



**EEB CONTRIBUTION TO  
Informal Meeting of the EU Environment Ministers, Essen, Germany, 1-2 June 2007**

**Environment – Innovation - Employment**

**John Hontelez, Secretary General EEB**

Brussels, 30 May 2007

The EEB appreciates the initiative of the German Minister for Environment to launch a debate about a European Ecological Industrial Policy. It thanks the Minister as well for the opportunities he gave to give input into the preparation process, including through supporting and being present at the EEB Conference on this theme organised in Berlin, 14 May. And we appreciate the invitation to take part in the Informal Council discussions directly.

The EEB would like to commend Minister Gabriel for the excellent Working Paper for the meeting. We encourage the Ministers to support the policy proposals presented on pages 14 to 18. And we call for the discussion to concentrate on how to start implementation of these proposals without delay, in particular with taking up the following, more immediate political decisions and initiatives.

**Fighting Climate Change:**

1. Regarding renewables in the EU: in the upcoming negotiations between Member States on how to implement the general 20% renewables target by 2020, all Member States should go for ambitious national targets, so that the 20% becomes the minimum collective outcome rather than the maximum.
2. Move the political target, as laid down in the Energy Efficiency Action Plan, of 20% increased energy efficiency, leading to around 1% absolute reductions in energy use per year till 2020, into a legally binding minimum obligation for all Member States.
3. Member States to fully and timely implement the Directives on Energy Performance of Buildings, on Eco-Design and on Energy end-use Efficiency and Energy Services.
4. Call upon the Commission to come with legislation that sets for the average new passenger car a legally binding target of 120 g CO<sub>2</sub>/km emission by 2012, instead of the 130 g proposed, given the uncertainty that the 10 g can be really met with the soft measures the Commission proposed. And to give the car-industry a clear signal of the dimension of the changes required by setting an 80 g/km target for 2016.
5. Agree on the specifics for the next phase in the Emission Trading System as soon as possible, in order to send the right signal to Europe's industry. And build the future system on auctioning.
6. Prevent the increase of other major environmental problems while applying climate policies. Therefore insist on strict environmental conditions for both biofuels and carbon storage.

### **Energy and Resource Efficiency:**

7. Set strategic targets for eco-efficiency: increase of overall resource productivity by a factor 4 by 2030 (as called for by the European Parliament this April) and factor 10 by 2050. These targets are to be used to assess the measures needed and to give the EU Institutions a mandate to act.
8. Introduce dynamic, standard setting schemes in the EU that are addressing environmental as well as performance requirements in an integrated manner, along the lines of the Japanese Top Runner approach. Ask the Commission to initiate an EU Top Runner approach without delay.
9. Apply environmental fiscal reform (taxation and subsidies reform) throughout the EU, with as much coordination/leadership on EU level as possible. As the Working Paper suggests, use the Open Method of Coordination for this purpose. Aim for a 10% shift away from labour taxes to taxes related to environmental performance of goods and services, in a period of 10 years.
10. Develop EU and national programmes aiming to achieve 100% green public procurement by 2010.
11. Strengthen EU Waste policies, in particular prevention, re-use and material recycling. Resist the temptation to see waste as an energy resource. Refuse the reclassification of municipal waste incineration as recovery.
12. Continue the development of priority waste stream policies, where possible built upon the producer responsibility approach and promoting prevention, reuse and material recycling as a priority.
13. Introduce broader product policy legislation, identifying environmental issues, linking these to targets for eco-efficiency and environmental and performance requirements, and incorporating producer responsibility. Include product information for public requirements.
14. Set sufficient precautions with regards to the use of nano-technology, so that negative impacts on people's health can be prevented.

### **Clean up Industry Production:**

15. Strengthen the environmental dimension of impact assessments, in particular also to better explore the environmental advantages of pro-innovation policies.
16. Apply the IPPC Directive in a more systematic and ambitious manner. Make sure the Best Available Techniques formulated for IPPC permitting really present state of the art. Ensure effective implementation of the Directive. Do not engage in a review of the Directive in the near future and appreciate the importance of environmental quality legislation in combination with IPPC.

Yours sincerely,

John Hontelez  
Secretary General  
European Environmental Bureau