



MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE
OF HUNGARY



Budapest



Invitation

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, in cooperation with the Embassy of Denmark, the Embassy of Finland, the Embassy of Iceland, the Norwegian Embassy and the Embassy of Sweden, has the pleasure to invite you or your representative to the following event:

Nordic Green Light: Hungary and the Nordic countries promoting green economy

A sustainability business forum with partners from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Hungary

Monday, 8 May, 2017

Venue: Council of Europe Youth Centre, Zivatar utca 1, 1027 Budapest, Hungary

Please save the date and find draft programme enclosed. A more detailed program will follow in due course.
You are kindly requested to cover your travel and accommodation costs.

Welcome to Budapest! Due to the limited number of seats available at the venue, please note that **maximum of two people per company/organization** could attend. We kindly ask you to respect this limitation.

Please register at <https://goo.gl/forms/iglln6EmxmSKIpa92> by **31 March, 2017**.

Dear Sir/Madam, Dear Friends,

The notion of Green Economy has reached Hungary. We are going through a gradual policy change with more and more attention to environmental sustainability, renewable energy and other green solutions. This is the single most important underlying reason for us to organize Nordic Green Light, a sustainability business forum, in cooperation with our Nordic friends for Hungarian business ventures and other interested stakeholders.

Generally speaking, national energy policies inside the European Union have three priorities: 1. sustainability, 2. affordability, 3. security of supply. Individual Member States highlight various aspects of these objectives according to their own choice based on their needs. **Hungary has traditionally underlined the security of supply aspect** due to its historical high gas import dependence on a single source. Getting rid of this dependency, especially from the consequences of the conflicts between Russia and the Ukraine, has always been in the focus of Hungarian energy policy in recent years.

Our new focus on environmental sustainability is also a part of this approach. A more diverse energy mix with more energy from renewable sources can contribute to a drop in our gas consumption in a similar way as energy saving measures or more efficient energy use.

Compared to our Central and Eastern European neighbours, Hungary has had a relatively clean energy mix with a high share of low-carbon energy production for several decades now, thanks to, first and foremost, our Paks nuclear power station. More recently, we have also embraced climate change mitigation and adaptation policies in order to contribute to international action against climate change. This is yet another reason for our policy change towards sustainability and Green Economy.

We have reformed the subsidy system of renewable energy sources in accordance with the latest EU legislation. **Hungary is particularly rich in biomass and geothermal potential and business opportunities are out there – in abundance.** We also have much room for improvement for example in the district heating sector and our aging power stations need to be refurbished as well, albeit we can rely on a quite developed energy transmission system.

We also see great potential in the development of green transport. Our public road infrastructure is modern but the private car stock is outdated, not to mention our really old public transport bus fleets. The Hungarian economy is highly dependent on the automotive industry so a successful transition to electromobility and other innovative alternative technologies is vital from a national economy perspective, too.

Innovation is also a key to decrease dependence. Our state-owned power company MVM Zrt has recently published a new strategy focusing on regional ambitions towards the Western Balkans and innovation promotion. Hungary has always been a country of creativity and original way of thinking so we very much hope to be able to highlight some innovative solutions at Nordic Green Light as well.

Beyond the global and national approaches, **promoting "green" development efforts also at the municipal level is highly important.** It is clearly visible that sustainable and smart solutions are increasingly used both in larger cities and smaller municipalities. Hungarian municipalities try to meet their sustainability objectives through multi-city cooperation, national associations and clusters or the Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy at the European Union level.

I am looking forward to meeting you in Budapest in May.

Sincerely yours,

Pál Ságvári
Ambassador-at-large for Energy Security