



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW)  
(30 May-5 June 2015)  
- Information from the German, French and Austrian delegations

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Delegations will find attached an information note from the German, French and Austrian delegations on the above subject, which will be discussed under "Any other business" at the Environment Council meeting on 28 October 2014.

**European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW)  
(30 May-5 June 2015)**

**- Information from the German, French and Austrian delegations**

On the initiative of Germany, France, Austria and a European Sustainable Development Week will take place for the first time from 30 May to 5 June 2015. The three countries invite all Member States and EU institutions to participate in and support European Sustainable Development Week.

National sustainable development days and weeks have been held since 2003 in France, since 2012 in Germany and since 2013 in Austria. The annual European Sustainable Development Week is intended to generate momentum at European level. Synergies with EU Green Week, which is to take place across Europe at the same time, will also be highlighted.

Germany, France and Austria believe that the sustainability approach has to be established locally, regionally and nationally as well as at European and international level. The objective of European Sustainable Development Week is to make the multitude of different projects and the great diversity of people involved in sustainable development visible locally as well as nationally and internationally. Enterprises, NGOs, associations, societies, administrations at different levels as well as committed citizens will have the opportunity to present their sustainability projects taking place during this period by registering them on a website, interested people will be able to obtain information, and exchange and networking will be promoted.

The initiative for ESDW was developed within the framework of the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN), which has existed since 2002 and involves sustainability experts from the competent ministries of all 28 EU Member States. In early November 2014 the ESDN will launch the European Sustainable Development Week via its network and will support the implementation of this project, including establishing and maintaining a joint European website. So that national conditions can be taken into account, all Member States are asked to appoint a contact (focal point).