

BIEN - Basic Income Earth Network - NEWSFLASH 42, November 2006

www.basicincome.org

The Basic Income Earth Network was founded in 1986 as the Basic Income European Network. It expanded its scope from Europe to the Earth in 2004. It serves as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income, and fosters informed discussion on this topic throughout the world.

The present NewsFlash has been prepared with the help of Paul Nollen, Margit Appel, Karim Azer-Nessim, David Casassas, Jurgen De Wispelaere, Katrin Mohr, Guy Standing, Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy, Philippe Van Parijs, and Karl Widerquist.

This NewsFlash can be downloaded as a PDF document on our website www.basicincome.org

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1. EDITORIAL by Guy Standing

To those unfamiliar with it, Africa might seem the most unpropitious part of the world for a basic income. It is the most impoverished continent, and administrative structures of government are scarcely among the most developed. Yet the casual observer could be mistaken.

Part of the reason is that the capacity of governments to operate standard forms of social security is weak and prone to be very costly as well as inequitable, particularly bearing in mind that only a minority of people is in formal employment. Yet the need for basic income security is acute. Forced by a series of social and economic shocks and emergencies that we have all seen on our TV screens, foreign aid agencies have been turning to simple cash transfers. Initially, they have tried to target them by trying to identify the poor to whom they should give such transfers. Then they have found that this exercise is futile, misguided or simply very expensive to carry out. And they have realised that the costs of means-testing have threatened to eat up much of the money available for the poor and economically insecure. The fine people working on the ground have passed the message back, and to their credit the administrators of international development or emergency aid have been listening.

Thus it is that Africa has become a continent in which forms of basic income are being introduced on an experimental basis. And, guess what, they are working just as BIEN members would expect. No doubt the likes of

the IMF will tell African governments that they cannot afford a basic income scheme, as they have done recently in Namibia. They will quietly overlook the huge subsidies being given to the rich, to large corporations and selected export-oriented sectors. They will support 'tax incentives' for multinationals. But they will oppose the one policy that could dramatically and effectively reduce poverty while boosting the livelihoods of communities ravaged by AIDS, malaria, drought, ecological decay or economic devastation. Shame on them.

We must energise the debate in Africa. And a start was made at the BIEN Congress held in Cape Town on November 2-4, 2006. The BIG (Basic Income Grant) Coalition is reorganising in South Africa, and it was wonderful that at the end of the Congress Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Laureate and one of the great figures of the anti-apartheid struggle, gave [a moving and effective speech](#) in favour of a basic income. More good news followed the Congress. A day afterwards the Minister of Social Development of the South African Government issued a statement saying that he favoured the introduction of a basic income in South Africa. The time surely will come when the President and the Finance Minister will see that their legacy could be made by their introduction of anti-poverty grants.

As for the Congress itself, many congratulations should go to Ingrid van Niekerk and her colleagues at EPRI and at the University of Cape Town for organising and hosting the event. My fellow co-chair, Eduardo Suplicy, was in customary fine form, fresh from his wonderful re-election victory as Senator for Sao Paulo, where he received nearly nine million votes. He joked that some people in Brazil accuse him of talking too much about a basic income. Shame on them too!

Guy Standing, co-Chair of BIEN

2. BIEN 11th CONGRESS: 2-4 November 2006, Cape Town (SA)

The Eleventh BIEN CONGRESS was held by the Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) on 2-4 November 2006, at the University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa (www.epri.org.za).

The [minutes of the General Assembly](#) have been posted on the website, as a PDF document. The main decisions of the Assembly include:

1. Approval of [BIEN New Statutes](#), with more specific details for BIEN's new worldwide era.
2. Recognition of a new national affiliate network: "Basic Income Guarantee Australia" (BIGA)
Basic Income Guarantee Australia (BIGA)
Founded in 2002
www.basicincome.qut.edu.au
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3. Presentation of the "Report to the General Assembly on the State of Basic Income by Country", written by Eri Noguchi and Ingrid van Niekerk (soon available).
4. Venue of the next Congress: **Dublin in 2008** (3-day Congress in late June or the first week of July or late August).
5. Elections:
Co-chair – Guy Standing
Co-chair – Eduardo Suplicy
Secretary-Treasurer – David Casassas
Newsletter Editor – Yannick Vanderborcht
Website Coordinator – Karl Widerquist
Regional Coordinator – Ingrid van Niekerk
Regional Coordinator / at-large member – Eri Noguchi

Fundraiser / at-large member – Louise Haagh

Please note that Sean Healy of BIEN Ireland has been appointed Conference Organizer.

Basic Income Studies receives financial support from BIEN

In September Basic Income Studies submitted an application for BIEN funding to the tune of EUR1200 per annum for a period of four years (2007-2010). This grant, together with continuous support from the Spanish Basic Income Network, would allow BIS to bridge the starting phase of the project until such time as subscriptions match the costs of producing the journal (primarily professional copy-editing services). After careful analysis of the BIS application, BIEN's Executive Committee, at its Cape Town meeting on November 1, decided to respond positively to their request. The EC believes the project embodies one of the core objectives of BIEN, i.e. to stimulate debate in and disseminate well-informed research on basic income, and as such merits our support.

From 2007 onwards BIEN will partially fund the BIS project, subject to a mid-term revision at the 2008 Dublin Congress. Before the 2008 GA, BIS will be required to submit to the BIEN EC a written report accounting for its financial situation, including detailed information about the use of the funding received from BIEN. In addition, BIS will have to indicate its prospects of attaining financial self-sufficiency by the end of 2010, as projected in the BIS proposal. Finally, BIS also undertakes to actively search for external funding support and, when successful, to repay BIEN. Renewal of the BIEN funding commitment for another two years (2009-2010) will require approval by the 2008 General Assembly.

BIEN and BIS look forward to a fruitful collaboration and the continued success of the journal (for further information on BIS, see below, section 3).

A subjective account by Philippe Van Parijs

In 2004, BIEN decided to become a worldwide network. Would the newborn survive? Much depended on whether it would manage to organize a successful first congress. And it did, thanks to the obstinate and competent efforts of Ingrid Van Niekerk and her team. Held on the wonderful upper campus of the University of Cape Town, one of Subsaharan Africa's oldest and most prestigious academic institutions, it gathered over one hundred participants coming from all six continents.

To South African basic income supporters, the congress offered a unique opportunity to discover why basic income aroused interest in such different contexts as Mexico, Norway or Australia. And for participants from the rest of the world, it constituted an exceptional occasion for understanding the specific relevance of basic income and other universal cash transfers in places like South Africa and neighbouring Namibia. As South African economist Pieter Leroux once put it, those who believe basic income will first be introduced in the North may be making the same sort of mistake as Karl Marx was making when he expected the socialist revolution to occur in England and Germany rather than Russia and China. Among many other contributions, several plenary sessions and parallel workshops helped make sense of this conjecture.

First of all, South Africa, like other countries in the South, has a huge informal economy, in the sense that, even when wages are regularly paid, they are nowhere recorded in an easily detectable way. In this context, implementing a means test is very tricky: doing it seriously would be prohibitively expensive, and doing it erratically would breed resentment, invite clientelism and undermine the legitimacy of the system. Hence the particularly strong case for by-passing the typical Northern path of a means-tested guaranteed income and going straight for universal delivery, a case further strengthened by familiar considerations about rates of take up and dependency traps.

One might object that selectivity could operate without a means test, by relying on guaranteed employment at a minimum wage in public works projects, as illustrated by the Indian state of Maharashtra (Mumbai). Several contributions were devoted to this issue. The argument against this alternative, in the South African context, is that the country lacks the organizational capabilities to credibly provide a right to employment to a sizeable proportion of the people concerned. One would end up with a bulky public sector of poorly paid, poorly motivated, poorly equipped, poorly trained, poorly supervised and hence poorly productive workers, which could only be made more productive at a prohibitive opportunity cost to the rest of the economy, in terms of material and human capital.

With no credible alternative in the form of means-tested or public-works-based schemes, a basic income is made

particularly urgent, several participants argued, by the presence of AIDS. To face the challenge of the epidemics, the South African government introduced free ARV medication and a disability grant currently pitched at about 600 Rand per month as long as people are sick. Before getting sick, and after the ARV treatment starts having effects they are entitled to nothing. Given that most people affected cannot fall back on a job when getting better, this creates a major moral hazard problem with disastrous consequences: discontinuing the treatment enables the patient to keep receiving the disability grant, while keeping him/her more contagious than he/she would otherwise be. This creates an AIDS trap in which people get stuck and from which the illness keeps spreading. Lowering the patients' disability grant, it was argued, while giving a modest basic income to all members of each household, would greatly alleviate this problem.

However useful it may be on these various grounds, a universal basic income needs to make financial sense, and several contributions focused on this issue. Admittedly, in a less developed country, it will need to be fixed, at least initially, at a "destitution level", rather than at a "decent" level. Thus, South Africa's Basic Income Coalition has been pressing for a basic income of 100 Rands (about USD 14) per month. But would the cost of delivering it to every person not be prohibitive? South Africa has considerable experience with the delivery of two types of cash grants: an old age pension of 820 Rands (about USD 120) per month to all women over 60 and all men over 65 with no contributory pension, and a universal child support grant of 190 Rands (about USD 26) per month to all children up to age 14. The estimated all-inclusive cost of delivery (administration, transport and security) reaches an average of 37 Rands per grant in rural areas, while dropping as low as 17 Rands in some urban areas. For a grant of 820 Rands, this is reasonable. For a grant of 100 Rands, the delivery bucket might sensibly be considered too leaky. Fortunately, one can be confident that the leakage should shrink dramatically. Firstly, a universal grant paid to every member of each household unavoidably generates major economies of scale relative to a more selective scheme. Secondly, there is scope for a far more comprehensive use of the available technology (direct bank transfers are still the exception, and smartcards will be usable for payment, not just for identification). Finally, designing differently the contract with the agencies in charge of the delivery should also permit major savings as suggested by the much lower estimated average cost of delivery for Namibia's pension scheme (9 Rands).

Even with a much lower administration cost, the basic income grant still needs to be funded. The economists behind the Basic Income Coalition are advocating a rise of VAT from 14 to 21%. The Trade Union Confederation COSATU prefers a rise in the income tax rates. With a basic income of 100 Rands, the downward redistribution of GDP would increase by 5% under the latter option, but only by (an arguably less disruptive) 2% under the former, as people under the current tax household would also contribute. Alternative possibilities have been discussed at the congress, such as a natural-resources-fund, as worked out for Nigeria by economist Sala-i-Martin, or a "total-economic-activity tax", i.e. a small proportional tax on each electronic payment, as proposed for South Africa by Margaret Legum. Such a tax is already in use to fund part of Brazil's "bolsa familia" programme. As electronic payment spreads ever more widely and deeply, even in less developed countries, a universal basic income might become more feasible, not only because of dramatically lower delivery costs, but also because of the emerging availability of an exceptionally simple and painless form of taxation.

Countless other issues were discussed at the parallel workshops and plenary sessions, including the pros and cons of conditionalities for universal child support grants (South Africa vs. Brazil), the prospects for a global or at least a regional (NAFTA) basic income, or the sometimes uneasy relationship between basic income and Trade Union interests on the one hand, feminist concerns on the other. But, perhaps the most striking feature of the Congress, compared to its ten predecessors, was the presence of religion. At the opening plenary session, one of the leaders of the South African Council of Churches noted that this should come as no surprise, as the South tends to be far more religious than the North, and its churches more actively involved in social issues. For many participants, the most memorable speech of the whole congress is likely to be the one by Namibia's Lutheran bishop and SWAPO member of parliament, Zephania Kameeta, who jumped out of his prepared script to stigmatize endless conferences that generated "words, words, words", while human beings were suffering, starving and dying. Last but not least in terms of the impact words can have, the closing plenary session included a video-taped address by South Africa's Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who pronounced [a forceful and well argued endorsement](#) of universal cash grants. The next day, Cape Town's Sunday paper's headline read: "Tutu pleads for Basic Income grant", and two days later, South Africa's Minister for social development Z. Skweyiya, for the first time, expressed support for the implementation of a basic income in the country.

After the end of the Congress proper, BIEN held a remarkably smooth and efficient [11th General Assembly](#)

[meeting](#), the smoothness of which owed much to swift yet smiling guidance by Richard Caputo, the first incumbent of the newly created function of BIEN rule keeper. The bulkiest item on the agenda consisted in a thorough overhaul of BIEN's 1988 statutes, which had only been slightly adjusted when BIEN turned global in 2004. [All revisions were approved unanimously](#). And so was the re-election of the Executive Committee, almost all members of which accepted to carry on, be it in some cases with modified tasks (Jurgen De Wispelaere did not run for reelection). A detailed proposal for Dublin as the 2008 venue was adopted enthusiastically. The wish to alternate venues between North and South was confirmed. Sao Paulo sounded like a realistic and attractive possibility for 2010.

Philippe Van Parijs, chair of BIEN's International Board

Please note that papers presented at the Congress will be made available in the coming months. Note that the presentation of Daniel Raventos, head of the Spanish Basic Income Network and a plenary speaker in Cape Town, is available at <http://www.nodo50.org/redrentabasica/textos/index.php?x=543>

3. BASIC INCOME STUDIES

Basic Income Studies Essay Prize 2006

Basic Income Studies awarded its first Essay Prize at the Eleventh Congress of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) in Cape Town, South Africa, November 4, 2006. The award is designed to encourage promising research on basic income and related policies. The BIS Essay Prize is awarded to an essay that exemplifies the high standard of quality and original basic income research that BIS hopes to promote. The winner is chosen from essays presented on alternating years at the BIEN Congress and U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network Congress.

The Prize Essay and three essays worthy of honourable mention were selected by a panel of judges from *Basic Income Studies* and the Basic Income Earth Network, who represented the fields of economics, politics, philosophy, and development studies.

The 2006 Essay Prize was awarded to Michael Howard's article entitled, "A NAFTA Dividend: A proposal for a guaranteed minimum income for North America." In his article, Michael Howard of the University of Maine, applies Thomas Pogge's argument for a global resource dividend on a regional basis in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The paper is both novel and important, and it is well-developed both in terms of its comparison with the related proposal for a basic income for the European Union and in its examination of the specifics of the North American Free Trade Area. The winning essay will be published in an upcoming issue of *Basic Income Studies*.

Three other essays were awarded an Honourable Mention:

"Good for women? Advantages and risks of basic income from a gender perspective" by Julieta Elgarte (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina and Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium);

"Why Switzerland? Basic Income and the Development Potential of Swiss Republicanism" by Eric Patry (Institute for Economic and Business Ethics, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland); and

"Australia's Disabling Income Support System" by Jennifer Mays (Centre for Social change Research, Queensland University of Technology, Australia).

These essays made important contributions to the examination of the argument over basic income from the perspective of feminism, republicanism, and the disabled rights movement respectively. The editors of *Basic Income Studies* wish the authors all the best in their future research.

Announcement Basic Income Studies, Volume 1, Issue 2

Later this month Basic Income Studies (BIS) will release its second issue, with original articles by Stuart White on basic income and reciprocity, Simon Wigley on basic income and cumulative advantage, and Philip Harvey on the cost of a basic income compared to a negative income tax scheme. Volume 1, Issue 2 also carries a research note by economic historians Guido Erreygers and John Cunliffe, in which they introduce a virtually unknown social constitution drafted in Brussels in 1848, in which an unconditional basic income figured prominently.

In the debate section, guest-editor Loek Groot presents five short comments by an interdisciplinary group of scholars discussing the possibility of using experimental research design in the study of basic income proposals. Contributions to this debate discuss the reasons for conducting a basic income experiment (Loek Groot), the questions such a design needs to answer (Karl Widerquist), and the comparative advantage and disadvantages of social experiments over the study of natural experiments (Hans Peeters and Axel Marx) or laboratory experiments (José Noguera and Jurgen De Wispelaere).

The book review section features critical reflections on recent books by Ailsa McKay (reviewed by Almaz Zelleke), Clive Lord (reviewed by Laura Bambrick) and Russell Muirhead (reviewed by José Noguera).

A full content list with links to each article will be included in the next BIEN Newsflash. Interested readers are invited to visit our website at www.bepress.com/bis, where the articles of the previous issue can still be sampled. BIS is always interested in good contributions. Please see the website for instructions for submitting a paper, and don't hesitate to contact the editors at BIS-editor@bepress.com if you want to discuss a possible contribution.

BIS is published by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress), sponsored by Red Renta Basica (RRB) and supported by BIEN and USBIG.

4. NOBEL LAUREATE SYMPATHETIC YET OPPOSED TO BASIC INCOME

On October 9th 2006, it was announced that Columbia University's Edmund Phelps was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics. An economic theorist with a keen interest in economic and social policy from a left-liberal perspective, Phelps discussed basic income on several occasions. In his *Rewarding Work* (Harvard Univ. press, 1997), he remembered "being part of a group advising Senator Robert Kennedy, all of whom, from James Tobin to the young Martin Feldstein, were supporters of the [Negative Income Tax] scheme" and none of whom "saw the importance of tying such support to work." However, in the absence of such a link, Phelps argued, "all too many young people would lack the vision and the will to resist yet another year of avoiding life's challenges and risks". True, a Negative Income Tax would "temper the tendency of welfare to keep people away from jobs", but it "would do nothing to restore jobholding as the means of self-support and the vehicle for personal growth and the sense of belonging and being needed". And this would not only be economically damaging but also morally wrong: "Unlike those who would dispense welfare willy-nilly to anyone whose income falls below a certain level, I believe that the only genuine entitlement is a reward of self-support and integration for those willing to fulfill a social contract with their fellow citizens by working and earning."

In this light, *Rewarding Work* advocated a detailed plan for wage subsidies for low-paid full-time employment. He returns at more length to basic income in his contribution to the special issue of the [Boston Review](#) (republished as P. Van Parijs & al., *What's Wrong with a Free Lunch?*, Beacon Press, 2001): "Most of Western Europe, particularly the Continent, has already gone a long way toward providing universal - that is, unconditional - benefits to its citizens (and in most cases other residents): subsidized housing, free medical care, and free education services, among other services. Now Philippe Van Parijs makes the strongest imaginable case for going the rest of the way by means of a universal basic income. But I remain opposed. For me, there are two sticking points. One of them has to do with consequences. The demogrant device has no monopoly on the beneficial effects that make us like it, whatever the balance of its total benefits and total cost. The alternative to it - a subsidy to employers for every low-wage worker in their full-time employ - would have some of those effects and some other benefits as well... The other sticking point is that the demogrant idea seems in an important respect to go against the grain of the traditional American conception of a liberal republic. This conception, I will argue, would cause many Americans to hesitate to embrace a universal basic income while being willing, at least in principle, to contemplate low-wage employment subsidies."

Please note that Eduardo Suplicy, co-chair of BIEN, gave an interview on Edmund Phelps to the Brazilian daily "[O Estado de São Paulo](#)", on October 10th, 2006.

5. MILTON FRIEDMAN DIES

On November 16, 2006, the Chicago economist, Nobel laureate and founding father of monetarism Milton Friedman has died aged 94. He was commonly credited for having been the first to propose the "negative income tax", sometimes presented as the "right-wing" version of an unconditional basic income. The expression "negative

tax" is actually much older: it was coined by the French economist Augustin Cournot ("Recherches sur les principes mathématiques de la théorie des richesses", 1838) and clearly used in its current sense by the British economist Abba Lerner ("Economics of Control", Macmillan, 1944) in a book which Friedman reviewed in the *Journal of Political Economy* (1947). Yet, it is undoubtedly Friedman who most contributed to popularising the idea of a negative income tax worldwide.

The June 2000 issue of BIEN's NewsLetter (the forerunner of the current NewsFlashes) included an interview of Milton Friedman by Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy, currently co-Chair of BIEN and recently re-elected as Senator for the state of São Paulo in Brazil. On March 29, 2000, Suplicy wrote to Milton Friedman, a rather unlikely bedfellow for a prominent left-wing politician, with a number of precise questions. Friedman answered promptly and conscientiously (11 April 2000). The full text of Suplicy's questions and of Friedman's answers has been posted on BIEN's website. To read it, please [click here](#).

See also the obituary by Samuel Brittan in the Financial Times: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/cb74eef8-7599-11db-aea1-0000779e2340.html>

6. TRIBUTE TO ANTONIO MARIA DA SILVEIRA, by co-chair of BIEN Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy

It was five days that Milton Friedman, Nobel prize in Economics in 1976 had passed away, at 94 years old, when, unfortunately, I heard about the death of Antonio Maria da Silveira, professor from Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and from FGV, on November 21. We were friends for more than 30 years. Antonio Maria was the first Brazilian economist who proposed the institution of a guaranteed minimum income program through a negative income tax. It was in the article *Redistribuição de Renda* (Redistribution of Income), published in *Revista Brasileira de Economia*, in April 1975.

He had just concluded his PhD in Economics at Carnegie-Mellon Institute and it was his purpose to help thinking which should be the best way to eradicate absolute poverty in Brazil. He used to say that Arnold Toynbee and Pope John XXIII were his sources of inspiration. But, to write about this work and others on Minimum Income, Antonio Maria took as a base the works of economists like Milton Friedman, Robert Lampman, Karl Marx, John Maynard Keynes, James Tobin, Friedrich Von Hayek, Nicolas Georgescu-Roegen Frank H. Knight, Herbert Simon, Gunnar Myrdal, Joseph A. Schumpeter, Philippe Van Parijs, and Guy Standing.

Graduated in engineering, initially he was professor at the Instituto Tecnológico da Aeronáutica - ITA, in São José dos Campos. When I came back from my PhD at Michigan State University, in 1974, he invited me to deliver a speech at ITA, and I invited him to hold a seminar at EAESP-FGV, for my pupils and for professors like Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Yoshiaki Nakano, Robert Nicol, Luiz Antonio Oliveira Lima and others.

In 1991, when I presented my first draft bill to the Senate for the institution of the Guaranteed Minimum Income Program, Antonio Maria helped me intensively in its elaboration and in the persuasion of the senators, who approved it by unanimity. In 1992, when he came back from a period of symposiums in Europe, he told me about the proposal of an Unconditional Basic Income. So we started to interact with the members of the Basic Income European Network, BIEN, which since 2004 turned into the Basic Income Earth Network. In December 2001 I presented a new draft bill at the Senate, now for the institution of the Citizen's Basic Income, unconditional. It was approved by the National Congress in 2003 and sanctioned by President Lula in 2004, becoming into law to be implemented gradually, starting with the most in need.

In June 2002, in the magazine *Econômica*, Antonio Maria published an article, *Renda Básica na previsão de Keynes* (The Basic Income in the prevision of Keynes) where he stressed that, in 1930, John Maynard Keynes, in his *Possibilities for our grandchildren*, foresaw that, with the accumulation of capital, someday the goods and basic services will be free. Once that we avoid the wars and revolutions, recognizing the science and scientists to plan better the number of children, within one hundred years, therefore in 2030, the vital needs of everybody could be serviced. In 1939, in *How to pay for the War?* Published in the Times, Keynes suggested that, in face of the difficulties generated by the war, it should be important to separate 2% of the Gross Domestic Product to pay a basic income to the English people.

Antonio Maria and I participated in the debate among the economists of PT in Belo Horizonte, in 1991, when José Márcio Camargo proposed that the minimum income program should be started with families and should be related

to educational opportunities. It happened that way by the initiatives of Cristovam Buarque, in Brasília, and José Roberto Magalhães Teixeira, in Campinas, who created Bolsa Escola (Scholarship Help) and Programa de Garantia de Renda Familiar (Family Income Guarantee Program), which were multiplied and turned into what today is the Bolsa Família, and tomorrow will be the Citizens' Basic Income. Antonio Maria da Silveira deserves a great credit in this battle.

Antonio Maria taught and participated in the post graduation examining board of several economists who occupy positions of responsibility today in the country. In all of them he cultivated the seed of citizen's basic income as the main instrument for the fight against poverty and the eradication of hunger for the construction of a fairer and less unequal nation.

In his 35 years of professorship, he always delivered his inaugural class with the believe that we would be able, shortly, to guarantee to everyone a sufficient income to meet the basic needs of each one – and how it should be good for Brazil when it happens.

7. Special section on the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend

The Department of Revenue of the State of Alaska (US), where the only existing basic income scheme in the world was introduced in the early eighties, has been starting the payment of the annual Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) in October. The amount of this year's dividend is US\$1106.96 (corresponding to an increase of 30.9% over the 2005 value of US\$ 845.76). To help smooth out year-to-year volatility in dividend amounts, the size of each year's dividend is calculated using a formulas that averages the Alaska Permanent Fund's realized earnings over the previous five years. Among other items, the formulas includes an estimated number of eligible dividend applicants. For 2006, this estimated number was 602,350.

For further information: <https://www.pfd.state.ak.us/>

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Alaska Permanent Fund and of the 25th year that the Dividend has been distributed to all residents of Alaska, as long as they are living in the State for an year or more, co-chair of BIEN **Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy wrote to Professor Scott Goldsmith**, Professor of Economics at the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage. Suplicy asked Goldsmith a few questions on the development of the proposal as well as to what extent is the Alaskan very succesful experience being considered by other places in the world, including Irak.

Questions were sent by Suplicy on Friday, October 06, 2006, and Goldsmith replied on October 12, 2006.

SUPLICY: Was there a new referendum between the years 2000 and 2006 to find out to what extent the people of Alaska is still supporting this important system?

GOLDSMITH: There has been no referendum. The dividend is extremely popular and it would be political suicide to propose a vote to eliminate the dividend. However there is a proposal which has been discussed for several years, to change the formula for calculating the earnings of the permanent fund each year, and that could change the way the dividend amount is calculated. Currently the annual draw from the fund, part of which is used to pay the dividend, is based on actual or realized earnings. The proposal is to change to a system used by most endowment funds which is to draw a fixed percentage (say 5%) of the value of the fund each year. This has several advantages such as automatic inflation proofing of the fund and more stability in the amount of the draw from year to year. This proposal, known as the "percent of market value" of POMV would require a new method of calculating the dividend. Because people are suspicious that this would result in the size of the dividend declining, although it is not necessarily the case that the dividend amount would decline if there were a switch to POMV, it has not gained enough political support to be instituted.

SUPLICY: To what extent have the other American states considered to follow the Alaskan example?

GOLDSMITH: I am not aware of any other state that has a dividend distributed directly to all individuals. Alberta, in Canada, distributed a one time dividend last year, but it is not an annual event. Several states have various types of permanent funds, funded by natural resource revenues, but they are earmarked for various public purposes like education.

SUPLICY: What has been the repercussion, in Alaska and in other American states, of the decision of the province

of Alberta, in Canada, to institute an annual dividend of around 400 Canadian dollars to all citizens of Alberta?
GOLDSMITH: As indicated, I believe the Alberta dividend was a one time event predicated on an oil revenue surplus due to high oil prices. There have not been any repercussions in the US that I am aware of to this event.

SUPLICY: Has there been any recent news about the possibility of Iraq to follow the example of the Alaska Permanent Fund?

GOLDSMITH: The possibility of instituting a dividend in Iraq has been proposed a number of times over the last several years and I was involved for a time in a proposal to develop a plan for such a dividend. That proposal died, and I have not seen any suggestions in at least a year for an Iraqi dividend.

SUPLICY: Which were the main reasons for the decrease of the Alaskan Permanent Fund Dividend to diminish from the year 2000 to 2005, and which was the main reason for the 30% increase in its value in 2006?

GOLDSMITH: The size of the dividend depends on the earnings of the fund and the size of the eligible population. The eligible population does not change much from year to year (all residents are eligible after living in the state for a year). The dividend account each year is essentially the average of half the earnings for each of the previous 5 years. Consequently the size of the dividend varies with the earnings of the fund, but with a considerable lag. The dividend increased in size when the stock market was doing well in the late 1990s. Subsequently the stock market declined, fund earnings fell, and the size of the dividend went down. Now the stock market has moved back up, and fund earnings are growing. The higher earnings are finally having a significant influence on the size of the dividend.

SUPLICY: How has the Alaskan population received the good news of the 30% increase in the value of the dividend in 2006?

GOLDSMITH: The size of the annual dividend is always a source of interest and speculation. Alaskans are accepting of whatever the size of the dividend is. The management of the fund and the determination of the size of the dividend are transparent--there are no secrets--so people either understand or have faith that the managers of the fund are doing their job as best they can. People seem to understand the connection between the stock market and the size of the dividend.

Finally, note that on September 27, 2006, the Anchorage Daily News, Alaska's main Newspaper, published the following news from The Associated Press:

"Hot Springs, Ark. -- Former presidential candidate and billionaire publisher Steve Forbes on Tuesday said giving the Iraqi people a portion of oil profits would help secure the country against insurgents.

Forbes, the CEO of Forbes Inc. and editor-in-chief of Forbes magazine, said the country should create a fund similar to Alaska's Permanent Fund, which annually distributes dividends to eligible residents.

"Imagine if something like that was done in Irak. Suddenly, everyone would want an address in Irak," Forbes told a crowd of about 350 people at the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas luncheon in Hot Springs. "Suddenly, the bulk of the population would be on the side of fighting the fanatics who are trying to disrupt oil production". "

8. EVENTS

*SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (ES), 30 November – 1 December 2006: VI Symposium of Red Renta Básica

The 6th Symposium of Red Renta Básica, Spain's official network of BIEN, has been held at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Santiago de Compostela on Thursday November 30 and Friday December 1 2006.

The programme included an opening plenary session with the Minister of Economy of the Government of Galicia, Ramón Máiz (Universidad de Santiago), and Daniel Raventós (Universitat de Barcelona & President of Red Renta Básica), as well as roundtables on "20 Years Arguing for Basic Income: Philosophical Assessment and Perspectives". Participants to the roundtables included Antoni Domènech (Universitat de Barcelona), Ramón Máiz (Universidad de Santiago), David Casassas (Université catholique de Louvain), María José Añón (Universitat de València), José Antonio Noguera (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), José Luis Rey (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid), Luis Moreno (CSIC – Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas), Daniel Raventós (Universitat de Barcelona), Xavier Godàs (Barcelona City Council), Sara Berbel (Institut Català de la Dona), Santiago Lago (Universidade de Vigo) and Xavier Vence (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela).

The final session was focused on “Basic Income Assessed by Galician Social Actors”, with the participation of members of Galician political parties, trade unions and grassroots movements.

For further information, see www.redrentabasica.org

*BERLIN (DE), 16-17 December 2006: General Assembly of the German Network

The German Basic Income Network (Netzwerk Grundeinkommen) will hold its General Assembly at the Humboldt-Universität in Berlin on December 16-17, 2006. An opening discussion forum on "Working differently and living better with a basic income" ("anders arbeiten und schöner leben mit grundeinkommen") shall take place on the evening of December 15 (7pm), with the participation of Götz Werner (Universität Karlsruhe) and Wolfgang Engler (Hochschule für Schauspielkunst Berlin). During the next two days, talks and workshops shall provide further opportunities to foster the German debate on basic income, which has been particularly lively since a couple of years.

For further information: <http://www.grundeinkommen.info/>

*NEW YORK CITY (US), 23-25 February 2007: Sixth Annual USBIG Congress

The USBIG Network will hold its Sixth Annual Congress in conjunction with the Eastern Economics Association Meeting, February 23-25, 2007, at the Crowne Plaza Times Square Manhattan Hotel in New York City. Speakers include Dalton Conley, Stanley Aronowitz, Eduardo Suplicy, and William DiFazio. Dalton Conley is the director of the Center for Advanced Social Science Research and professor of sociology and public policy at New York University, and he is the author of *Honky*, *Being Black*, *Living in the Red*, and *the Starting Gate*. Stanley Aronowitz is a Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the City University of New York and author or editor of twenty three books including, *Just Around Corner*, *How Class Works*, *The Last Good Job in America*, and *The Jobless Future*. Eduardo Suplicy is a member of the Brazilian Senate and author of *From the Distribution of Income to the Rights of Citizenship*. William DiFazio is a professor of Sociology and St. John's University in Queens, New York and author of several books including *Ordinary Poverty*.

For further information: www.usbig.net

*NEW YORK CITY (US), 6-8 May 2007: The basic income guarantee in international perspective

Within the framework of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wurzweiler School of Social Work, Yeshiva University (New York City), Richard Caputo organizes a session on “The basic income guarantee in international perspective” . The Conference is scheduled for 6-8 May 2007 at the Sheraton New York . Interested persons should contact Richard Caputo at <caputo@yu.edu>

*REGINA (CA), 6-8 June 2007: Economic Security for All in Saskatchewan: Weaving an Unbreakable Social Fabric.

This conference is organized by Prof. Jim Mulvale at the Department of Justice Studies of the University of Regina. Themes and topics submitted to discussion will include: re-establishing a strong social safety net, re-committing to the principle of universality in income support, health care, and access to education, ensuring a living wage for working people, moving toward a guaranteed annual income or "basic income" in Saskatchewan and Canada.

For further information: jim.mulvale@uregina.ca

9. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

*AUSTRIA: MINIMUM INCOME DISCUSSED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

In view of the campaign for the Federal elections of October 1st, 2006, the Austrian basic income network was invited to a meeting with the head of the Social Department of the City of Vienna, Renate Brauner (Social Democrats). Brauner tried to convince the representatives of the network, that though she shares the analysis regarding the raising poverty in Austria and the failing distribution of wealth the Social Democrats are not ready to give up work as the cornerstone of their social policy. She urged basic income supporters not to argue against the policy of full employment, by referring to the network's statement that full employment has to be called "a myth".

During the election campaign the Social Democrats and the Green Party both pleaded for a means tested basic income ("Grundsicherung"): 800 Euros for everyone who works or is not able to work and whose income or social benefits is less than this amount. The Social Democrats, who won the majority of the votes and are leading the coalition talks, surprisingly declared the "Grundsicherung" to be a condition for any coalition government with the conservative "People's party". With the help of the mass media whose interest suddenly increased dramatically (TV, large daily newspapers and their online issues) a lively discussion about "Grundsicherung", basic income, taxes, the future of work and "Leistung" (effort) is on the way. Different members of the Austrian Network have been asked for interviews in the actual debate and use the possibility to point out the basic income idea.

A means tested basic income, as it is favoured by the Social Democrats, would certainly be helpful to stop the rising poverty in Austria. There are 460.000 poor people in Austria and another 600.000 who are threatened by poverty. But the concrete concept is not acceptable, in the view of the Austrian BI-network as well as in the view of the Austrian Green party. The critic concentrates on three main points: 1) the concept contains the condition, that available wealth has to be utilized, 2) further it has to be proofed that there is no job (with no regards to the job conditions) available and moreover 3) social insurance benefits like unemployment benefits or the Austrian "Notstandshilfe" are partly turned into social benefits without the desirable legal framework.

Despite the fact that the Green party pleads for another form of means tested basic income, like the majority of the Non-Profit Organisations in the Social Sector, organised in the Austrian Anti-Poverty-Network, it is not possible to gain "official" political support for the Basic Income idea. The Green spokesman for Social Affairs, Karl Öllinger, recently conceded that it would be "exciting to think about the separation of work and income in our time" but he doesn't believe that it is possible to finance a basic income.

*NAMIBIA: BASIC INCOME COALITION REPLIES TO CRITIQUE BY THE IMF

BIEN NewsFlash 41 (September 2006) reported that in its recent "Country Report" on Namibia (No. 06/153 April 2006), the International Monetary Fund indicated that the recent proposal to introduce a Basic Income Grant (BIG) providing a monthly cash grant to all Namibians below 60 years old would be very costly, and may jeopardize macroeconomic stability.

The Namibian Basic Income Grant Coalition responded to the IMF, in a detailed letter which was printed in the [Namibian Insight Magazine](#). The BIG Coalition stated that the IMF's calculations were deliberately flawed. The IMF responded that they were apparently not aware that a recuperation of the money through the tax system forms part of Namibia's BIG proposal. And yet the tax recuperation was always part of the proposal, and is well documented, Claudia and Dirk Haarmann from the Namibian BIG coalition argue.

In their letter, they explicitly referred to the Brazilian law on basic income: "The IMF points to Brazil as a possible role model in terms of its cash-transfer programme. We could not agree more! The *Bolsa Familia* programme, which the IMF refers to, has in itself already universalised and replaced four previous fragmented cash-transfer systems. It is currently extended to 11.2 million families. Moreover, the latest developments seem to have gone by unnoticed in the IMF's recommendations. President Lula has signed a law (10.835/2004), which - addressing the shortcomings of the current conditional cash-grant system - enacts the gradual implementation of a BIG in Brazil! Thereby Brazil is the first country to have taken this bold empowerment step for the poor. The question is, when is Namibia ready to follow this role model and introduce a BIG?"

For further information and to get a copy of the letter to Insight Magazine, please send an e-mail to Claudia & Dirk Haarmann <cd.haarmann@gmx.net>

*GERMANY: PRIME MINISTER OF LUXEMBOURG SUPPORTS EU-WIDE MINIMUM INCOME

On November 11, 2006, Jean-Claude Juncker, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, gave an interview to the prominent German daily "Frankfurter Rundschau". The article was entitled "Europe needs a basic income for all", and in the interview Juncker made a strong plea for minimum standards in the whole EU. He seems to think every EU-citizen is entitled to a minimum standard of living, but remains unclear whether this would have all the other features BIEN normally associated with an unconditional basic income.

The interview has been posted at

http://www.gouvernement.lu/salle_presse/Interviews/2006/11novembre/20juncker_rundschau/

10. PUBLICATIONS

*ENGLISH

CLARK, Robert F. (2006), *Giving Credit Where Due: A Path to Global Poverty Reduction*, Lanham (Maryland): [University Press of America](#).

According to the World Bank, approximately one billion people live on less than US\$1 a day. *Giving Credit Where Due: A Path to Global Poverty Reduction* critically examines the level and quality of the international community's response to such extreme poverty. This work traces the ethical and religious underpinnings of social welfare policy; describes income support systems in Europe, the United States, and elsewhere; and proposes a new strategy for reducing global poverty. Under this approach, developing countries would establish a refundable tax credit to put a floor under the incomes of their people who live on less than US\$1 a day. A global tax credit fund would be created by the United Nations and financed with contributions from rich nations and private donors. The fund would enable the UN to share in the costs with countries that adopt the tax credit approach. *Giving Credit Where Due* addresses the inevitable objections to the approach, such as badly administered, even corrupt, revenue systems in many developing countries. It offers constructive ideas for making the refundable tax credit a reality in a changing global environment.

Robert F. Clark is an independent writer and consultant. He has more than 35 years of experience with human services and community-based programs. He is the author of *Victory Deferred: The War on Global Poverty (1945-2003)* and *The War on Poverty: History, Selected Programs, and Ongoing Impact*, both from the University Press of America.

HARMAN Eva (2006), "Can It Start Small, but End BIG? Expanding Social Assistance in South Africa", *Human Rights Review*, 7:4. 81-99.

Author's email: emharman@fulbrightweb.org

Generating heated politics in South Africa is a proposal to introduce a universal basic income grant, known as "BIG." The "gaps" in the existing system of social assistance grants have caught the attention of activists and politicians across the political spectrum. Most concur on the need to expand the system, but the issue of how its "gaps" should be closed is a matter of great political divergence. To cast light on the significance of these debates, Eva Harman shows how the system's "gaps" are more complicated than measurements of poverty and inequality may suggest. Following the social and economic relations that develop around social grants, her analysis foregrounds a tension in the existing assistance system. Social grants provide a critical source of income for recipients and their kin, assisting them to confront the challenging realities of current labor market conditions. At the same time, social grants act as conduits for historical forces to articulate with local conditions and reshape relationships between citizens, the state, and the market. This tension points to the ambiguity of the BIG proposal and of its potential to engender a larger transformation, Harman argues.

LEVY, Horacio & SUTHERLAND, Holly (2006), 'A Basic Income for Europe's Children?', University of Essex: Institute for Social and Economic Research, EUROMOD Working Paper em4/06, September 2006, 30p. Downloadable at <http://ideas.repec.org/p/ese/emodwp/em4-06.html>

This paper explores the prospects for a guaranteed income for every child in the European Union and its potential effects on child poverty, taking as one starting point the ideas set out by economist Anthony Atkinson. It examines the extent to which existing levels of financial support for children through national taxes and benefits fall short of a series of illustrative minimum levels of income corresponding to proportions of median income. It estimates the cost of bringing the amount of support up to these levels for all children as well as the corresponding impacts on income poverty among EU children. From this the cost in each country of providing basic incomes for children is estimated such that potential EU child poverty reduction targets are met. This cost could be met at national level or, alternatively, at EU level. The effect of financing the guaranteed child income using a European flat tax is investigated. The analysis uses EUROMOD, the European tax-benefit microsimulation model and illustrates the implications of the choices that must be made when designing such a scheme for the extent of redistribution between countries and towards children.

VAN PARIJS, Philippe (2006), "Bottom-up Social Europe. From subsidiarity to Euro-Dividend", Plenary address

at the conference organized at the initiative of the Finnish presidency of the European Union, The EU's evolving Social Policy and National Models. Seeking a New Balance, Helsinki, 9-10/11/2006, available as DOCH 165, Université catholique de Louvain: Chaire Hoover d'éthique économique et sociale, November 2006.

In matters of social policy, the subsidiarity principle makes a lot of sense, but direct EU involvement is indispensable to prevent Europe ending up doing worse than the US in terms of social solidarity. Imposing minimum standards will be insufficient. EU-level funding of the most redistributive component of the social transfer system will be required.

There are three models for organizing such funding: a means-tested "Euro-Stipend" as proposed by P. Schmitter and M. Bauer; co-payment as often practised for social assistance by member states and their local authorities; and a EU-wide universal basic income or Euro-Dividend, be it initially restricted to a specific age group, such as children. Only the third model is consistent with the preservation of healthy and diverse national welfare states. The conditions for the political feasibility of such an active EU involvement in social policy are not yet fulfilled, however. They include the thickening of an EU-wide civil society, EU-level electoral institutions that foster the construction and defence of an EU-wide general interest and the democratization of competence in English as the EU's lingua franca.

*FRENCH

PRALONG, Estelle & JOZ-ROLAND, Emmanuelle (2006), "Une politique féministe est-elle possible? Quelques pistes!", L'émilie (Geneva), 1504, August-September 2006.

This issue of the Swiss feminist magazine "L'émilie", founded in 1912, is devoted to an exploration of various reforms that could foster gender equality. It includes a short interview with Yannick Vanderborght (Facultés Saint Louis in Brussels & Hoover Chair in Louvain, Belgium), which focuses on basic income and its possible impact on gender inequalities.

Magazine's website: <http://www.lemilie.org/>

*GERMAN

Netzwerk Grundeinkommen Österreich & Netzwerk Grundeinkommen Deutschland (eds.) (2006), "Grundeinkommen- in Freiheit tätig sein. Beiträge des ersten deutschsprachigen Grundeinkommenskongresses", Berlin: [Avinus Verlag](http://www.avinus-verlag.de/), ISBN 3930064731

This book includes a collection of papers and inputs given at the first basic income congress in German language "Basic income: being active in freedom", which was hosted in Vienna in October 2005 by the Austrian and German Basic Income Networks. Edited by the two networks, the book deals with the freedom-enhancing potentials of a basic income, questions of social cohesion, different forms of work, and future perspectives of a basic income. It contains contributions by Eduardo Suplicy, co-chair of BIEN, Liselotte Wohlgenannt, Ronald Blaschke, Anne Alex, Erich Kitzmüller, Katrin Mohr, Manfred Fühlsack and many others. It will be officially launched in Vienna on December 11th and on December 15th in Berlin.

*ITALIAN

Special issue of *Infoxa*, *Rivista di quotidiano movimento*, 20, October 2006. <http://www.infoxa.org/>

This issue includes several articles on basic income, such as Guy Standing's "Perchè il basic income in Italia?", Philippe Van Parijs' "Basic Income un'idea semplice e forte", and M.J. Bertomeu & D.Raventos' "Il reddito di base come diritto di esistenza". For further information: <infoxa@infoxa.org>

VANDERBORGHT Yannick & VAN PARIJS Philippe (2006), *Il reddito minimo universale*, Milano: Università Bocconi Editore EGEE, 159p., ISBN 88-8350-081-4.

This Italian translation of "L'allocation universelle", which was originally published in French in 2005, includes a new Preface by Chiara Saraceno (Università di Torino).

An expanded version of the book shall be published in English in 2008 by Harvard University Press.

Publisher's website: www.egeaonline.it

*SPANISH

PINILLA-PALLEJÀ, Rafael (2006), "Más allá del bienestar. La renta básica de ciudadanía como innovación social basada en la evidencia". Barcelona: Editorial Icaria. 272p. ISBN 84-7426-845-1 www.icariaeditorial.com/

The book explores the need for a new paradigm beyond the limitations of the traditional welfare states, with the basic income proposal as one of its key pillars. To do so the author suggests an evidence-based approach to policy innovations and social change, where wide political agreements based on all the available scientific evidence are a necessary condition for successful policy reforms. Finally the book offers a concrete and detailed proposal for a sustainable basic income in Spain, carefully grounded on the Spanish fiscal and economic reality.

PISARELLO, Gerardo and DE CABO, Antonio (eds.) (2006), *La Renta Básica como nuevo derecho ciudadano* [*Basic Income as a New Citizen Right*], Madrid: Trotta, ISBN 84-8164-863-9.

Contributions by María José Añón, Marco Bascetta, María Julia Bertomeu, Giuseppe Bronzini, Antoni Domènech, Luigi Ferrajoli, Andrea Fumagalli, Pablo Miravet, José Antonio Noguera, Laura Pautassi, Daniel Raventós, Ingrid Robeyns and Corina Rodríguez Enríquez.

"The alarming increase of exclusion and poverty has raised many questions with regard to the efficacy of the so-called Welfare State and to the quality of contemporary democracies. One of the answers to these questions has been the minimisation of social rights, which have quite often been reduced to targeted measures and to decisions that are revocable depending on the willingness of the politicians currently in power. The proposal that this book is devoted to goes in the contrary direction. [...] It would mean a new kind of social right that would be similar to the right to vote and to universal education and wealth care. It is a provocative proposal. Among other reasons, because it obliges us to discuss from philosophical, political, economic and legal perspectives many classical subjects and because it urges us to revise old prejudices: from the relation between income and wage-earning work to the allegedly merit- and contribution-based nature of current societies" (from back cover).

VAN PARIJS, Philippe & VANDERBORGHT, Yannick (2006). *La renta básica. Una medida eficaz para luchar contra la pobreza*. Prólogo de Daniel Raventós. Traducción de David Casassas. Barcelona: Paidós, 156p, ISBN 84-493-1932-3, www.paidos.com

This Spanish translation of "L'allocation universelle", which was originally published in French in 2005, includes a new Preface by Daniel Raventós (Universidad de Barcelona, and head of the Spanish Basic Income Network Red Renta Basica).

An expanded version of the book should be published in English in 2008 by Harvard University Press.

Note that a critique of the book was published online by the far-right Spanish website "Libertad Digital". The critique can be viewed at <http://libros.libertaddigital.com/articulo.php/1276232499>. It was for a great deal inspired by a [similar critique published in French](#) by a right-liberal website.

11. NEW LINKS

*DESMOND TUTU SUPPORTS BASIC INCOME

At the end of the 11th BIEN Congress (Cape Town, November 2006), Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Laureate and one of the great figures of the anti-apartheid struggle, gave a moving and effective speech in favour of a basic income. It can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

*CITIZEN'S INCOME NEWSLETTER (UK)

The third edition of the Citizen's Income Newsletter (United Kingdom) for 2006 is now available on www.citizensincome.org/resources/newsletter%20issue%203%202006.shtml

Note that the [first edition for 2007](#) is also available.

*BELGIAN BASIC INCOME PARTY LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Vivant, a small Belgian political party led by BIEN Life-member Roland Duchâtelet, has launched a new website entitled "Enjoy Living".

See the Dutch version at <http://www.vivant.org/site/nl/home/>

and the English version at <http://www.vivant.org/site/en/home/>

*WORLD CITIZENS ACTION

This group initiated by Lisinka Ulatowska supports a plan for a Basic Income for all funded by the United Nations. The plan includes four phases.

1. Create a Draft Plan consisting of basic income approaches from around the world, how to implement them and endorsements by interested world leaders.
2. Circulate this among all Heads of State and Government, world leaders, experts and grass roots and insert feedback into the document; combine this with a lobby via the UN until informed world public opinion is buzzing in support and several Governments decide to go ahead.
3. Create a universal structure to implement the basic income, which can eventually accommodate all governments as they are ready. This would include helping Governments and communities to decide on an approach and training people to implement it, and the necessary financial consultants and banking facilities. Consult with and lobby Governments via the UN.
4. When sufficient governments have joined, apply for status as a Specialized Agency of the UN.

See or <http://www.worldcitizensaction.com> or contact Lisinka Ulatowska: <lisinkalu@versatel.nl>

*ECONOMIA ERETICA

GianCarlo Moiso (Casale Monferrato, Italy) has posted an English translation of his essay "Un reddito garantito per tutti" at <http://www.economiaeretica.it/>

12. ABOUT THE BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

Co-chair:

Eduardo SUPPLYCY, Federal Senator, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Guy STANDING, Professor of Economic Security, University of Bath, and Professor of Labour Economics, Monash University

Further details about BIEN's Executive Committee and International Board can be found on our website, as well as further details about the Recognised National Networks.

MEMBERSHIP

All life members of the Basic Income European Network, many of whom were non-Europeans, have automatically become life members of the Basic Income Earth Network.

To join them, just send your name and address (postal and electronic) to David Casassas <dacasassas@ub.edu> Secretary of BIEN, and transfer EUR 100 to BIEN's account 001 2204356 10 at FORTIS BANK (IBAN: BE41 0012 2043 5610), 10 Rond-Point Schuman, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. An acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt.

BIEN Life-members can become "B(I)ENEFACTORS" by giving another 100 Euros or more to the Network. The funds collected will facilitate the participation of promising BI advocates coming from developing countries or from disadvantaged groups.

B(I)ENEFACTORS:

Joel Handler (US), Philippe Van Parijs (BE), Helmut Pelzer (DE), Guy Standing (UK), Eduardo Suplicy (BR), Robert van der Veen (NL)

BIEN's Life Members:

James Meade (+), Gunnar Adler-Karlsson (SE), Maria Ozanira da Silva (BR), Ronald Dore (UK), Alexander de Roo (NL), Edouard Dommen (CH), Philippe Van Parijs (BE), P.J. Verberne (NL), Tony Walter (UK), Philippe Grosjean (BE), Malcolm Torry (UK), Wouter van Ginneken (CH), Andrew Williams (UK), Roland Duchâtelet (BE), Manfred Fuellsack (AT), Anne-Marie Prieels (BE), Philippe Desguin (BE), Joel Handler (US), Sally Lerner (CA), David Macarov (IL), Paul Metz (NL), Claus Offe (DE), Guy Standing (UK), Hillel Steiner (UK), Werner Govaerts (BE), Robley George (US), Yoland Bresson (FR), Richard Hauser (DE), Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy (BR), Jan-Otto Andersson (FI), Ingrid Robeyns (UK), John Baker (IE), Rolf Kuettel (CH), Michael Murray (US), Carlos Farinha Rodrigues (PT), Yann Moulier Boutang (FR), Joachim Mitschke (DE), Rik van Berkel (NL), François Blais (CA), Katrin Töns (DE), Almaz Zelleke (US), Gerard Degrez (BE), Michael Opielka (DE), Lena Lavinas (BR), Julien Dubouchet (CH), Jeanne Hrdina (CH), Joseph Huber (DE), Markku Ikkala (FI), Luis Moreno (ES), Rafael Pinilla (ES), Graham Taylor (UK), W. Robert Needham (CA), Tom Borsen Hansen (DK), Ian Murray

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Items for inclusion or review in future NewsFlashes are to be sent to Yannick Vanderborght, newsletter editor, UCL, Chaire Hoover, 3 Place Montesquieu, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, vanderborght@fusl.ac.be

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