

**5 November 2014**

**Norway House**

**Rue Archimède 17 • Brussels**

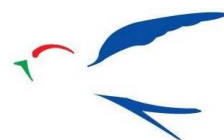
## **Recovery, Jobs and Sustainable Prosperity**

**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



**italia2014.eu**

## **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**

*Welcome note by Atle Leikvoll, Ambassador of Norway to the EU*

*Anselm Görres, President, Green Budget Europe*

**09:30 Keynotes: Never let a good crisis go to waste: Green fiscal reform and sustainable recovery in Europe****Green fiscal reform to foster sustainable recovery in the coming legislative period**

*Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission (tbc)*

**Using the European Semester to foster green fiscal reform at national level**

*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 Soares, Professor at Catholic University of Portugal*

**Green fiscal reform in Norway**

*Jens Frølich Holte, Political Adviser, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway*

**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*

*Karmenu Vella, EU-Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (tbc)*

*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 (tbc)*

*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”**

