policy. Including EHS phasing out in the Europe 2020 strategy, as part of its “Resource efficient Europe” initiative, and a need for consolidation of public finance after the crisis, create opportunities for faster progress with EHS reform.



László Podmaniczky, PhD, works at the Institute of Environment and Landscape Management of Szent Istvan University as an associate professor and deputy director and also as the head of department of environmental economics. He is an expert in research of planning alternative rural business and agro-ecological and economic land-use planning with GIS. In 2005 he worked for JRC Ispra as a visiting scientist on land use issues. He is experienced in developing agri-environmental schemes and monitoring systems for Hungary. He was one

of the founders of a M.Sc. equivalent degree for agricultural engineering, specialised in environmental management.

PODMANICZKY, László

Associate professor, Institute of Environment and Landscape Management, Szent Istvan University, Gödöllő (Hungary)

Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in Hungarian Agriculture

There have been significant changes as to the goals of agricultural subsidies in the 90’s: the focus of support shifted from increasing production to supporting the non-production function, which is the environmental feature of agriculture. The system of support is based on two pillars, as there are now two types of agricultural payments in the EU: the first pillar payments are related to production, whereas the so-called second pillar payments are aimed at new, environmentally-oriented management systems and rural development measures.

Certain agricultural payments and supports are considered potential risks to the environment, because they either:

- trigger exploitation and over-use of agricultural resources, and changes to the landscape by promoting intensive agriculture,
- enhance the financial position of one particular group of stakeholders, sometimes at the expense of the common good,

- decrease diversity by restricting the cultivation and existence of regional varieties and national features (hungaricums),
- decrease social cohesion and labour potential of the country,
- aggravate the life of most countrymen by increasing transaction costs.

This presentation will give details about a new method that evaluates the current system of agricultural payments, and is to come to the bitter conclusion that the effects of most of the agricultural payments currently available in Hungary on the natural environment are arguable at their best.

POTOČNIK, Janez

European Commissioner for Environment

Europe 2020 strategy and the elimination of EHS

(Video message)

As European Commissioner for the Environment, Potočnik has chosen resource efficiency, stopping biodiversity loss and the implementation of environmental legislation as the three main priorities for his mandate. These support the broader EU aims set out in its 'EU2020' Strategy, which is designed to achieve a new sustainable, smarter, greener and resource efficient economy, as well as stimulating green innovation, growth and jobs. Commissioner Potočnik will be delivering a message setting out his view on which policies we should use to achieve these aims, by applying the right mix of smart regulation, incentives and market-based mechanisms to foster eco-innovation, sustainable consumption and production and the removal of environmentally harmful subsidies.

Political career

November 2004–February 2010: European Commissioner for Science and Research

May 2004–November 2004: “Shadow” European Commissioner for Enlargement, sharing portfolio for six months with Commissioner Günther Verheugen

2002–2004: Minister for European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

1998–2004: Head of the Negotiating Team for the Accession of Slovenia to the EU

2001–2002: Minister Counsellor in the Slovenian Prime Minister’s cabinet



Professional career

1993–2001: Director of the Institute of the Macroeconomic Analysis and Development, Ljubljana

1988–1993 Senior Researcher at the Institute for Economic Research, Ljubljana

1984–1987 Assistant Director at the Institute of Economic Analysis and Development, Ljubljana

In the period 1991-2004 Part-time Assistant Professor of Statistics and Economy, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana

Other activities

2009: Honorary degree (doctor honoris causa), Ghent University, Belgium

2008: Honorary degree Doctor of Science, London Imperial College

Education

1993: PhD in Economics, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

1989: Master’s degree, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana

1983: Honours degree in Economics, Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana



Pavel Pribyl has been working with CEE Bankwatch Network since 1995 as the coordinator for the Czech Republic, based within Hnutí DUHA/Friends of the Earth-Czech Republic.

He has been involved in the field of transportation among others through the “Save the Railways Coalition” (a coalition of civic initiatives and local municipalities established under the initiative of Hnutí DUHA in 1997). Since 1998 he has been active in the Billions for Sustainability project, focusing on the environmentally and socially beneficial use of the EU funds. In 2000 he was involved in the team that was responsible for environmental NGOs’ events connected to the World Bank AGM in Prague.

In 2004-06 he was an NGO representative in the steering committee for Cohesion Fund in the environmental sector. In 2003 he was one of the co-founders of the international NGO “Life for Danube, Oder and Elbe Rivers Coalition”. In last several years he is focusing on the issues related to the public financing of the transport infrastructure in the Czech Republic and coordinates the transport policy work of CEE Bankwatch Network on EU level.

PRIBYL, Pavel

Transport Coordinator, CEE Bankwatch Network, Prague

Potential unfulfilled: EU funding and Cohesion policy can do more for sustainable climate and energy development in CEE

The EU Structural and Cohesion Funds have the potential to catalyse the transition to a low carbon economy in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). But the prospect of this transition still remains remote for now. The pace of absorption of EU funds for renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) projects remains slow even if the demand for financing is steadily on the rise. This is disappointing – a green economy is not just an option but the only reasonable and long-term viable option for the CEE region as a way out of the economic crisis and towards a true twenty-first century economy. Investments in EE and RE are crucial for CEE countries as they can deliver multiple benefits – not only decreases in their emissions of greenhouse gases but also reductions in energy poverty, the creation of green jobs and the strengthening of local economies and innovation. And the financial potential is massive. The Cohesion and Structural Funds will provide a total of €347 billion for the 2007–13 period, a figure which is more than one third of the total EU budget in this period. The CEE countries are indeed the main beneficiaries of the EU funds with €177 billion, which is also the biggest source of public funding in the EU’s newest member states.

www.bankwatch.org/publications/document.shtml?x=2219042

www.bankwatch.org/meetings/climate_proofing_eufunds/downloads/PavelPribyl.pdf



Aldo Ravazzi Douvan is a coordinator for the Italian Environmental Authority for EU Structural Funds; he is also a co-promoter of the EU’s ENEAMA (European Network of Environmental Authorities & Managing Authorities for cohesion policy) and GRDP. In the years 2005-08 he was chairman of OECD’s Taxation & Environment. He served as the representative of Italy in G8-3R, as well as senior consultant in the preparation of OECD’s 3rd Cycle of Environmental Performance Reviews.

RAVAZZI DOUVAN, Aldo

Senior Consultant, Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea; Directorate Sustainable Development, Energy & Climate

Environmentally harmful vs. friendly subsidies

The analysis of environmentally harmful subsidies must not prevent us from analysing and assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of environmentally friendly subsidies. Even if, at least in a transitory period, there is an economic case for public intervention in favour of, say, renewables, incentives

must be well designed for correcting market failures, avoiding distortions and guide the transition. If not, subsidies which are environmentally friendly in the short-term may turn environmentally harmful in the medium-term. Attention on environmentally harmful subsidies often concentrates on fossil fuels; for a consistent and fair approach, attention should also be paid to uranium and nuclear energy subsidies, both direct and indirect. Environmentally harmful subsidies are relatively easier to calculate on consumption; but we need to keep as much attention on production subsidies, which are more difficult to assess methodologically and comparatively across countries and sectors. Subsidies to the use of territory as well as to demographic support seem to be two other areas where the environmental impact should be kept under control and would deserve further analysis and policy.

SCHLEGELMILCH, Kai

Vice-President, GreenBudgetGermany, Berlin

Communicating Subsidy Removal and Environmental Fiscal Reform Experiences in Germany and the US: Recommendations for the future

After Germany introduced its Ecological Tax Reform (ETR), it widened its scope to reducing environmentally harmful subsidies (EHS). This offered the opportunity to not just increase taxes, but to reduce expenditures which was easier to sell than increasing taxes. However, often reducing such subsidies meant taxing what has not yet been taxed. Yet, in Germany, the focus was clearly more on selling the ETR than the EHS – with mixed results.

In the US, the Green Scissors campaign was quite successful and active between 1999 and 2005, though continuing in other forms thereafter, such as the initiative on global subsidies. As tax increases in the US are hardly possible, cutting subsidies is the most promising way forward. To this end, environmental NGOs and taxpayers associations joined forces, demanded that wasteful spending of valuable taxpayers' money should be stopped. Green Scissors published a yearly report on what had indeed been changed to prove the success of the campaign. www.worlddecotax.org/downloads/Presentations/SchlegelmilchKai.pdf, www.bmu.de/english/climate/doc/3472.php, www.greenscissors.com/issues/overview.htm www.globalsubsidies.org/en

He was also project leader in the Environment Twinning EU/Italy-Morocco, and served on the Advisory Board of Instream. In the period 1984-2000 he was an economist and later head of the Economic Research Dept of IRI

Mr Ravazzi Douvan holds a first degree in economics (University of Rome Sapienza), and MSc (University of York); he is a member of the teaching staff for the PhD in Environmental Economics & Law (University of Rome TorVergata. He is in the Organising Committee of EAERE 2011 (Rome).

He is a member of the Scientific Committees of AAA (Italian Association of Environmental Analysts) and of Rientro Dolce (Association for a soft get back from overpopulation).

During his 17 years of professional life Mr Schlegelmilch worked with the Wuppertal Institute, the European Environment Agency and since 1999 the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, particularly on environmental fiscal reform, but also on EU-matters and renewable energy. Regarding the implementation of an Environment Tax/Fiscal Reform he advised China and still does so for Vietnam – both on behalf of the German development implementing agency GTZ.” at the end of this sentence: “Regarding the implementation of an Environment Tax/Fiscal Reform he advised China and still does so for Vietnam. In his spare time he is Vice-President of the NGO “Green Budget Germany”. www.foes.de/ueber-uns/vorstand/





Arno Schrotten is senior economist at the Transport Division of CE Delft. He specialised in valuating externalities of transport and analysing the cost effectiveness of policy instruments. He has been involved in several studies on the external costs of transport, such as the IMPACT project for DG TREN. Arno was also one of the co-authors of the study 'Size, structure and distribution of transport subsidies in Europe', which CE Delft performed together with Ecologic on behalf of the European Environment Agency (www.ce.nl)

SCHROTEN, Arno

Senior Researcher/Consultant, CE Delft, the Netherlands

Hidden Subsidies: External Costs of Transport

Significant external costs (e.g. air pollution, congestion costs, climate change) exist in the transport sector. Government failures to correct market imperfections such as these are also considered subsidies by some transport economists, and are referred to as hidden or implicit subsidies. The uncovered external (and infrastructure) costs of road transport in the EU19 are roughly estimated to be 150 billion (IMPACT, 2008). By internalising these uncovered external costs of transport the efficiency of the transport system will improve and the environmental impact of transport will decrease. In this presentation, strategies for internalisation of the various external cost categories will be discussed. The discussion will be based on the results of the IMPACT project and recent national studies on green taxation of transport. Finally, legal and technical barriers to internalisation of external costs in the transport sector will be discussed.



As EFFAT's agricultural Secretary Arnd Spahn represents over 60 agricultural trade unions in 35 European countries with more than a million individual members. EFFAT is the only representative body of workers' interests in agriculture, food and tourism sectors (www.effat.org).

SPAHN, Arnd

Agricultural Secretary, European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT), Brussels

Only an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable agriculture has a future in Europe

Based on practical examples Spahn is supporting a new deal for European agriculture on the background of the upcoming reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

SPECK, Stefan

Project Manager, Environmental Economics and Policies, European Environment Agency, Copenhagen

Environmentally Harmful Subsidy Reform – Some Political and Social Considerations

This presentation provides a brief picture of the current political discussion surrounding and experiences with the reform of fossil fuel subsidies. Many studies show that the potential economic and environmental benefits of fossil fuel subsidy reform are large. However, practical experience does not support these findings. As Victor (2009, p.7) puts it: "... the failure to reform subsidies fully lies in the failure to appreciate the political economy of subsidy policies".

The lack of a commonly accepted definition of subsidies is sometimes seen as a stumbling block for initiating a subsidy reform in particular at the international level, i.e. cross/country comparisons are not possible to be undertaken without having such a definition. However, at the level of individual countries, this should not be an obstacle since Governments will know what direct and indirect subsidies they finance.

The main obstacle to successful reform seems to be an over emphasis placed on making the economic and environmental benefits of reform relative to social (and political) issues. Thus, the common features of successful reforms show the importance of creating an overall reform package that studies and communicates an 'integrated assessment framework' (OECD, 2007) that takes into economic, environmental and social costs and benefits of subsidy reform into account simultaneously.

SZELES, Péter

President, Hungarian Public Relations Association, Budapest

Four levels of social responsibility

Today, everybody only talks about corporate social responsibility, though in any society the responsibility is diverse: we should not forget the responsibility of the citizens (individuals), the governments (political actors) and the media.

Stefan Speck is an environmental economist with a PhD in economics from Keele University in England. In the past he was employed at the National Environmental Research Institute/University of Aarhus in Denmark as a part-time senior project scientist within the EU funded project 'Competitiveness effects of environmental tax reforms' (COMETR) and he worked as an independent consultant in the field of market based instruments and environmental financing. He also contributed to a study evaluating the effectiveness of environmentally related taxes and charges in European countries and to the project 'Resource Productivity, Environmental Tax Reform and Sustainable Growth in Europe' (PETRE) funded by the Anglo-German Foundation. Since May 2010 he works as a project manager on environmental economics and policies at the European Environment Agency (EEA).



Dr. Peter Szeles is an economist, Associate Professor in the Budapest Business School; he is deputy head of the Department of Social Communication and Media Science. He is a PR Consultant of SLS PR Communications. Nearly a hundred publications, between them six technical books and a dozen higher education textbooks, are attached to his name. He received an award as a lecturer of communication profession. He is the initiator and founder of the Hungarian Public Relations Association, and the PRince Award, the first International Public Relations Film, Video and Multimedia Festival in the World. In 1991 the President of PRSA rewarded him 'President Citation' for his role played in the development of the American-Hungarian vocational relationship (mprsz@mprsz.hu).





The Clean Air Action Group (CAAG) is one of the best-known non-governmental organizations in Hungary that deal with the protection of the environment. Established in 1988, CAAG today serves as an umbrella organization of 129 environmental NGO's. Its Experts' Committee consists of more than 100 specialists of various professions. CAAG received the Hungarian Prize NGO of the Year 2006.

CAAG works to implement the principle that the most fundamental human right is the right to live and to be healthy, and all other human rights can only be put into effect with full respect of this basic human right. With this condition the Clean Air Action Group supports efforts that aim at keeping the impact of human activities within the limits of nature's capacity or at diminishing the impacts of human activities to these limits.

The main fields of activities of the CAAG are the following: greening the state budget, sustainable transport, sustainable energy policy, sustainable urban development and environment-friendly chemical policy. In 1991 CAAG prepared its first study on green budget reform with concrete proposals for the Hungarian government. Since that time CAAG each year published studies on this topic.

CAAG's activities include public awareness raising, consulting, research, publishing and advocacy at the local and national levels.

The CAAG is a member of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E), Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe) and World Carfree Network (WCN).



The Hungarian Economic Association is one of the most prestigious professional associations of Hungary, with more than a hundred year's history. Researchers, professors, business leaders, managers, entrepreneurs, civil servants, auditors, students and well as pensioners make up the 5000 plus member strong association. HEA has more than ten departments in Budapest (i.e. economic theory, economic policy, finance, audit, information technology, logistics, international economics, and health-care economics) and 15 local chapters all over the country. The Association organizes dozens of various conferences, meetings, presentations each year. The most outstanding events in the calendar of the Association are the Itinerary Conference of Economists and the Yearly Convention of Young Economists.

CONTACT

Green Budget Europe (GBE)

Forum Ökologisch-Soziale Marktwirtschaft e.V.
(FÖS)
Schwedenstraße 15a
D-13357 Berlin
Phone: +49-30-7623991-80
Fax: +49-30-7623991-79
www.green-budget.eu
foes@foes.de

Clean Air Action Group (CAAG)

András Lukács (program)
Judit Varga (all other issues)
H-1465 Budapest, Pf. 1676,
Phone: + 36 1 411 0510
Fax: +36 1 266 0150
konf@levegő.hu
www.levegő.hu

Hungarian Economic Association (MKT)

Miklós Gábor Nagy
1245 Budapest, Pf. 1044
Phone: +36 1 331-6906
Fax: +36 1 331-6906
office.mkt@t-online.hu
www.mkt.hu

VENUE

Andrássy University, Conference Room,
Pollack Mihály tér 3, H-1088 Budapest
Phone: +36-1-266-3101

Public Transport: metro stations Astoria (M2), Kálvin tér (M3)

REGISTRATION

The conference is free of charge. It includes participation in the events of the conference, the conference materials and refreshments during the breaks. The organisers cannot reimburse travel and accommodation costs.

For registration, please contact:

Clean Air Action Group (CAAG)
Pf. 1676, HU-1465 Budapest, Hungary
Phone: + 36-1-411-0509
konf@levego.hu

The language of the conference is English and Hungarian with simultaneous interpretation (except for the Workshop on Agriculture, where only English will be used).

ABOUT US

Green Budget Europe (GBE) was founded in Brussels in September 2008 in response to the EU's growing influence on environmental and fiscal policy. It is an EU-wide umbrella organisation to promote the use of Market Based Instruments (MBI) in environmental policy. Members include researchers, politicians, business, and NGOs. New members welcome! If you would like to become a member please fill in the form overleaf and hand it to a member of staff or return to: Forum Ökologisch-Soziale Marktwirtschaft e.V. (FÖS), Schwedenstraße 15a, D-13357 Berlin. Alternatively you can become a member online at www.foes.de.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

- I would like to become an active member (€200 annual contribution; voting member).
- I would like to become a supporting member (€60 annual contribution; non-voting member).
- My company would like to become an active member (at least €1000 annual contribution, voting member).
- My company would like to become a supporting member (at least €500 annual contribution, non-voting member).
- I would like to become a supporting member at the reduced student fee (€30 annual contribution; non-voting member).
- I would like to make an annual donation to GBG of € and receive information on GBG projects.
- I would like to make a one-off donation to GBG of € and receive information on GBG projects.
- I would like to receive the e-mail newsletter Green Budget News free of charge and without obligation.

First name, title	
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Postcode, Town	Postcode, Town
Institution / Company	Organisation / Institution
Function / Position	Function / Position
Fon / Fax	Fon / Fax
E-Mail / Web	E-Mail / Web
Place, Date, Signature	



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