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Ziemeļu Ministru padomes  
birojs Latvijā

FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN  
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES  
FONDATION EUROPÉENNE  
D'ÉTUDES PROGRESSISTES



**"The potential of green economy of Latvia – opportunities and obstacles as learned from Northern European experience"**

September 14, 2012

Trade Union House, Bruninieku str. 29/31, 2 floor conference room, Riga

The forum is organized by the Nordic Council of Ministers, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the Freedom and Solidarity Foundation (FSF).

Since 2008 Freedom and Solidarity Foundation has in many ways tried to promote development of environmentally friendly policy in Latvia. We believe that the country's sustainable development is possible only if both the policy and the economy, as well as daily life of every citizen are based on a careful and tolerant attitude to the environment. In order to ensure an environmentally sound and sustainable politics, today it is no longer enough to take internal decisions and actions just within one country. We live in a time when decisions and actions need to be regional and global. Therefore, it is insufficient if green economy, energy policy and environmental protection are on political agenda and discussion framework limited to borders of Latvia. We need to think at the Baltic and Northern European level at least - a shared action policy and common decisions must be implemented and sustained. Sharing of experiences and successful examples, that can make us stronger together, must be ensured.

Unfortunately, many citizens and politicians have not complete and clear understanding of what "green economy" means. Often, these issues are dealt with very narrow vision, reduced to just best case scenarios of energy policy, adding good examples of waste management and progressive solutions in agriculture. We believe that it is not enough. We believe that in order to effectively promote sustainable decision and policy making, it is equally important to share and spread ideas of „green economy” by bringing together industry experts and politicians. To provide ground for fair and open discussion of many stakeholders is our input in keeping up a public pressure in this issue on various decision makers in Latvia and abroad.

**Agenda**

9:00 - 10:00 **Registration**

10:00 - 10:15 **Opening of the Forum.** Opening remarks from the Nordic Council of Ministers, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the Freedom and Solidarity Foundation representatives (FSF).

10:15 - 10:30 **Presentation of informative campaign "Join and start greening"**

10:30 - 10:55 **Green economy opportunities in Latvia - concepts, external drivers and myths** (Alda Ozola, Latvian Green Movement, Chairman of the Board).

10:55 - 11:20 **Green Economy – potential international identity and trademark of Latvia** (Ervin Labanovskis - Eco-entrepreneur, FSF ViceChairman).

11:20 - 11:45 **"Public cooperation as prerequisite for local (rural) community sustainable development"** (Aris Adlers, Latvian Rural forum).

11:45 - 12:10 **Rational arguments, and (not) willingness to live sustainably** (Klavs Sedlenieks, social anthropologist).

12:10 - 13:00 Lunch

13:00 - 13:25 **Green economy and green politics in Lithuania** (Tomas Tomilinas, Vice-chairman of Lithuanian Green and Farmers Party; Member of DEMOS Institute of Critical Thought).

13:25 - 13:50 **How Scandinavian countries encourage for environmentally sound and sustainable economic development** (Gunnar Boye Olesen, International Network for Sustainable Energy).

13: 50 - 14:15 **The role of European Union in the development of green economy** (Jenneth Parker, Research Director at the Schumacher Institute, United Kingdom).

14:15- 14:40 Coffee Break

14:40 - 15:30 **Political Discussion**

Representatives of political parties:

- Zatlers Reform Party;
- Greens and Farmers Union;
- Unity;
- Harmony Center;
- National Union.

Discussion will be moderated by journalist Didzis Melbiksis.

15:30 - 15:45 **Summary** (FSF representative);