



*Presenting the*  
**European  
Green Belt**

**10 May 2012  
2.30 – 5 pm**

Hanse-Office  
Avenue Palmerston 20  
B-1000 Brussels



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During Cold War times for decades the Iron Curtain separated Europe into East and West. Along the inhuman borderline, a Green Belt of natural areas developed. Today, this is Europe's longest ecological network and an outstanding symbol of the peaceful ending of the Cold War and Europe's ongoing integration. It is not just an ecological corridor and a prime example for trans-boundary nature conservation, but also a territorial challenge with geopolitical and cultural relevancies. The European Green Belt initiative produces new relations between old and new EU Member States, EU Candidate Countries, and the external border of the EU – the Green Belt connects 24 countries along 12,500 kilometres ([www.europeangreenbelt.org](http://www.europeangreenbelt.org)).

During the meeting at the Hanse-Office, short keynote speeches outlining already achieved results and future activities including an outlook on further needs and possible enhancements will be given by Green Belt representatives active throughout Europe.

## Programme

### Welcome

**Jürgen Blucha** (*Hanse-Office*), and **Christel Schroeder** (*President of the EuroNatur Foundation*)

### Key-note speeches

**Jussi Soramäki** (*Ministry of Environment, Finland*): **Fennoscandian Green Belt**

**Dr. Liana Geidezis** (*BUND-Project Office Green Belt*): **Central European Green Belt**

**Gabriel Schwaderer** (*EuroNatur Foundation*): **Balkan Green Belt**

Challenges and possibilities for the EU to support this European natural and cultural heritage as well as opportunities for regional development, nature tourism and sustainable agricultural use will be presented and discussed. The working language will be English.

**RSVP until 7 May 2012 to [events@hanse-office.de](mailto:events@hanse-office.de)**

The event is hosted by the Hanse-Office in cooperation with EuroNatur Foundation and BUND-Project Office Green Belt.



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