



## FRDO/CFDD contribution to Belgium's National Reform Programme (NRP) for 2012

### Council activities relating to EU 2020 and the NRP

By way of contribution to the NRP, the Federal Council for Sustainable Development (known by the Dutch/French initials FRDO/CFDD) refers to its activities relating to the NRP and the themes thereof:

1. Its position on the consultation of 6 April 2011 with the councils about the NRP 2011, and its opinions on the NRP of 27 October 2010 (Opinion on Belgium's National Reform Programme in connection with the EU 2020 strategy) ([2010a11n](#)), of 4 September 2007 (Opinion on the Progress Report 2007 on the Lisbon Strategy – Implementation of Belgium's National Reform Programme ([2007a12e](#)), of 7 June 2006 (Opinion on the Progress Report on the Lisbon Strategy – Implementation of Belgium's National Reform Programme) ([2006a11](#)), and of August 2005 (Opinion on the National Reform Programme for the transposition of the "Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs 2005-2008) ([2005a07](#)).

*In these positions and opinions, the Council stressed that the NRP must include a cross-sectional approach based on the objective of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. It is hereby necessary to elucidate the links between the EU 2020 approach as a short- and medium-term vision and the sustainable development strategy as a long-term vision.*

2. Its recent opinions on subjects that are raised in the NRP: in particular, the **Opinion on the green loan** ([2011a13n](#)), **Opinion on the use of green taxation for the benefit of ecodriving** ([2011a12n](#)), **Opinion on Rio+20** ([2011a11e](#)), **Opinion on the reduction of energy consumption in buildings** ([2011a04n](#)) and the **Opinion on the UN's Rio+20 conference** ([2011a03n](#)).
  - *The opinion on the energy efficiency of buildings in our country, contains a series of recommendations concerning standards, information provision, taxation, investment financing, residential mobility and new, more collective forms of housing.*
  - *The opinions on green taxation must be seen together with the framework opinion "on the greening of taxation in connection with sustainable development" ([2009a15e](#)), and can provide a useful contribution for the NRP, certainly in view of the Commission's recommendation concerning the greening of taxation in its [comments on Belgium's National Reform Programme 2011](#).*
  - *In its opinions on Rio+20, the FRDO/CFDD underscored the importance of the greening of the economy – a topic that is crucial for the NRP as well.*

3. Its other activities on the matter include the [FRDO/CFDD Annual Forum 2011 on Resource Efficiency](#) held on 31 March 2011, and the [RIO+20 event / Awarding of FRDO/CFDD press prize](#), held on 28 February 2012.

- *The Annual Forum on Resource Efficiency refers to one of the flagship initiatives defined in the EU 2020 strategy (“efficient use of resources”). In this connection, the Commission published both its “Energy Efficiency Plan 2011” and a communication entitled “A resource efficient Europe – Flagship initiative under the EU2020 strategy” (September 2011). The roadmap entitled [“A Resource Efficient Europe”](#) mentions explicitly that member states “(must) report on efficient use of resources as part of their national reform programmes.” In this connection, the member states must in particular identify the most important environment-friendly subsidies and draw up plans to reduce them.*

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