

# Annual Report of Clean Air Action Group (Hungary) for the year 2004

Clean Air Action Group is a National Environment Protection Federation uniting 132 member organizations. It carries out environmental protection activities, independent of party politics, to promote social cohesion and democratic development which preserves the advantageous endowments and traditions of Hungary.

## Main areas of activity in 2004

### **Awareness raising and assertion of interests**

We performed environment and nature protection awareness raising and disseminated relevant information to the general public and also at national, municipal and professional events. We provided support to local residents and non-governmental organizations, endorsed various environmental initiatives and advocated public participation in decision-making. We maintained continuous relations with the media to ensure efficient propagation of environmental information.

### **Assumption of state responsibilities and enforcement of environmental considerations in decision-making**

We commented on a range of specialized policy programmes, draft statutory regulations and concepts. We initiated local and national actions and regulations to further the cause of environment protection. We elaborated position statements and recommendations for various programmes and statutes, in particular for the state budget, for the National Environment Protection Programme and for the National Development Plan, to promote the implementation of national and international environment protection principles.

### **Preparation of publications and working papers**

By drawing on the experience and findings of Clean Air Action Group's Board of Experts, international and Hungarian organizations and scientific workshops, we prepared studies to lay sound foundations for our environment protection positions and proposals.

## **Clean Air Action Group's organizational structure**

<b>132 member organizations (GENERAL ASSEMBLY)</b>				
<b>Board of Experts</b> 110 persons	<b>PRESIDIUM</b> President 3 Vice Presidents 1 Presidium Member			<b>Board of Supervision:</b> 3 persons
<i>Supporting members</i>	Programme leaders: 7 persons (5 full-time employees, 1 person working on the basis of a contract agreement, and 1 contractor)	Editorial staff of the monthly "Lélegzet": 2 persons	Environmental Advisory Office: 3 persons	Finance management: 2 persons
<i>Volunteers</i>	Civil relations: 1 person			Office management: 2 persons

## **Green budget reform**

*In line with OECD and EU initiatives, we advocate the establishment of a regulated eco-social market economy where the costs of activities posing danger to the environment and using natural resources wastefully are fully charged to those performing such activities. We urge that the financial resources saved this way should be spent on reducing the tax burden imposed on wages, on promoting innovation and creativity, on developing human resources and on improving the environment.*

**Project leaders: András Lukács, Lázár Pavics and Zoltán Szabó**

- In 2004, just like every year since 1992, we prepared our proposals for the following year's state budget and tax laws. We elaborated separate positions for some specific subjects and forwarded those position papers to Members of the Hungarian Parliament and to the Ministries.
- We handed over detailed proposals to the Ministry of Finance concerning the amendment of the Hungarian state budget and tax laws. In its 17-page reply letter, the Ministry of Finance analyzed our proposals and (at least in principle) endorsed most of them.
- We gave numerous lectures on the subject, both in Hungary and abroad.
- Together with Danish, Austrian and Eastern and Central European NGOs, we took part in the editing of the Green Budget News electronic newsletter of Green Budget Germany (FÖS). Up to now, 10 issues have been published.
- In our monthly "Lélegzet", we have regularly covered the theme.
- In the State Budget Working Group of the Hungarian Parliament's Environment Protection Committee, Clean Air Action Group was represented by András Lukács, Lázár Pavics and Zoltán Szabó (secretary of the Working Group).
- We actively participated in the European Environmental Bureau's (EEB) "Environmental Fiscal Reform" campaign. As part of the campaign, we elaborated among others the draft version of a guide-book on environmentally harmful subsidies (Subsidies Guidance). We contributed to the preparation of two publications of EEB on harmful subsidies.
- The preparation of the volume of studies titled "Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in the Hungarian Economy" was a pioneering research work of ours, led by Dr. Károly Kiss, assistant professor at Budapest Corvinus University.
- As the Hungarian partner of the MethodEx European research programme supported by the European Union's 6<sup>th</sup> R&D Framework Programme, we commenced elaborating a methodology to quantify environmental externalities in the sphere of agriculture, wastes and industry.
- With support from the PHARE Access 2003 programme, in conjunction with our Polish partner organization we carried out educational and awareness raising activities in the field of green budget reform. Within the framework of a project supported by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), we worked for the same goal in international (Danish, Czech, Polish, Hungarian) cooperation.
- In September, in association with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and EEB, we held an international conference titled "Environmentally Harmful Subsidies and Possibilities of their Removal" in Budapest.
- In Kőszeg, in the International Summer University we delivered a lecture on "The Necessity of an Environmental Budget Reform in Hungary".

## **Activities in connection with Hungary's EU membership**

*Our aim is to ensure that from the European Union's practice Hungary takes over the more consistent environmental regulations which offer mutual advantages, while preserving the country's natural and cultural endowments by moderating the market's deforming effects. We urge that the subsidies granted from EU Funds as well as Hungary's National Development Plan should comply with the requirements of sustainable development.*

**Project leaders: András Lukács, Erzsébet Beliczay and Judit Madarassy**

- In personal and virtual meetings, we exchanged experience and made recommendations with a view to adapting well-proved foreign practices and regulations. As a member organization of the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E), the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe), we actively participated in the work of these international federations.
- We closely cooperated with the Austrian Traffic Club (VCÖ), Green Budget Germany (FÖS), the Polish Institute of Sustainable Development (INE), the Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network and with numerous other organizations.
- We held discussions on a regular basis with staff members of the European Commission. We participated in the regular meeting between environmental NGOs from the candidate countries and competent officials of the Union.
- In 2004, our associate, Judit Madarassy moved to Brussels, where she continues to help our work as a volunteer. She has a permanent admission card to the European Parliament; she maintains relations with several international organizations and assists in organizing our international programmes.
- The Conciliatory Forum of environment and nature protection civil organizations delegated several Clean Air Action Group associates into various working committees of the National Development Plan:
  - Erzsébet Beliczay – Environment Protection and Infrastructure Operative Programme (2003-2006)*
  - Ágnes Hajtman – EQUAL (equality of chances)*
  - András Lukács – transport*
  - Zoltán Szabó – economy*
- We took part in the work of the Monitoring Committee of the National Development Plan's Environment Protection and Infrastructure Operative Programme to be financed from the Structural Funds. We compared Hungarian and foreign experience gained in connection with EU Funds.
- Based on the social and environmental criteria of sustainability, we commented on the programmes now under preparation for the period 2007–2020.

## **Protection of built environment and green areas in the Budapest Agglomeration**

*We conducted conciliatory discussions, gave opinions and organized civil and professional forums in order to ensure that the conflicts emerging in the towns and villages of the Budapest Agglomeration are handled in an environmentally-oriented manner.*

**Project leader: Mária Schnier**

- We regularly commented on development plans of Districts II, XI, XII and XIII of Budapest and on those of Budakeszi, and occasionally also on major improvements of other local governments in the region. We participated in the relevant conciliatory discussions held in the above-mentioned districts of the Hungarian capital.

- We took part in the commenting procedures initiated by the Budapest Metropolitan Chief Architect's Office (commenting on metropolitan and district development plans and zoning regulations). We regularly attended the meetings of the City Operation Committee and the Environmental Protection Committee of the Budapest Municipality.
- We organized professional forums and press conferences about the protection of green areas and about the interest enforcement experience of local NGOs.
- We monitored the publication of the 4<sup>th</sup> metro line's impact assessment in Districts VII, VIII, IX and XI of Budapest, and we filed observations in connection with the impact assessment.
- In our opinion, the construction of the M0 motorway's western and northern sections is harmful from the aspect of environment protection and it is mistaken from the viewpoint of transport development, too. Therefore, we cooperated with the civil organizations concerned in elaborating the answers to be given to procedures related to the preparation of the M0 ring road's northern bridge.

## **Regional development**

*We made efforts to contribute to curbing urban sprawl, preserving the healthy proportion of rural and urban population, and finding the right answers to global climate change. Our activities were primarily aimed at establishing an appropriate fiscal and statutory environment, influencing decision-makers and raising public awareness.*

**Project leader: Erzsébet Beliczay**

- We continued our work of providing information for decision-makers with a view to amending the Act on Local Governments and the rules of procedure connected to regional planning.
- To moderate the impacts of global climate change, we urged that urban climatology assessments should be incorporated into applicable regulations.
- We advocated the establishment of an infrastructure, suited to improve Hungary's competitive position, which is in line with local endowments and the Hungarian society's financing capability, and we urged better maintenance of the country's existing technical assets.
- We participated in the retraining series titled „Global Village? – Global City?“, organized by the Independent Ecological Centre for local governments and Municipal Chief Architects of settlements in the Budapest Agglomeration.
- In a green event of the Péter Pázmány Catholic University in Piliscsaba, we delivered a lecture about current issues of settlement development.
- In association with the Society of Architectural Biology, we organized an international conference to facilitate the wider use of healthier building materials and technologies.
- In Szeged, as part of the Green Day event, our associate, we gave a lecture about the „Possibilities of creating a more liveable environment“.
- We travelled three times to Pécs and to Bükkösd in connection with the issue of the cement factory planned by STRABAG.

## **Transport**

*Our activities were aimed at reducing the detrimental environmental impacts of transport, establishing a more equitable system of bearing burdens in transport and securing that more support is granted to public transport and railway transportation and that traffic calming measures are introduced to enhance the quality of urban life.*

**Project leaders: András Lukács and Mária Schnier**

- A significant part of our budget reform proposals submitted to the Ministry of Finance were focused on the transport sector. The Ministry incorporated some of our proposals into the tax laws.
- In several forums, we proposed the introduction of road charges for heavy trucks. The Ministry of Environment and Water and the Ministry of Finance accepted our proposal with some modifications and even made this fact public in the press. The Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Transport wrote a letter to inform us that in 2006 it may become possible to introduce the road charge.
- We sent a letter to Prime Minister Péter Medgyessy asking him to give priority to the issue of developing railway connections between Hungary and Croatia during his meeting with the Croatian Prime Minister.
- We gave lectures at various events and institutions (at conferences, universities, colleges) on the subject of transport and environment protection.
- A two-hour video film on transport and environment was recorded of our lecture given at the Dénes Gábor College, which may be borrowed and now forms part of the curriculum.
- We provided assistance in organizing the programmes of the Gábor Baross Transport Workshop, operating under the direction of Gyula Hegyi, Member of the Hungarian Parliament.
- We attended the spring and autumn General Assembly of the Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network. Commissioned by the Network, we prepared a study which is intended to be used for influencing the European Commission and the European Parliament so that they give preference to railway investments when granting support from EU Funds. The study titled “*Heading down dead ends: Transport sector financing in Central and Eastern Europe*” was published and may also be downloaded from [http://www.bankwatch.org/publications/studies/2004/dead\\_ends-transport\\_study\\_09-04.pdf](http://www.bankwatch.org/publications/studies/2004/dead_ends-transport_study_09-04.pdf).
- On behalf of the Ministry of Environment and Water, we have been working on a study on environmentally harmful subsidies; the study mainly deals with the transport sector.
- We have registered as clients with the National Chief Inspectorate of Environment and Water with respect to the environmental impact assessment of all planned expressways and motorways.
- In Pilisborosjenő, we took part in the preparation and organization of a demonstration held by local non-government organizations with the primary aim of demanding that the Pilis region’s railways are made suitable for carrying modern public transport.
- On a continuous basis, we contributed to the National Development Plan’s preparatory work in relation to transport; we regularly commented on pertinent materials and participated in the activities of various working committees. In each case we urged that the transport-related parts of the above documents should comply with the criteria of sustainable development.
- Concerning transport issues, on the average every week several reports originating from Clean Air Action Group appeared in the written and electronic press.
- We actively participated in the work of the European Federation for Transport and Environment (T&E).
- In June 2004, we attended the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health. We were one of the main organizers of the Conference’s parallel event, the Healthy Planet Forum, where transport was a priority topic (see: <http://www.lelegzet.hu/archivum/2004/06>).
- We wrote a letter to István Csillag, Minister of Economy and Transport, concerning the failure of providing the sums required for the general examination of truck transportation

(Ro-La) railway wagons. As a result of Clean Air Action Group's intervention, the funds were finally raised for this purpose (see: <http://www.lelegzet.hu/archivum/2004/07/3071.hpp>).

- We joined the World Car-Free Network (see: [www.worldcarfree.net](http://www.worldcarfree.net)).
- In July 2004 in Berlin, we actively participated at the 4<sup>th</sup> "Towards Car-Free Cities" Conference organized by the World Car-Free Network, and we also gave two lectures. We were awarded the right to hold the 5<sup>th</sup> "Towards Car-Free Cities" Conference. The event will take place in July 2005 in Budapest.
- We addressed a petition to the European Parliament's Petition Committee, in which we pointed out that granting ISPA support for the Hungarian programme of strengthening road surfaces (i.e. raising the axle-load bearing capacity of main roads from the current 10 tons to 11.5 tons) is contrary to the Union's competition regulations, and we requested an inquiry into the matter.
- In several forums we urged that the Budapest Public Transport Company's situation should be improved. We also demanded the soonest possible establishment of the Budapest Transport Association.
- We held a demonstration in front of the Parliament with the aim of ensuring that environmentally-friendly modes of transport are given priority in the 2005 State Budget Act. We handed over a petition, addressed to Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsány, to the Head of Department of the Prime Minister's Cabinet Office (see: [http://www.levego.hu/kiadvanyok\\_allasfoglalasok/index.cgi?catID=10](http://www.levego.hu/kiadvanyok_allasfoglalasok/index.cgi?catID=10)).
- In connection with the 2005 State Budget Bill we issued a press release, in which we called the attention to the need of giving preference to railways.
- Together with the Hungarian Traffic Club, we organized railway round-table discussions on two occasions. The first one was held in Budapest on the subject of railway freight transportation (see: <http://www.lelegzet.hu/archivum/2004/07/3071.hpp>), and the second one in Gödöllő, dealing with suburban railways (see: <http://www.lelegzet.hu/archivum/2004/11/3135.hpp>).
- We were one of the main organizers of the European Mobility Week's programmes in Budapest (see: <http://www.lelegzet.hu/archivum/2004/09/3090.hpp> and <http://www.lelegzet.hu/archivum/2004/10/3114.hpp>).
- We commented on the draft versions of the Budapest Car Parking Strategy and of the new metropolitan decree on car parking. In order to promote the soonest possible adoption of the decree, we organized a spectacular demonstration, which provoked strong reaction among the press (see: <http://www.lelegzet.hu/archivum/2004/11/3135.hpp>). Once the decree is adopted, public transport may become much more attractive.
- In cooperation with numerous NGOs of the affected region, we conduct a lawsuit against the environmental protection permit and the building permit of the M0 motorway's northern bridge, demanding that financial resources should rather be spent on the development of the Esztergom railway line and the connected public transport network.
- We filed a petition to the Constitutional Court of Hungary (see: [http://www.levego.hu/kiadvany/alkotmanyb/ab\\_gyorsforgalmi04.pdf](http://www.levego.hu/kiadvany/alkotmanyb/ab_gyorsforgalmi04.pdf)) and to the UN ECE Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee controlling the observation of the Aarhus Convention (see: [http://www.levego.hu/english/publications/aarhus\\_committee\\_eng.pdf](http://www.levego.hu/english/publications/aarhus_committee_eng.pdf)) in connection with the Act on the Development of Expressways.
- We actively participated in the Public Transport Conference organized by the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (see: <http://www.rec.org/REC/Programs/EnvironmentalPolicy/PublicTransport/documents/NextStop.pdf>).

- We participated and gave a speech in the international conference organized in October 2004 in Vienna about the environmental problems of freight transportation (see: [http://www.t-e.nu/docs/Publications/2004Pubs/200904\\_vienna\\_sust\\_freight\\_conf\\_invite.pdf](http://www.t-e.nu/docs/Publications/2004Pubs/200904_vienna_sust_freight_conf_invite.pdf)).
- Upon our initiative, representatives of the Austrian Green Party addressed a question to the Austrian Transport Minister about the possible impacts that the Hungarian railways' further deterioration may have upon Austria's transport and environmental situation.
- We performed coordination work to promote the construction of the M0 ring road's eastern section.
- We contributed to the shooting of Pécel Pont-TV's film titled „Truck traffic” (downloadable from the [www.levego.hu](http://www.levego.hu) homepage).

## **Climate protection**

*Clean Air Action Group's activities were focused on emission reduction, energy saving, energy efficiency enhancement and air quality improvement, as well as on strengthening the energy-saving attitude of citizens and businesses. On the other hand, we called the attention of the general public and representatives of various special fields to possible answers to this problem and to methods of attenuating its harmful impacts.*

**Project leaders: Erzsébet Beliczay and Zoltán Szabó**

- We attended meetings of the Energy Interest Representation Council and participated in events of the National VAHAVA (Change–Impact–Answer) Climate Protection Programme.
- On several occasions, we commented on the draft version of Hungary's National Allocation Programme.
- On professional events and in articles published in our monthly “Lélegzet”, we advocated climate and environment protection criteria.
- In the Wuppertal Institute's study on climate protection, Zoltán Szabó works as Eastern Europe's volunteer expert (commissioned by WWF Europe).
- We participate in the climate protection campaign of Climate Action Network Europe (CAN-Europe), which enables us to receive information from Brussels practically without any delay.
- We delivered lectures in Balatonfüred, on the Conference of Energy Specialists; in Kunbábony, in the Summer University of Community Developers; in Debrecen, on the „Eco or Bio” Architectural Conference; and in Gödöllő, for local governments („Climate change – with less trouble”).

## **Public relations, celebration of Noted Days, relations with government agencies and with non-governmental organizations**

*We put a lot of work into improving the cooperation between non-governmental organizations and ensuring better interest enforcement by civil groups. We organized environment protection lectures and programmes, operated information stands at various events of Noted Days and represented environmental principles and criteria on various meetings and vis-à-vis government and non-government organizations. We provided support for our member organizations and other environmental NGOs through information supply, office services and organization of joint programmes.*

**Project leader: Ágnes Hajtman**

We participate in the College of nationwide organizations of the National Civil Fund. The Hungarian environmental NGOs unanimously elected Ágnes Hajtman as the Conciliatory Forum's president for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half-year of 2004.

We established relations with environmental and other NGOs in Transylvania, Romania. Ágnes Hajtman travelled twice to Kolozsvár and on one occasion to Csíkszereda for that purpose.

We took part in the National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs in Debrecen.

We actively participated in the programmes of the Earth Day (22<sup>nd</sup> April) and the Flower Exhibition (21<sup>st</sup> –25<sup>th</sup> April, Buda Division of the St. Stephen University). We were organizers of several events of the European Mobility Week (16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September) in Budapest (Opening Day, Day of Living Streets, Budapest Car-Free Day).

We disseminated and propagated environmental knowledge and information at the following summer youth festivals:

- Wanted - ZED Festival – Mezőtúr
- VOLT Festival – Sopron
- National Touristic Meeting of Hungarian University and College Students – Fonyód BÉlatelep
- Hegyalja Festival – Tokaj
- Sziget (Island) Festival – Budapest

In the past 16 years, we have been holding regular open meetings for our member organizations and experts to discuss current environmental problems and to exchange experience. The meetings are held on the second Friday of every month, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Podmaniczky Hall of the Budapest City Protection Society (Budapest VI., Eötvös u. 10.).

## **Chemical safety – chemicals policy**

*Project leader: Gergely Simon*

- Together with Greenpeace, the National Society of Conservationists, WWF and Fauna Society, we continued to play an active role in the international campaign related to the European Union's new draft directive regulating chemicals (REACH).
- We participated in the Hungarian inter-departmental working committee dealing with the issue.
- We contributed to the elaboration of the Hungarian impact assessment study on REACH.
- We organized conferences and seminars on the subject for civil groups and for representatives of academic circles.
  - We coordinated the „Chemicals Work Group” of the Healthy Planet Forum held in June in Budapest, and we organized a seminar for Hungarian participants.
  - In June, together with the National Association of Hungarian Large Families and the European Women for the Common Future organization, we organized a conference titled „Chemicals and Women” with some 100 participants.
- We took an active part in the European Environmental Bureau's task force dealing with chemicals.
- We contributed to the chemicals-related work of the European Public Health Alliance – European Environmental Network.
- We posted all relevant press releases and publications to the [www.levego.hu](http://www.levego.hu) homepage, and also made the related background materials available at [www.tiszta.levego.hu](http://www.tiszta.levego.hu).
- Clean Air Action Group provides the civil delegate into the Pesticide Authorization Conciliatory Council, where we officially suggested that more stringent regulations should be introduced on active ingredients of pesticides which are harmful for human health and the environment.



- From the aspect of environmental protection, we reviewed the environmental impact assessments and permit applications of several industrial facilities.
- We contributed to settlement development plans of local governments by elaborating supplementary industrial and environmental protection chapters.
- We participated in Hungarian and international meetings about Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs), where we rendered account of our experience.
- The chemicals warehouse of Páty and the Finomvegyszer Szövetkezet (Fine Chemicals Cooperative) in Budapest's District XI meant for us issues of top priority during the past year.

## **Air quality protection**

*Our work focused on promoting the introduction of stricter air quality regulations and on facilitating the enforcement of statutes and regulations.*

**Project leader: Gergely Simon**

- We actively participated in the European Environmental Bureau's task force dealing with air quality.
- We improved the [www.tiszta.levego.hu](http://www.tiszta.levego.hu) homepage on a continuous basis by posting fresh news, new links and recent articles. We prepared the page's specialized section on trans-boundary air pollution.
- We delivered lectures on the following conferences:
  - On the „First USA-EU «Clean Air» Seminar” organized by the European Environmental Bureau and Clean Air Task Force (American NGO) at Harvard University in the State of Massachusetts.
  - In June on the Healthy Planet Forum in Budapest
    - Lecture on the plenary meeting: Budapest's air pollution
    - International training for environmental advisory offices: Transport and air pollution
  - In December 2004, at the European Environmental and Health Strategy Conference organized in Egmond aan Zee in the Netherlands by the EU's Dutch Presidency, we brought forward a motion in the theme of indoor air quality and chemicals.

## **Agrarian environment protection**

**Project leaders: János Pál and Zoltán Szabó**

- In Siófok, at an AIESEC event we gave a lecture titled „Sustainable agriculture”.
- We issued a statement in connection with the fund regrouping experiment of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which seriously impaired the enforcement of agrarian environment protection criteria.
- Under the MethodEx international research programme, we analyzed the harmful impacts of chemicals used in agriculture.

## **Environmental Advisory Office**

*The primary mission of our Environmental Advisory Office is to advise citizens and non-governmental organizations on environmental issues. In addition, the Office often provides information to government agencies and to the press.*

**Head of Office: Péter Lenkei**

The Advisory Office receives requests from citizens on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In 2004, our Office was contacted in more than 1500 cases with environmental questions. About half of the requests arrived in e-mails and a large part by phone. Only a small portion of the queries and complaints were made personally or by sending a letter to the Office. We received

an especially large number of requests in connection with air quality protection and damage caused to the environment of towns and villages. On numerous occasions, we gave advice in the themes of nature destruction, transport-related issues and noise. As a rule, we answered the requests within 72 hours, and in many cases we tried to remedy the problem through legal procedures or by exercising our rights as clients. The authorities' unlawfully slow conduct of affairs remained a serious hindrance to our work.

Clean Air Action Group is a member of the Network of Environmental Advisory Offices (KÖTHÁLÓ). During the year, our advisors took part in 6 trainings organized by KÖTHÁLÓ with the aim of enhancing the standard of their work.

## **Media relations**

*We make efforts to secure the support of the media, which is one of the most efficient tools of awareness raising. We are readily available for the press at any time to give interviews, supply information and communicate our position. We regularly send press releases to the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) and to numerous press organs.*

***Project leaders: András Lukács and Ágnes Hajtman***

We have a permanent weekly programme on Civil Radio (on Wednesdays, between 4.30 p.m. and 5 p.m.; conversations are conducted by Ágnes Hajtman).

On the basis of our press releases and in connection with various environmental events, Clean Air Action Group's Office was contacted nearly every day by journalists of the printed and electronic press. The position statements, which we regularly send to the Hungarian News Agency and to journalists on our media list, can be read on our homepage.

## **The monthly LÉLEGZET**

[www.lelegzet.hu](http://www.lelegzet.hu)

***Editor-in-chief: Judit Varga***

The environmental monthly titled „Lélegzet” („Breath”) has been published for 14 years by Clean Air Action Group. The magazine is well-known and appreciated among Hungarian environmental protection specialists, and its articles are regularly cited and taken over by papers and journals of other profiles as well.

The 36-page monthly covers a range of different subjects within environmental protection. Special emphasis is put on the themes related to Clean Air Action Group's main fields of activity. The year 2004 saw the renewal of our magazine. Its illustrations and photographs, which remained under the editorship of Ferenc Susánszky, now are of higher standard.

“Lélegzet” preserved its scientific profile, but by launching new columns it has opened towards members of the general public who are eager to do something for the environment. As from June, the magazine is published with a colour cover, still in 3500 copies. Nationwide distribution is carried out by Lapker Co., while subscriber and complimentary copies are sent by post to the recipients. “Lélegzet” is available in numerous Hungarian educational institutions and libraries. Regular readers of the magazine include journalists, environmental protection professionals, regional and urban development specialists, ministry officials, politicians, members of civil movements and in general a large number environmentally-conscious citizens. Interested readers may also find the magazine's articles on the Internet, or may get a copy at events where Clean Air Action Group appears (e.g. conferences, festivals and fairs).

## **Environmental conflicts brought to law**

***Petitions to the Constitutional Court of Hungary***

- Petition for the nullification of the Expressway Act

- Petition for an investigation into the constitutionality of the ministerial decree on the fees of railway authority procedures

### *Lawsuits at various courts*

- At the Pest County Court, in the first instance we won our suit initiated with the aim of closing down road No. 322. (The road was constructed through a statutorily protected nature reservation area in order to provide access to the Auchan shopping mall in Dunakeszi.)
- At the Budapest Metropolitan Court, we lost the suit that we initiated against the unfairly high railway authority fee. We filed an application for review of the case with the Supreme Court of Hungary, which admitted our application.
- At the Budapest Metropolitan Court, we lost the public administration action that we initiated against the environmental protection permit of the M0 motorway's northern bridge. According to the reasons given for the decision, at the time of commencing the procedure, in 1994 (!), the current Environmental Protection Act was not yet in force, similarly to the decree on environmental impact assessments and other statutes that we referred to in our action, and so it was not possible to take these laws and statutes into consideration in the lawsuit... We filed an application for review with the Supreme Court.
- At the Budapest Metropolitan Court, we lost the civil action that we initiated against the construction of the M0 motorway's Káposztásmegyer junction. In its preliminary ruling, the Court ordered stoppage of the construction; nevertheless, after a few days the construction went on undisturbed, just as if courts did not even exist in Hungary. The Court, confronted with an accomplished fact, finally did not order demolition of the facility...
- Three non-government organizations, namely Clean Air Action Group, ETKE (Interest Protection Society of Communities and Representatives of Condominiums in Budapest's Erzsébetváros District) and LAKSZ (Alliance of Residential Community Organizations), participating actively in the preparation of the Hungarian capital's 4<sup>th</sup> metro line, brought an action against Gábor Demszky, Mayor of Budapest. The NGOs hold the view that the Mayor made statements which did not correspond to the truth and which violated the rights of civil organizations and caused serious damage to them. Therefore, the NGOs concerned requested the court to obligate Gábor Demszky to publish a qualifying statement, in which he admits that he misjudged the activity of these three civil organizations, because each of them performed valuable and successful work in improving Budapest's public transport and creating a more liveable city.

### *Appeals*

- Clean Air Action Group lodged an appeal with the National Chief Inspectorate of Environment and Water against the environmental protection permit for the construction of the first section of a new road parallel with road No. 10. The appeal was dismissed.
- We lodged an appeal with the Bács-Kiskun County Public Administration Office against the building permit of the "Malom" shopping mall in Kecskemét, requesting the annulment of the permit. The appeal was dismissed for reasons of form.
- We filed a petition to the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee concerning the provisions set forth in the Hungarian Motorway Act.
- We lodged an appeal with the Budapest Metropolitan Public Administration Office against a resolution of the Municipality of Budapest's Terézváros District granting building permit for the construction of an underground car park with 460 parking spaces in Jókai Square.

- We lodged an appeal against the establishment permit of Budapest's 4th metro line, because it does not comply with environmental protection regulations. As a consequence of our appeal, the permit was partly modified.

### ***Petitions to the Hungarian Parliament***

- Together with the Waste Reduction Alliance, the Hungarian Ornithological and Nature Conservation Society, the National Society of Conservationists and NIMFEA Nature Conservation Society, we handed over a petition to Pál Vastagh, President of the Hungarian Parliament's Committee of Constitution and Justice. According to the NGOs, the Hungarian Government presented in an unlawful manner the bills on taxes and on the following year's state budget. In addition, several passages of the bills were contrary to provisions of the Constitution of Hungary and statutes of the European Union. We were personally received by Pál Vastagh himself, but thereafter we did not obtain any feedback whatsoever.
- In August, we filed a petition to the Hungarian Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights concerning the serious damage caused by heavy truck traffic.

### **Studies and other publications**

*(The list does not contain the articles printed in our monthly LÉLEGZET and our writings published with other organizations.)*

#### ***Studies***

- *Kiss, Károly*: Environmentally Harmful Subsidies in the Hungarian Economy
- *Kiss, Károly*: Environmental Economic Theory of Subsidies
- *Kiss, Károly*: Inconsistencies in the EU Regulations on Subsidies
- *Ungvári, Gábor*: The Water Stock Contribution
- *Pavics, Lázár*: Energy Subsidies
- *Lukács, András – Tanyi, Anita*: Energy Subsidies in the European Union
- *Szabó, Zoltán*: Harmful Subsidies in Construction Material Mining
- *Beliczay, Erzsébet*: Harmful Subsidies of the Building and Construction Sector
- *Beliczay, Erzsébet*: Subsidies Encouraging Land Occupation
- *Simon, Gergely*: Harmful Subsidies of the Chemical Industry
- *Kohlheb, Norbert – Podmaniczky, László – Ángyán, József*: Agricultural Subsidies
- *Pál, János*: External Costs in Agriculture
- *Beliczay, Erzsébet*: Harmful Food Subsidies
- *Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár*: Transport Subsidies
- *Tanyi, Anita*: External Costs of Transport in Two Regions of Europe
- *Bartus, Gábor*: Waste Management Subsidies
- *Győri, Zsuzsanna*: The 2004 Competition System of the Hungarian Ministry of Economy and Transport
- *Beliczay, Erzsébet*: Challenges of Global and Local Climate Protection in Urban Environments
- *Lukács, András – Pavics, Lázár*: Proposals for the Amendment of Tax Laws
- *Madarassy, Judit*: Heading Down Dead Ends: Transport Sector Financing in Central and Eastern Europe (published by the Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network)
- *Pál, János*: Green Roofs, Green Walls

**Other publications**

- *Dragos, Tibor – Simon, Gergely: Chemicals Inside and Outside* (Clean Air Booklets – in association with the National Society of Conservationists)
- *Horváth, B. – Simon, G.: Harmful Impacts of Motor Vehicles* (Picture postcard and poster in Hungarian and in English)
- *Lenkei, Péter: Do Not Burn It!* (Clean Air Booklets)
- *Simon, Gergely: Air Pollution* (Clean Air Booklets)
- *Simon, Gergely: REACH – Myths and Reality* (Information sheet for decision-makers)

**Financial Report of Clean Air Action Group for 2004  
under Act C of 2000 on Accounting  
and Government Decree No. 224/2000  
(XII. 19.)  
(in thousand HUF)**

BALANCE SHEET	
ASSETS	
<b>A. Fixed assets</b>	<b>3 236</b>
I. Intangible assets	131
II. Tangible assets	3 105
<b>B. Current assets</b>	<b>14 978</b>
III. Receivables	6 301
IV. Liquid assets	8 677
<b>C. Prepaid expenses and accrued income</b>	<b>380</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>18 594</b>
LIABILITIES	
<b>D. Equity</b>	<b>1024</b>
I. Initial capital	
II. Changes in capital	30 914
V. Earnings from activities of public interest in the year under review	-31 148
VI. Profit on business activities in the year under review	1 258
<b>E. Provisions</b>	
<b>F. Liabilities</b>	<b>3 186</b>
III. Short-term liabilities	3 186
<b>G. Accrued expenses and deferred income</b>	<b>14 384</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>18 594</b>

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT	
<b>A. Total revenues from activities of public interest</b>	<b>32 784</b>
1. Subsidies received for operation of public interest	
d. other	3 230
2. Subsidies gained through applications	21 657
3. Revenues from activities of public interest	1 734
4. Revenues from membership fees	3 998
5. Other revenues	2 165
<b>B. Revenues from business activities</b>	<b>5 677</b>
<b>C. Total revenues</b>	<b>38 461</b>
<b>D. Expenditures on activities of public interest</b>	<b>63 932</b>
Material-type expenditures	27 397
Payments to personnel	27 148
Depreciation	1 543
Other expenditures	7 733
Expenditures on financial transactions	111
<b>E. Expenditures on business activities</b>	<b>4 419</b>
Material-type expenditures	4 419
<b>F. Total expenditures</b>	<b>68 351</b>
<b>G. Profit on business activities before taxation</b>	<b>1 258</b>
<b>H. Tax payable</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>I. Profit on business activities in the year under review</b>	<b>1 258</b>
<b>J. Earnings from activities of public interest in the year under review</b>	<b>-31 148</b>

*Note: In 2004, Clean Air Action Group switched over from single-entry bookkeeping to double-entry bookkeeping; therefore, its Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement are not comparable with the cash flow type financial statements of 2003.*

Information data	
<b>A. Payments to personnel</b>	
1. Payroll	17 645
out of that: fees for commissioned work	4 829
2. Other payments to personnel	3 647
3. Social security and other charges on wages	5 856
<b>B. Subsidies granted by the organization</b>	
Polish partner participating in the PHARE programme (INE)	4 185
Budapest University of Technology and Economic Sciences	2 000
Society for a Ragweed-Free Hungary	280
AEISEC	14

Itemization of revenues and subsidies received by Clean Air Action Group in 2004

Source	Target	thousand HUF
<b>State budget (Environment Protection Fund, National Civil Fund)</b>	Itemization in the other table	24 242
<b>Local governments</b>	Itemization in the other table	813
<b>Subsidies received from EU sources</b>	PHARE, METHODEX	
European Commission (PHARE)	(1) Green budget reform, (2) Settlement development plans, (3) Educational campaign about the environmental protection aspects of Hungary's EU accession, (4) European Car-Free Conference	5 487
METHODEX	Research and development	3 797
<b>Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)</b>	Green budget reform	501
<b>FÖS</b>	Green Budget Reform newsletter	1 143
<b>Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network</b>	Study on transport	1 734
<b>Konkam Bt.</b>	European Mobility Week	100
<b>Budapest Metropolitan Waterworks Co.</b>	Protection of public roads	3 000
<b>Independent Ecological Centre</b>		893
<b>Other grants</b>		130
<b>1 % of personal income tax</b>		29
<b>Membership fees</b>		3 998
<b>Business activities (studies, publications)</b>		5 677
<b>Intermediated services</b>		697
<b>Refunding by the Labour Centre</b>		357
<b>Civilian service</b>		85
<b>Bank interests and interests earned</b>		123
<b>Total revenues</b>		<b>52 806</b>

**Statement of the amounts and use of budgetary subsidies in 2004**

<b>Entity granting the subsidy</b>	<b>Amount of the subsidy</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Used amount</b>	<b>Carried forward</b>
<b>State budget:</b>				
Environment Protection Fund	8947	Operation of the Environmental Advisory Office; Updating the Internet site of the monthly "Lélegzet"; Climate protection and sustainable use of energy; Eco-social state budget reform; European Car-Free Day; Green Feast in the heart of Budapest; Green Budget Reform Conference; "Clean Air Wanted!" (educational campaign on air pollution); "Better Public Transport" campaign; Continuous work of editing the monthly "Lélegzet"; Protection of trees and green areas; Commenting on settlement development plans	3317	5630
National Civil Fund	15295	Subsidy for operation; Settlement climate protection in the common Europe; Renewal of the monthly "Lélegzet"; "Let's breathe together" (television spot)	7000	8295
<b>Local governments:</b>				
Budapest Municipality	813	„For a More Liveable City” campaign; A publication for schools to assist environmental awareness raising		
<b>European Union funds</b>	9284	Phare ACCESS, Methodex research and development	9284	



**Itemization of Clean Air Action Group's expenditures in 2004**

<b>Costs and expenditures</b>	<b>thousand HUF</b>
Materials	990
Prints and office supplies	895
Telephone	1 730
Internet use	1 051
Repair and maintenance	207
Advertisements and publicity	497
Books and journals	682
Post	1 007
Rental charges	4 727
Travelling costs	2 034
Translation and interpreting	880
Printing and proof-reading	3 644
Conferences	4 017
Experts' fees	1 796
Training courses	1 930
Entertainment costs	1 675
Civilian service	307
Other payment to personnel	1 665
Banking costs	306
Homepage updating	398
Payroll	17 645
Social security and other charges on wages	5 856
Depreciation	1 543
Dues to authorities	346
Membership fees (EEB, etc.)	81
Insurance premiums	35
Transportation costs	77
Subsidies re-transferred to other organizations (see "Information data")	6 479
Fee of appeal to the Hungarian Chief Inspectorate of Transport	567
Other costs (photocopying, linguistic revision, opinion poll, etc.)	5 284
<b>Total costs and expenditures</b>	<b>68 351</b>

**Statement  
of benefits granted to leading officers in 2004**

Clean Air Action Group's leading officers did not receive any benefits.

**Statement of the use of assets in 2004**

Clean Air Action Group's earnings in the year under review are negative; therefore, the use of assets is as follows:

Earnings from activities of public interest in the year under review:	-31 448 thousand HUF
Profits on business activities in the year under review:	1 258 thousand HUF
Total:	-29 890 thousand HUF

Clean Air Action Group did not have any initial capital; therefore, the use of assets has an impact on "Changes in capital" and on "Equity".

**Statement of target benefits in 2004**

Description of benefit	Amount (th HUF)
Total amount of pecuniary benefits granted within the framework of activities of public interest:	2 294
Amount of re-transferred pecuniary subsidies	4 185

# **Work Plan of Clean Air Action Group (Hungary) for the Year 2005**

## **I. General**

1. We will work continuously for the implementation of the goals formulated in the statement „Expectations of Environment and Nature Protection NGOs from the Government of the Republic of Hungary between 2002 and 2006 to Ensure Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development”, accepted unanimously by the 12<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs held in Szarvas (see issue No. 2002/4 of our monthly „Lélegzet” – <http://www.lelegzet.hu/archivum/?0137>).
2. We will elaborate our proposals for the Hungarian Government’s commitments for the period 2006–2010, and we will make efforts to win over as many NGOs as possible to the cause.
3. We will enhance our educational activities towards the population, the media and the decision-makers. Within this field it is a priority task to ensure that our monthly magazine Lélegzet („Breath”) assists readers in finding orientation in current environmental issues. Main target groups of the magazine are the media, students of higher education institutions, politicians, middle-level managers of the business sphere, experts specialized in environmental issues and NGOs.
4. We will continue to hold regular monthly meetings for our member organizations and members of Clean Air Action Group’s Board of Experts.
5. On Tuesdays between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. we will offer the opportunity for representatives of our member organizations and the Board of Experts to meet and exchange experience in our Office. If arranged in advance, such meetings may also be held at other time.
6. We will regularly publish Clean Air Action Group’s Circular for member organizations and members of the Board of Experts.
7. We will significantly increase the number of our members.
8. In the themes related to our scope of activities, we will take part in legislation procedures.
9. We will keep regular contacts with competent EU institutions.
10. We will maintain continuous relations with officials of relevant ministries and other authorities.
11. We will pay special attention to questions of public health and environmental sanitation, as well as to the environmental quality of Hungarian towns and villages.
12. We will address environmental problems related to sports.
13. We will maintain and operate our Environmental Advisory Office.
14. We will organize professional and other events to encourage the exchange of opinions and information.
15. Directly and through our member organizations, we will keep monitoring the environment protection programmes of local governments, as well as the planning and implementation thereof.
16. At least once a year we will convene the plenary meeting of Clean Air Action Group’s Board of Experts.
17. We will provide professional assistance for the implementation of environmental educational and school programmes.
18. In our monthly „Lélegzet”, we will give an account of each of our official visits abroad.
19. We will lay great emphasis on organizational development questions.

## **II. State budget and taxation system**

1. We will continue our professional and educational work to make the state budget and the taxation system more environment-friendly.
2. We will elaborate our alternative state budget proposals for 2006.
3. We will continue our work aiming at the preparation of a register, as accurate as possible, listing state subsidies granted to activities causing serious environment pollution and damage to human health. We will participate in the related professional and educational work.

4. We will prepare a new educational booklet on green budget reform.
5. We will continuously monitor the use of funds under the scope of authority of the Ministry of Environment and Water, and we will make recommendations if necessary.
6. We will closely cooperate with Hungarian and foreign organizations and individuals who work for the implementation of the green budget reform.
7. We will continue to participate actively in the campaign of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) for an environmental fiscal reform.
8. Within the framework of MethodEx, a priority research programme of the EU, we will take part in the assessment of environmental externalities. (This pioneering research programme attempts to elaborate a methodology in the sectors of industry, agriculture and waste management for the determination of the value of environmental damage, because at present the economic decision-making system is not yet capable of handling such environmental externalities.)
9. We will take part in the international campaign coordinated by Green Budget Germany (FÖS).
10. We will contribute actively and with initiatives to the work of the State Budget Working Group of the Hungarian Parliament's Environment Protection Committee.

### **III. Transport**

1. We will organize a campaign aiming to improve and make more environmentally-friendly the transport of Budapest.
2. We will urge a lasting solution to the funding problems of public transport, and we will elaborate proposals to that end.
3. We will urge that the Budapest Transport Association should be established as soon as possible, and that joint public transport passes should be introduced as a first step.
4. We will take steps to ensure that the construction of the planned 4<sup>th</sup> metro line in Budapest is implemented in compliance with the requirements of environmental regulations and the conditions stipulated in the project's environmental protection permit.
5. We will keep on campaigning to promote the soonest possible introduction of Budapest Municipality's new decree on car parking.
6. We will continue our drive to improve railway transport.
7. We will organize a campaign for diverting an increasing part of freight transportation from roads to railways, and we will advocate the wider use of combined freight transportation. To this end, we will shoot a 30-second spot film, which will be broadcast on several TV channels. In addition, we will prepare and widely distribute a short educational booklet.
8. When invited, we will participate in forums organized by the Hungarian State Railways Co., and we will speak up for the environmentally-friendly modes of transport.
9. If possible, we will publish articles in the "Railwaymen's Magazine" and in "IC Magazine".
10. We will continue our educational activities to make the external costs of transport known, and we will urge that these should gradually be built into the prices, with special regard to heavy trucks.
11. We will monitor the activities of the Hungarian Parliament, the Government, local governments and regional development councils in the field of transport; we will express our views and will work out recommendations in questions involving environment protection.
12. We will promote stronger public participation in decisions related to transport. Within that, we will participate in interest reconciliation discussions held with the Ministry of Economy and Transport, and we will urge that the work of the Budapest Transport Forum should be restarted, in which we wish to take an active part.
13. We will pay greater attention to the protection of green areas, with special regard to flora damage caused by motorized road vehicles and to land occupation by transport.
14. We will continue our activities to facilitate urban traffic calming, and within that especially to promote the introduction of parking regulations and 30 km/h speed limit zones, as well as to improve in general

the conditions for pedestrian traffic. We will perform educational work aiming to cut back the use of cars.

15. We will enhance our cooperation with cycling organizations to ensure better conditions for bicycle traffic.
16. Cooperating internationally, we will make efforts to attain that the development of railways is given preference instead of constructing new motorways in Hungary, and that the funds allocated for huge road construction projects are rather spent on the efficient operation, maintenance and renovation of the existing transport networks.
17. Also by attracting public attention and through awareness raising, we will strive to restrict the fragmenting and landscape destroying effects of road construction projects, with special regard to the tracks of the M0, M3 and M7 motorways. We will monitor the plans related to motorway construction by taking into consideration the environment and health protection viewpoints of the affected population and area. We will initiate and support legal proceedings, if necessary.
18. We will monitor the regional development policies of the Government and local governments, with special attention to the development of transport. We will evaluate the results on a continuous basis, and will forward our comments and suggestions to those concerned.
19. We will advocate the elaboration of transport and environment protection Technical Directives for the planning of shopping malls, petrol stations, underground garages and other establishments attracting a lot of traffic.
20. In both Budapest and other cities, we will actively participate in the organization and arrangement of events of the European Mobility Week and the European Car-Free Day.
21. In July 2005, we will organize the 5<sup>th</sup> “Car-Free Cities” Conference in Budapest.
22. We will revise our study earlier titled “Are Railways Uneconomical?”, and we will publish it once again under the new title “How Can Railways Be Made Economical?”, updated with the latest relevant data. We will widely distribute this publication among decision-makers, journalists and non-government organizations. We will also prepare the English version of the study to be forwarded to competent EU agencies and to other institutions.
23. We will urge immediate revision of the concept on the development of regional airports and full abolition of all state support granted for such purposes.
24. We will promote that the salting of road surfaces should be substantially reduced and that other methods should be applied to prevent slippery road conditions in the winter.
25. We will extend and intensify our international relations, especially with the European Federation for Transport and Environment and its member organizations, as well as with other environmental groups dealing with transport issues.

#### **IV. Regional development; housing and construction**

1. We will advocate reforming the regional planning and building procedures, and in connection with that amending the Act on Local Governments, the Act on Regional Planning, the Act on Building and Construction, the Government Decree on National Settlement Planning and Building Requirements, as well as the National Territorial Planning Scheme.
2. We will promote the elaboration of a system of economic incentives and regulations contributing to sustainable regional development.
3. We will continue to comment on development plans and other development projects of local governments. We will keep registering our intention to take part in the procedures of commenting on the impact assessments of major investment projects.
4. We will participate in the work of the Preliminary Monitoring Committee of the Environment Protection and Infrastructure Operative Programme. We will cooperate with other environmental NGOs and regional agencies to ensure that the Funds of the European Union are used in a manner promoting sustainable development.

5. We will pursue our programme concerning the revitalization of brown fields. We will endorse cooperation between local governments, businesses and local residents. We will support setting up the central funds necessary for the revitalization.
6. We will promote the protection of trees and green areas in and around settlements. We will encourage the creation of new green areas. We will urge the soonest possible approval of the new statute on the protection of trees, the draft of which we have already elaborated in cooperation with the Environmental Management and Law Association (EMLA).
7. We will publish an educational booklet on green walls.
8. We will make efforts to enforce environmental considerations in housing policies. We will continue our advocacy and awareness raising activities to promote the renovation of the existing stock of buildings.
9. We will endorse and propagate the activities of local governments that have put into practice the principles of sustainability. We will assist them in their efforts to raise the funds necessary for that work.
10. We will initiate that urban climate assessments be made compulsory in order to ensure better environmental conditions for urbanized areas.
11. We will assist local NGOs and groups of residents in their efforts for a better environment and for aesthetic public places.
12. We will initiate a dialogue between businesses, local communities and local governments to promote environmentally sound development projects.
13. We will make efforts to enhance the standard of landscape protection and visual culture.
14. We will contribute to improving the sustaining capability of rural areas and to strengthening the second pillar of the agrarian sector.
15. We will take steps to protect the drinking water bases, particularly in the area of the Budapest Agglomeration.

#### **V. Climate protection and energy policy**

1. We will continue our professional and educational activities, with special focus on energy prices and the enhancement of energy efficiency. Our main objective is to attain that energy saving is motivated by both the price of energy and various state funds.
2. We will endorse the implementation of competitive and environmentally sound heating systems.
3. We will advocate stronger public participation in decisions concerning energy policy. Within that, we will keep playing an active role in the Energy Interest Representation Council and in the interest reconciliation work going on at the Ministry of Economy and Transport.
4. We will monitor major energy policy developments in the European Union, with particular attention to greenhouse gas emission rights trading and energy liberalization.
5. We will encourage the wider use of cogeneration (CHP) and the utilization of renewable energy sources in a manner which contributes to expanding employment and which fits in well with the natural endowments of Hungary.

#### **VI. Protection of air quality by other means**

1. We will take steps in order to cut down industrial air pollution sources, including power plants and waste incineration works.
2. In our year-round nation-wide campaign we will highlight the problem of transport-related air pollution.
3. We will closely monitor the European Union's legislation process related to air quality (CAFE), and we will make Hungarian NGOs and decision-makers acquainted with it.
4. We will further develop the [www.tiszta.levego.hu](http://www.tiszta.levego.hu) homepage.
5. We will advocate solving the problems related to allergenic substances, with special focus on prevention.
6. We will publish educational booklets on air pollution in general, on indoor air pollution and on waste incineration.

## **VII. Chemical safety – chemicals policy**

1. Jointly with Greenpeace and the National Society of Conservationists, we will play an active role in the international campaign related to the European Union's new draft directive on chemicals (REACH).
2. We will participate in the Hungarian inter-departmental working committee dealing with the issue.
3. We will release an educational publication on the environmental and health impacts of chemicals.
4. We will take part in the campaign of European NGOs with the aim of making the new EU regulation on chemicals (REACH) as stringent as possible from an environmental viewpoint.
5. We will work to raise public awareness of the need to employ environmentally sound technologies instead of using building materials that pose hazard to both the environment and human health.
6. We will continue with the analysis of the environmental and health impacts of the Hungarian pesticide use and authorization practice.
7. We will participate in the work of the Hungarian Pesticide Authorization Conciliatory Council.
8. We will release a publication about the impacts and correct use of pesticides.

## **VIII. Civil cooperation**

1. We will improve our cooperation with other Hungarian environment and nature protection organizations, and with other NGOs.
2. We will enhance our cooperation with foreign environment and nature protection NGOs, especially with movements working in the European Union.
3. We will provide support and assistance to our member organizations in their fund-raising efforts and their participation in tenders.
4. We will take part in the work of the National Civil Fund.
5. We will play an active role in the 15<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of Hungarian Environment and Nature Protection NGOs. We will organize and conduct the National Meeting's "Green Budget Reform", "Transport" and "Chemical Safety" Sections.
6. We will take part in the programmes and the organization of several Noted Day events, with particular focus on the European Mobility Week.
7. We will set up educational stands and give lectures at summer youth festivals.