



Österreich 2006 ê Präsidentschaft der Europäischen Union
Austria 2006 ê Presidency of the European Union
Autriche 2006 ê Présidence de l'Union Européenne

Vienna, January 2006

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

Sustainable development is an overarching long term goal of the European Union (European Council in Gothenburg 2001, adoption of the Sustainable Development Strategy). The review of this Strategy will be discussed in 2006 (COM(2005) 658 final).

Globalisation confronts with new challenges and each citizen will need a wide range of key competences to adapt flexibly to a rapidly changing and highly interconnected world.

Education in its dual role – social and economic – plays a key role in ensuring that European citizens acquire the knowledge and skills to adapt to global change in a perspective of responsible global citizenship.

Success in reversing unsustainable trends resulting from our way of life will also depend to a large extent of our educational approach for future generations. Hence, Education for Sustainable Development can be a vital contribution towards an overall revised EU strategy for Sustainable Development.

Therefore the Austrian Presidency will host a conference on „*Education for Sustainable Development towards responsible global citizenship*” in Vienna, Austria from March 13 to 15, 2006.

The conference will provide a forum for an enhanced exchange of information and experience between Member States as well as for good practice to be identified with a view to providing perspectives and guidance for possible future developments and networking.

EU member states, pre-accession countries, candidate countries and EEA/EFTA countries are invited to participate. We would therefore kindly ask you to nominate till January 31, 2006 four experts per country preferably from the fields of education (two representatives), environment (1 representative) and youth (1 representative) to take part in this conference.

Please note that the European Commission will cover the accommodation costs and provide a grant for travel costs for a maximum of two participants from the countries listed above in accordance with the usual Commission rules.

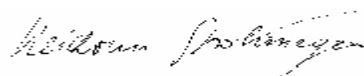
The allocation of this subsidy should be agreed at national level. Please do also note that the subsidy for other participants will be covered by the nominating country.

Additionally Austria will invite one expert from Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Kazakhstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Ukraine.

Please find organisational details on the conference and on the registration under www.bmbwk.gv.at/bine-edd-esd.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Vienna!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heidrun Strohmeier".

Heidrun Strohmeier
Director General