



Clean Air Action Group



European Environmental Bureau



Hungarian Academy of Sciences

# Environmentally harmful subsidies and ways to eliminate them

## International Conference

September 2-3, 2004

**Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest**  
(Budapest V., Roosevelttér 9.)

### *Organisers:*

- **Clean Air Action Group, Hungary**
- **European Environmental Bureau**
- **Hungarian Academy of Sciences**

with the financial support of

- **European Commission (Phare Access)**
- **Hungarian Ministry of Environment and Water**

Direct and indirect state subsidies for activities harmful to the health and the environment place a huge burden on society. Much less needs to be spent on environmental and health tasks if these subsidies are eliminated. This will also enhance considerably the efficiency of the economy. The governments are keen on reducing the state budget deficits, however generally have not yet ventured to contemplate the benefits of removing direct and indirect subsidies, which finance seriously health-damaging and environment-polluting activities. The aim of the present conference is to stimulate the process of eliminating such subsidies.

# ***PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME***

**Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

***8.40–9.50 Registration***

***9.00 Press conference***

## **Nature and volume of environmentally harmful subsidies**

***Chair: Academician Attila MESKÓ***

### ***1<sup>st</sup> session: Experiences of the EU countries and positions of the OECD and the European Commission***

- 10.00 Attila MESKÓ, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and András LUKÁCS, Clean Air Action Group:  
Welcome and Introduction
- 10.20 Donato RAPONI, European Commission, DG Taxation and Customs Union:  
The work at the European Commission on environment-related taxes
- 10.50 Anthony COX, OECD:  
The work of the OECD on environmentally harmful subsidies
- 11.20 Kai SCHLEGELMILCH, Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation & Nuclear Safety, Germany:  
Green budget reform in Germany – results and perspectives
- 11.50 Discussion
- 12.20 Lunch

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> session: Environmentally harmful subsidies in Hungary***

- 13.30 Károly KISS, Budapest University of Economic Sciences:  
General presentation of the study “Environmentally harmful subsidies in Hungary”  
(commissioned by the Ministry of Environment and Water)
- 14.00 Lázár PAVICS, Clean Air Action Group:  
Transport subsidies
- 14.30 Zoltán SZABÓ, Clean Air Action Group:  
Energy and mining subsidies
- 14.50 Gábor UNGVÁRI, Hungarian Environmental Economics Center:  
Drinking water subsidies
- 15.10 Tea break
- 15.30 Erzsébet BELICZAY, Clean Air Action Group:  
Construction and housing subsidies
- 15.55 László PODMANICZKY, Szent István University:  
Agricultural subsidies
- 16.20 Discussion
- 17.00 Concert (until 18.00)

**Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Possibilities of removing environmentally harmful subsidies –  
environmental fiscal reform**

*Chair: Academician István LÁNG*

**3<sup>rd</sup> session: Experiences of the EU countries and recommendations of the OECD and the  
European Commission**

- 9.00 Stefan SCHEUER, European Environmental Bureau:  
The European NGO campaign for Environmental Fiscal Reform
- 9.30 Andreas KRAEMER, Ecologic – Institute for International and European  
Environmental Policy:  
Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in the Water Sector
- 10.00 Max HERRY, Herry Consult GmbH, Austria:  
External costs of transport in Central and Eastern Europe
- 10.30 Tea break
- 10.50 Søren DYCK-MADSEN, Danish Ecological Council:  
The state and perspectives of green budget reform in Denmark
- 11.15 Andrzej KASSENBERG, Institute for Sustainable Development, Warsaw:  
The state and perspectives of green budget reform in Poland
- 11.40 Milan SCASNÝ, Charles University, Prague:  
The state and perspectives of green budget reform in the Czech Republic
- 12.15 Lunch

**4<sup>th</sup> session: Hungarian experiences and possibilities**

- 13.30 András LUKÁCS, Clean Air Action Group:  
Proposals for greening the state budget in Hungary
- 14.20 Béla TURI-KOVÁCS, President, Environmental Committee of the Hungarian  
Parliament (Fidesz–Hungarian Civic Union):  
Evaluation of the measures and proposals for green budget reform
- 14.40 Sándor OROSZ, Vice-President, Environmental Committee of the Hungarian  
Parliament (Hungarian Socialist Party):  
Evaluation of the measures and proposals for green budget reform
- 15.00 Gusztáv BÁGER, State Audit Office:  
The possibilities of the State Audit Office for identifying harmful subsidies and  
elaborating proposals for their elimination
- 15.20 Tea break

- 15.40 Miklós PERSÁNYI, Minister of Environment and Water, Hungary:  
The state and perspectives of green budget reform in Hungary taking into  
consideration the results of the present conference
- 16.10 Discussion

After each presentation 5 to 10 minutes will be provided for questions and remarks.

*Working languages:* Hungarian and English (simultaneous interpretation)

**For further details concerning the content email to Clean Air Action Group, Hungary:  
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**For registration email to: hegyigab@yahoo.com**

**Your participation will be confirmed and further information forwarded to you.**

**For further information see also: [www.levego.hu](http://www.levego.hu)**

**Attendance of the conference is free of charge.**