

5 November 2014

Norway House

Rue Archimède 17 • Brussels

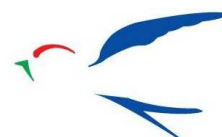
Recovery, Jobs and Sustainable Prosperity

**A New Agenda for
Green Fiscal Reform
in Europe**

Green Budget Europe Annual Conference

GreenBudgetEurope

European expert platform on environmental taxation and green fiscal reform



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Green Budget Europe Annual Conference 2014

Recovery, Jobs and Sustainable Prosperity

A New Agenda for Green Fiscal Reform in Europe

Background

The incoming European Parliament and Commission are confronted with great challenges, but also with a very real window of opportunity. Although it is already six years since the financial and economic crisis began, economic recovery, the creation of jobs and fiscal consolidation remain significant challenges in many of the EU member states. At the same time, member states are still struggling to meet EU targets for emission reduction and resource efficiency. It seems that the crisis may yet provide a window of opportunity for overdue policy changes to generate multiple benefits for the economy and the environment.

With the European Semester process, the EU has been trying to improve policy coordination between member states and to monitor their compliance with the Stability and Growth Pact and the Europe 2020 strategy, as well as their efforts to deliver on “smart, sustainable and inclusive growth”.

Green fiscal reform, the consistent orientation of taxes and government spending towards environmental sustainability, has great potential to aid economic recovery, create jobs, consolidate budgets and to improve incentives for low-carbon and resource efficient economic development and investment.

The 2014 GBE Annual Conference will provide a platform to discuss the potential of green fiscal reform to create jobs and aid economic recovery. We will discuss the opportunities and shortcomings of the European Semester as a key process to move this agenda forward.

During the conference, key findings and experiences with green fiscal reforms will be presented and discussed with stakeholders from business, labour unions, and social groups; recent successes and current challenges with green fiscal reforms in individual member states will be presented; and the potential role of green fiscal reform in the European Semester process and for economic recovery will be evaluated with representatives from the EU institutions and environmental groups.

09:00 Welcome and Introduction

Atle Leikvoll, Ambassador of Norway to the EU

Anselm G6rres, President, Green Budget Europe

09:30 Keynotes: Never let a good crisis go to waste: Green fiscal reform and sustainable recovery in Europe

Chair: Constanze Adolf, Director Brussels Office, Green Budget Europe

Rationale and design of a Green Fiscal Reform in Europe

Edoardo Croci, Professor at the University Bocconi Milano, Green Economy Observatory

The future of Europe's economic governance should be green

Yannis D. Palaiokrassas, Former European Commissioner and Greek Minister of Finance

10:30 Coffee Break**11:00 The effects of green fiscal reform on growth, jobs, social equity and sectorial competitiveness**

Chair: Aldo Ravazzi-Douvan, Vice President, Green Budget Europe; Italian Ministry of Environment

Green fiscal reform as a stimulus for recovery and job creation

Presentation: Samuel Fankhauser, co-Director at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at London School of Economics (LSE)

Discussant: Benjamin Denis, Advisor, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Green fiscal reform and social equity

Presentation: Thomas Sterner, Professor for Environmental Economics, University of Goteborg

Discussant: Barbara Helfferich, Director, European Anti-Poverty Network

Green fiscal reform and sectorial competitiveness

Presentation: Michael Grubb, Professor for International Energy & Climate Policy, University College London (UCL); Senior Adviser, Sustainable Energy Policy Ofgem

Discussant: An Theeuwes, Chair Green Taxation Working Group, BUSINESSEUROPE

13:00 Lunch Break

14:00 Roundtable Discussion: Fiscal shift and re-orientating growth at the national level

Chair: Kai Schlegelmilch, Vice President, Green Budget Europe

Green fiscal reform in Italy

Maria Teresa Monteduro, Director Finance Department, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italy

Green fiscal reform in Portugal

Claudia Dias Soares, Professor at Catholic University of Portugal

Green fiscal reform in Norway

Jens Frølich Holte, Political Adviser, Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment

Motivating progress on environmental tax reform in Europe

Patrick ten Brink, Senior Fellow and Head of Brussels office, Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)

Q&A with the audience**15:30 Coffee Break****16:00 Panel Debate: What perspectives for green fiscal reforms in the next legislative period?**

Chair: David Gee, Brunel University, formerly European Environment Agency

Christopher Boyd, European Semester Coordinator, DG Environment

Åsa Johannesson Lindén, Deputy Head of Unit, Economic Analysis of Energy, Transport, Climate Change and Cohesion Policy, DG for Economic and Financial Affairs

Philippe Lamberts, Co-Chair Group The Greens/European Free Alliance, European Parliament

Dirk Heilmann, Managing Partner Handelsblatt Research Institute and Chief Economist, Handelsblatt

Jeremy Wates, Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

17:00 Conclusions**17:30 Reception and Award Ceremony of the “2014 Green Budget Europe Environmental Fiscal Reformer of the Year”**