

BIEN - BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

[www.basicincome.org](http://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.

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NewsFlash 32, March 2005

BIEN's NewsFlash is mailed electronically every two months to over 1000 subscribers throughout the world.

Requests for free subscription are to be sent to [bien@basicincome.org](mailto:bien@basicincome.org)  
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@etes.ucl.ac.be](mailto:vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be) The present NewsFlash has been prepared with the help of Jurgen De Wispelaere, Katrin Mohr, Paul Nollen, Dani Raventos, Philippe Van Parijs, and Karl Widerquist.

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## 1. EDITORIAL

BIEN Executive Committee has met twice in a few months. Firstly on December 17, 2004, in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium), where it discussed important issues such as the new statutes of the network, and the representation of women. Secondly on March 4-5, 2005, in New York City (during the USBIG Conference), where some important decisions were made. Among these decisions, the most crucial might well be the fact that, for the first time in its history, BIEN will organize its international conference outside of the European continent. If everything runs well, the next Congress shall be held in November 2006 in Cape Town, South Africa.

It should be stressed that no European or North-American country was a candidate to organize the conference.

BIEN's Executive Committee

## 2. A SHORT REPORT FROM BIEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS (December 17, 2004 in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, and March 4-5, 2005 in New York City)

### a) Next Conference

Two proposals were considered by the EC.

Eduardo Suplicy defended the idea of organizing the next conference in Sao Paulo (Brazil), but also insisted on the fact that 2006 was an election year, and that he was going to be very much involved in political affairs.

Guy Standing presented the advantages of organizing our next conference in Cape Town (South Africa), including the existence of an active "BIG Coalition", and past experiences in organizing conferences there with Ingrid van Niekerk.

Given the political context in Brazil in the Autumn of 2006, the EC worries about BIEN's capacities to organize a conference there.

Hence, it is decided to opt for South Africa (Cape Town or, perhaps, Johannesburg).

The EC did not receive any other concrete proposals. No European or North-American country was a candidate to organize the conference. Our Turkish contacts, who had considered this possibility, said that they could not make it.

The Conference will probably take place in early November 2006.

### b) BIEN's statutes

Karl Widerquist submitted a revised by-law proposal (which was revised following an at-length discussion during the previous EC meeting in Belgium). The main goals are to make the running of BIEN transparent and the election process clearer than it was at the last meeting of the General Assembly (Barcelona, September 2004). The proposal contains the option of a woman's officer to allow a separate vote on that issue. The EC approved this version, which is to be submitted at the next General Assembly. The proposal includes a main section of bylaws and four amendments which must be voted on separately by the General Assembly, giving the GA several options on a few issues. BIEN Life Members can obtain the draft proposal by contacting directly Karl Widerquist at [Karl@Widerquist.com](mailto:Karl@Widerquist.com)

#### c) Discussion of women's group proposal

The EC discussed the question of the women's officer, as well as other proposals made by Annie Miller in a note that was sent a few days before the first EC meeting in Belgium.

In the aftermath of the Belgium meeting, Louise Haagh was elected by the committee as Women's officer.

The issue of the representation of women was raised again during the New York City meeting. Some important points were made regarding this issue.

First, the South African organizing committee, with the support of the EC, will make a best endeavour to ensure that, during the next conference, at least 50% of plenary speakers are women.

Second, the EC stresses the fact that the new by-law proposal, to be submitted at the next General Assembly, should also be considered as one response to the demands regarding women's representation.

Finally, the EC invites people concerned by care-giving and related issues to organize a panel at the next conference.

#### d) Discussion papers series

The idea of creating a new discussion papers series, which had been explored during the EC meeting in Belgium, was (at least provisionally) removed.

Karl Widerquist and Jurgen de Wispelaere shall become co-editors of a new academic journal called "Basic Income Studies", to be launched soon with the support of representatives of the Spanish network. It will publish high quality papers on basic income and related ideas.

The Congress papers will remain on the website. Finally, the option of having two or three "discussion papers" each year remains, for instance if someone wants to launch a forum on a specific issue.

#### e) B(I)ENefactors

The EC reminds BIEN Life-members that they can become "B(I) ENEFACTORS" by giving 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. The first B(I)ENefactor is Joel Handler (US).

#### f) Website

Due to technical problems with the server, the access to BIEN's website is currently difficult, and it is not updated since a few months.

Jurgen De Wispelaere has been working on a new version, which should be online soon. The EC considered the possibility of working with a more expensive, but more reliable, commercial server.

### 3. EVENTS

BARCELONA (ES), 18 September 2004: ESF Exploratory Workshop 03-182  
"Toward a European Basic Income Experiment"

The purpose of the European Science Foundation Exploratory Workshop was to discuss the merits of a Basic Income/ negative income tax experiment in Europe and to comment upon the design of the experiment. For this

reason experts in the field of randomized field experiments, income taxation, social security arrangements, gender issues, political scientists and philosophers were invited to participate in the workshop (see BIEN's NewsFlash 29). The scientific report, which was written by Loek Groot, convenor of the meeting and researcher at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, can now be downloaded from <http://www.esf.org/generic/1936/03182Report.pdf>

Also available online is the introductory text, written by Groot to inform the prospective participants:

<http://www.esf.org/generic/1936/03182Paper2.pdf>

The main articles of the latest issue of the Citizen's Income Newsletter (Issue 2, 2005) are devoted to this ESF workshop. Loek Groot presents a synthesis of his report, and Karl Widerquist tackles the question "What would we like to learn from a European Basic Income Experiment?". See <http://www.citizensincome.org/resources/newsletter%20issue%202%202005.shtml>

NEW YORK (US), 4-6 March 2005: Fourth international congress of the USBIG Network.

The Fourth Congress of USBIG (United States Basic Income Guarantee Network) was held in New York City on March 4 to 6, 2005. A report shall be published in the next issue of USBIG's newsletter. See the USBIG website for further information ([www.usbig.net](http://www.usbig.net)), or contact Karl Widerquist at [Karl@Widerquist.com](mailto:Karl@Widerquist.com)

BREMEN (DE), 10-12 March 2005: International Conference Social Justice in a Changing World.

Within the framework of this stimulating international conference, which was hosted by the Graduate School of Social Sciences (GSSS), a panel entitled "Minimum Income and the Meeting of Social Needs" was especially devoted to basic income as a means to achieve social justice. It included four presentations. Jurgen De Wispelaere (University College, Dublin) explored whether the design features of universal welfare make basic income more effective, robust and politically resilient ("Basic income: Effective, robust and resilient?"); José Noguera (Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona) made objections to the assumptions of leftist advocates of workfare ("Unconditional welfare rights? A defence of basic income vs. welfare to work policies"); Richard K. Caputo (Yeshiva University, New York) tackled the issue of the optimal level of the basic income guarantee ("Eclipsing the welfare state? Meeting needs vs. universal income distribution schemes"); and finally Sascha Liebermann (Universität Dortmund) challenged the consensus regarding the stated objective of full employment ("Strengthening citizenship - effects of an unconditional basic income on political communities"). The presentations were followed by critical comments by Michael Opielka (one of the founding fathers of the basic income debate in Germany, currently visiting scholar at UC Berkeley). For further information, contact the panel chair Yannick Vanderborght at [vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be](mailto:vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be)

BUENOS AIRES (AR), 25 April 2005: First conference organized by the Red Argentina de Ingreso Ciudadano (Redaic): "El ingreso ciudadano y la cuestión social en la Argentina".

The first Conference of Argentina's national network on basic income will be held at the Centro Cultural de la Cooperación, Avenida Corrientes 1543 (Buenos Aires). After a brief public presentation of

the activities of the network for this year, the conference will take place with the participation of Patricia Aguirre (Universidad de San Martín, Buenos Aires), Antoni Domènech (Universidad de Barcelona), and Rubén Lo Vuolo (Ciepp, Buenos Aires).

For further information, e-mail to [redaic@ingresociudadano.org](mailto:redaic@ingresociudadano.org)

Website: [www.ingresociudadano.org](http://www.ingresociudadano.org)

BOSTON (US), 5-8 January 2006: Annual A.S.S.A. Conference.

The U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network invites three or four papers and discussant(s) for a joint session with the Association of Social Economics, on the following theme: "The Basic Income Guarantee and Living Standards". Both members and nonmembers of the Association for Social Economics and the U.S Basic Income Guarantee Network are invited to submit proposals. A selection of papers presented at the sessions will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Forum for Social Economics. To be eligible for consideration, papers must be limited to 3,250 words of text with no more than three pages of endnotes and references. Three hard copies and one electronic copy of the final draft of the paper must be submitted to the Forum editor by January 20, 2006. Each paper will be sent to two referees. Proposal Submission: A one-page abstract (including name, postal and e-mail address) should be submitted before the deadline of April 2, 2005. It is preferred that abstracts be sent by e-mail to [John.Marangos@colostate.edu](mailto:John.Marangos@colostate.edu). Proposal submissions should fit the theme of the sessions, being scholarly economics papers dealing with the basic income guarantee and living standards.

FORTHCOMING BOOK: Comments welcome on a forthcoming book by Robert F. Clark.

Robert F. Clark, the author of "Victory Deferred. The War on Global Poverty (1945-2003)" (see NewsFlash 31) is presently working on a new book that spells out his approach of the negative income tax -- its rationale and its administration -- in more detail. It is provisionally titled "Giving Credit: a Path to Global Poverty Reduction". The negative income tax would take the form of a reimbursable tax credit to qualifying tax filers -- that is, people living on less than \$1 a day. (The American Earned Income Tax Credit is the prototype, with variations adapted to an international setting). Robert F. Clark welcomes comments. A fairly current draft of the manuscript can be accessed at the following:

[www.members.cox.net/rclark41/BobClark.htm](http://www.members.cox.net/rclark41/BobClark.htm),

or by sending an e-mail to [rclark41@cox.net](mailto:rclark41@cox.net)

#### 4. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

CANADA: FEMINISTS DRAFT "PICTOU STATEMENT" IN FAVOR OF BASIC INCOME  
USBIG reports that nineteen feminists from across Canada met in Pictou, Nova Scotia on September 18 and drafted a statement calling for a basic income. The Canadian Woman Studies Journal published the "Pictou Statement" in its Volume 23, issue 3-4 (December 2004). The statement has not been endorsed by individual participants at Pictou and they have not yet had the time to take it to their respective groups for endorsement. The statement largely argues for a basic income guarantee on the grounds of women's unpaid labor. According to the statement, "We refuse to accept market measures of wealth. They make invisible the important caring work of women in every society. ... Women in Canada

expect full and generous provision for all people's basic needs from the common wealth. Social and collective provision for sustaining life must be generous and secure in Canada and must be delivered through national mechanisms appropriately influenced and controlled by the women of our many specific communities. ... Women demand an indexed guaranteed living income for all individual residents set at a level to enable comfortable living." Two articles debating the basic income guarantee were published in the same edition of Canadian Woman Studies. The full text of the Pictou Statement is on line at <http://www.livableincome.org/apictoustatement.htm>

CANADA: NEW DISCUSSION LIST ON BASIC INCOME FOR CANADA Following the meeting of Canadian participants at the USBIG Conference in March 2005 (New York City), some have decided to launch a network focused on promoting a Basic Income in Canada. A mailing list has been started. If you wish to subscribe, please send an e-mail to Myron J. Frankman at [myron.frankman@mcgill.ca](mailto:myron.frankman@mcgill.ca)

GERMANY: MORE THAN FIVE MILLION UNEMPLOYED New record heights in unemployment (5.22 million in February and partly due to the statistical effects of the 'Hartz'-reforms) have spurred new public debates about ways of solving problems of unemployment and poverty. The German Basic Income Network has tried to influence public debate by issuing several press releases, one of them commenting on the 'Job summit' of the red-green government and the conservative opposition, the other one taking up a public intervention by the head of the Bundesagentur für Arbeit, Frank- Jürgen Weise. The network supported Weise's proposal to release older workers in Eastern Germany from being available for work and paying them unemployment benefits as a kind of basic income, but also called for a more courageous move to introduce a basic income. In a show on radio Berlin-Brandenburg (rbb) one of the network's spokespersons presented the idea of a basic income as a way of solving the problem of unemployment and poverty. Members of the network also produced several newspaper articles. For further information, contact Katrin Mohr ([kmohr@gwdg.de](mailto:kmohr@gwdg.de)). See also <http://www.labournet.de/diskussion/index.html>

Also in Germany, the network "Freedom, not full employment" has been actively promoting a universal basic income in the last months, through presentations (for instance on Feb.23, 2005, at the Konrad- Adenauer- Stiftung in Frankfurt) and an interview for the radio- programme "Jump" of the Mitteldeutsche Rundfunk (Jan.24, 2005). For further information, see <http://www.freiheitstattvollbeschaeftigung.de/>

## 5. PUBLICATIONS

### \*CATALAN

CTESC (El Consell de Treball Econòmic i Social de Catalunya). Special Issue on Basic Income. La Revista Online del CTESC, February 2005. The Council of Economic and Social Work of Catalonia, a consultative body of the Government of Catalonia (Spain), has completely devoted the February issue of its online journal to the idea of an unconditional basic income. It includes five articles: "Basic Income, Labour Market

and Work Incentives" by José Antonio Noguera, "Basic Income in Catalonia: Political Viability of the Proposal" by Àlex Boso, "Basic Income for All" by Philippe Van Parijs, "What's Happening with Basic Income in Catalonia?" by Jordi Arcarons & Daniel Raventós, and "Do Trade Unions Form an Obstacle to the Introduction of a Basic Income?" by Yannick Vanderborght. These articles in Catalan can be found at <http://www.ctescat.net/larevista/index.htm> and at [www.redrentabasica.org](http://www.redrentabasica.org). Catalonia is one of the places where the debate on Basic Income is very lively at present.

\*ENGLISH

BARRY, Brian. *Why Social Justice Matters*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2005, 323p., ISBN 0 7456 2993 8. (Author's address: [bmb21@columbia.edu](mailto:bmb21@columbia.edu).) Why does it matter to spell out what social justice requires? Because radical changes in our ways of life are unavoidable. And "whether these changes will be for better or for worse depends partly on the availability of a coherent set of principles and a programme flowing from them that is capable of mobilizing the growing discontent with 'business as usual'." One key ingredient of this programme, in Barry's view, is an unconditional basic income. Chapter 15 ("Jobs and Incomes") emphasizes the many advantages the latter would have over a means-tested system. Moreover, "it is the most practicable (perhaps the most practicable) way of counteracting the excessive power of employers over workers". Chapter 16 ("Can we afford social justice?") looks at its political feasibility. Important steps towards a basic income at the poverty level (60% of median income) include universal child benefits, basic pensions and a basic income at 30% of median income. Also worth considering is the "participation income" variant, requiring engagement in some of a broad range of valuable activities. It "would have the disadvantage of requiring some monitoring, but it would deal with the objection that some people would simply scrounge off the efforts of others, putting nothing back in return... it is quite reasonable that the right to a basic income as a citizen should be associated with a responsibility to the community".

STANDING, Guy. *Income security: why unions should campaign for a basic income*. *Transfer*. *European Review of Labour and Research*. vol. 10 issue 4 Winter 2004, pp.606-619.

In this paper, Guy Standing (ILO and co-chair of BIEN) argues that because of the changing character of work and labour in the context of globalisation, progressives and particularly trade unionists could make a basic income a key part of their agenda. Standing considers the standard objections and then reviews the various advantages of moving in that direction, towards the realisation of a republican or claim right.

STANDING, Guy. *Tsunami Recovery Grants*. in *Economics and Political Weekly*, 05/02/05. Available online at [www.ilo.org/ses](http://www.ilo.org/ses) All those who have watched their fellow human beings traumatised by the tsunami will warm to the outpouring of money intended to assist them recover and revive their lives. Major conferences of world leaders were hastily arranged; donor representatives convened to meet in Geneva. What should be done with the money being mobilised so dramatically? Suppose that after the initial focus on emergency relief, part of the foreign aid was allocated to what might be called Tsunami Recovery Grants, giving

about \$20 a month to every individual living in the affected areas, without condition. A system of disbursement could be devised fairly easily, using biometrics for identification to prevent petty fraud. Simplicity and transparency are paramount if donors and policymakers are really serious about redressing the impoverishment of the already impoverished that is the main reality. Tsunami Recovery Grants would stimulate the rebirth of a local market economy geared to the basic human needs of the remaining or returning local populations. They would also give people a sense of modest economic security in which to come to terms with the trauma of the life-shattering experience. In these disasters, even economists too easily look for a paternalistic option, wanting policymakers to be seen to be doing good, rather than relying primarily on the economic rationality of individuals, local communities and self-forming social groups.

WIDERQUIST, Karl (Ed.). Special Issue of the Journal of Socio-Economics on the Basic Income Guarantee. *Journal of Socio-Economics*, vol.34, issue 1, February 2005, pp.1-135.

The U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network was founded in New York in 1999 to promote further discussion of basic income and related ideas as policy alternatives, and since 2002, it has organised yearly congresses. Most of the papers in this special issue come from the Second USBIG conference, which was held in conjunction with the Eastern Economic Association's Annual Conference in New York on February 21 23, 2003. It includes papers by Almaz Zelleke (independent political scientist in Brooklyn, NY, USA), Joel Handler (Richard C. Maxwell, Professor of Law and Professor of Public Policy at UCLA, USA), Michael Lewis (sociologist at the SUNY School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook, USA), Diego Hernandez (economist at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogota), James Bryan (economist at Manhattanville College, USA), Steve Pressman (economist at Monmouth University, USA), and Karl Widerquist (economist and philosopher at Oxford University, UK). These articles provide a contribution to the debate on the basic income guarantee that is going on in the literature in the fields of political science, philosophy, sociology, economics, and public policy.

Journal's website: [http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws\\_home/620175/description#description](http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/620175/description#description)

BRYAN, James B. Bryan. Targeted programs v the basic income guarantee: an examination of the efficiency costs of different forms of redistribution. *Journal of Socio-Economics*, vol.34, issue 1, February 2005, pp.39-47.

A basic income guarantee is known to require a great deal of tax revenue per dollar of net transfer. Such revenue requirements can appear to be prohibitive, not only politically but also in terms of economic efficiency; and this impression can lead people to favour more targeted forms of redistribution in which there are eligibility requirements and means-testing and where the financing is entirely by non-recipients. A simple simulation is used in this article to show that, in the United States, a basic income guarantee is not necessarily a less efficient way of accomplishing redistributive goals and that it could well be more efficient. According to the author (economist at Manhattanville College, USA) two other important and related conclusions become apparent. First, a large proportion of the inefficiency is due to the behavioural response of the net donor population rather than to net recipient behaviour. Second, the



efficiency costs of these two types of redistributive programs are not proportional to their revenue requirements.

HANDLER, Joel. Myth and ceremony in workfare: rights, contracts, and client satisfaction. *Journal of Socio-Economics*, vol.34, issue 1, February 2005, pp.101-124.

Throughout Western Europe, the ideology of workfare has been adopted for the "workless." Social citizenship has been changed from status to contract. The change is justified in terms of "contracts of inclusion" between welfare agencies and recipients. Recipients are empowered and have "rights" to work or training and obligations to participate. Contracts of inclusion, however, necessarily exclude.

The paper by Joel Handler (Richard C. Maxwell, Professor of Law and Professor of Public Policy at UCLA, USA, and first B(i)enefactor of BIEN) examines the concepts of rights, contracts, and client satisfaction in terms of the U.S. workfare experience. The evidence so far from Europe indicates similar problems in administering workfare for the most vulnerable. Handler concludes that the administrative failure is an additional reason to support a basic income guarantee. By providing an exit option, the worker-client relationship changes from vertical to horizontal.

HERNANDEZ, Diego. Universal basic income as a preferential social dividend a proposal for the Colombian case. *Journal of Socio-Economics*, vol.34, issue 1, February 2005, pp.27-38.

In this paper, Hernandez (economist at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogota) proposes creating a Citizen's Universal Fund (CUF) (Fondo Universal Ciudadano, FUC), an enterprise having social patrimony, to which each Colombian would be associated through acquiring a share promising to pay her a perpetual income (after holding the share for 20 years), which we shall call the Preferential Social Dividend (PSD), (Dividendo Social Preferencial, DSP). The proposal is motivated by two objectives: the search for an effective solution to the problem of poverty and achieving real freedom for Colombians within the framework of a globalised economy, where people examine the markets in the search for greater well-being.

LEWIS, Michael Anthony. Perhaps there can be too much freedom.

*Journal of Socio-Economics*, vol.34, issue 1, February 2005, pp.17-26.

Bruce Ackerman and Anne Alstott have proposed a policy reform, called stakeholder grants (stakes), they argue will increase the amount of real freedom held by United States residents. Philippe Van Parijs has also proposed a policy reform, called the basic income, that he's justified by reference to its ability to increase real freedom. Ackerman and Alstott, although very sympathetic to the basic income, nevertheless prefer stakes to a basic income because they believe stakes, if enacted, would promote real freedom to a greater extent than would a basic income. This paper raises questions about this point of view. Michael Lewis (sociologist at the SUNY School of Social Welfare at Stony Brook, USA) argues that upon consideration of some pretty common decision making patterns it may be reasonable to conclude that putting appropriate constraints on freedom may be more real freedom promoting than otherwise and that such a conclusion may ground a preference for the basic income over stakes.

PRESSMAN, Steven. Income guarantees and the equity-efficiency tradeoff. *Journal of Socio-Economics*, vol.34, issue 1, February 2005, pp.83-100.

In this paper Steven Pressman (economist at Monmouth University, USA) examines the tradeoffs inherent in guaranteed income proposals. Its perspective is international, using the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) and asking whether economic efficiency suffers when governments make greater efforts to protect the poor. Using two different measures of productivity growth, we find no big trade-off between equity and efficiency. That is, during those times and in those countries where greater efforts were made to protect the incomes of the poor, productivity growth does not seem to be affected very much. This gives some hope that efficiency concerns are not a fatal objection to guaranteed income plans.

WIDERQUIST, Karl. A failure to communicate: what (if anything) can we learn from the negative income tax experiments? *Journal of Socio-Economics*, vol.34, issue 1, February 2005, pp.49-81. The U.S. and Canadian governments conducted five negative income tax experiments between 1968 and 1980. The labour market findings of these experiments were an advance for understanding the effects of a basic income guarantee, but their conclusiveness is often overstated. In this paper, Karl Widerquist (economist and philosopher at Oxford University, UK, coordinator of the USBIG network, and a member of BIEN's Executive Committee) presents a review of non-academic articles on the experiments. It reveals poor understanding of the results. One often overlooked cause of this misinterpretation, Widerquist argues, was the failure of researchers to make clear that the experiments could not estimate the demand response and therefore could not estimate the market response to the program. Although the evidence does not amount to an overwhelming case either for or against the basic income guarantee, some important conclusions can be drawn, if they are drawn carefully.

ZELLEKE, Almaz. Distributive justice and the argument for an unconditional basic income. *Journal of Socio-Economics*, vol.34, issue 1, February 2005, pp.3-15. The defense of selective work requirements depends in part on a belief in the fairness of the capitalist economic system, in which property can be acquired, concentrated, and handed down in ways that lead to vast economic inequality. This belief supports the enforcement of work requirements on recipients of redistribution. But a problem inherent in theories of distributive justice, the inability to apply the same criteria of fairness to subsequent generations, undermines the legitimacy of this belief. Zelleke (an independent political scientist in Brooklyn, New York, USA) argues that an unconditional basic income is preferable to work-conditioned income support on distributive and political grounds.

\*FRENCH

VANDERBORGHT, Yannick & VAN PARIJS, Philippe. *L'allocation universelle*. Paris: La Découverte, Collection Repères, n°412, March 2005, 122p., ISBN 2-7071-4526-2. First author's address: vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be  
Jointly authored by Yannick Vanderborght (editor of BIEN's newsletter and lecturer in social policy at Louvain University) and Philippe Van Parijs (co-founder of BIEN and professor of philosophy at Louvain and Harvard), this is a new compact and didactic introduction to basic income ("allocation universelle" in French) published in one of

France's most popular pocket book series. It includes an up-to-date synthesis of the ever expanding international discussion and consists of four chapters: "A New Idea?" (on the history of the proposal), "A Plural Idea?" (on the definition of basic income, its variants and related ideas), "A Just Idea?" (on basic income as a way of tackling unemployment and poverty, and of pursuing social justice), and, finally, "An Idea with a Future?" (on its political feasibility, and the most promising gradual implementation trajectories). Here is what the blurb says: "The idea of an unconditional basic income has been defended for many decades on quite diverse grounds by a great variety of people, whether academics or activists, businessmen and Union leaders, social movements and NGOs, political parties of both the left and the right. It has enjoyed the support of unfamiliar coalitions and triggered ferocious opposition. According to some, it offers a decisive remedy for many evils, starting with poverty and unemployment. According to others, it is nothing but an absurd chimera, economically unsustainable and ethically repugnant. The debate triggered by the proposal is multidimensional, often confused, sometimes very emotional. It calls for a lucid, honest and well-informed overview. This is what this book aims to offer, thereby providing its readers with a firm basis for making up their own minds, free of misunderstandings that perpetuate unnecessary blockages and of illusions which feed unreasonable hopes." A German translation is already on the way (Campus Verlag, with a foreword by Claus Offe, founding co-chair of BIEN). Translations into other languages are being considered. See <http://www.etes.ucl.ac.be/> for a detailed table of contents, and <http://www.collectionreperes.com> for the publisher's website

WERNERUS, Sabine. Les syndicats contre l'allocation universelle? Les points de vue belges et québécois. Les Cahiers de la FOPES - Synthèses (Questions de politique économique et sociale) #26, mars 2005, 69p. Based on several interviews with representatives from Belgium and Québec's main trade unions, and a review of their publications, this study attempts to understand the position of workers' unions regarding an unconditional basic income. The first chapter summarizes the (francophone) literature on basic income and related ideas. The second chapter describes the features of both welfare states, as well as the role played by unions in the management of social security. The third and last chapter focuses on the basic income debate within unions, through the analysis of their position regarding workfare, conditionality, active welfare policies, etc. Wernerus concludes that, even though Quebecois unions are more sympathetic to the very idea of an unconditional basic income, all unions seems to reject it on pragmatic grounds, fearing a worst-case scenario, i.e. a dismantling of existing welfare state arrangements. This publication (6EUR) can be obtained at FOPES: [www.opes.ucl.ac.be](http://www.opes.ucl.ac.be)

\*GERMAN

ENGLER, Wolfgang. Bürger, ohne Arbeit. Für eine radikale Neugestaltung der Gesellschaft. Berlin: Aufbau-Verlag, 2005 In his new book the sociologist Wolfgang Engler, who came to be known to a German-speaking audience through his book on "The East-Germans as Avantgarde", recapitulates the history of labour from ancient times to the present. He sees the present situation characterised by the erosion of the work society which leads to polarisation and harms the identity of those who fall victim to it. To reinstate the autonomy and integrity of the

citizens he pleads for the dissolution of the old nexus between income and paid employment and the introduction of an unconditional citizen's income. The book has been widely reviewed by the German media and received a lot of positive resonance.

See also: ENGLER, Wolfgang. Die Utopie des Bürgergeldes. Der lange Kampf um das Recht auf Lebensunterhalt, in: Blätter für deutsche und internationale Politik, 2/2005

LESSENICH, Stephan/MÖHRING-HESSE, Matthias. Ein neues Leitbild für den Sozialstaat. Eine Expertise im Auftrag der Otto Brenner Stiftung, Berlin, 2005.

In their expertise for the foundation of the German Metal Workers' Union (IG Metall), the authors both academic social scientists plead for the restructuring of the employment-centred German welfare state geared towards status maintenance towards a 'democratic welfare state' that provides a basic floor of income transfers as well as social services for all of its citizens.

For a summary as well as debate of their proposal see Lessenich, Stephan/Nahles, Andrea/Peters, Jürgen et.al.. Den Sozialstaat neu denken, Hamburg: VSA-Verlag. 2005

## 6. ABOUT THE BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

### 6.1. BIEN's executive committee

Co-chair:

Eduardo SUPPLY esuplicy@senado.gov.br, Federal Senator, Sao Paulo, Brazil  
Guy STANDING guystanding@compuserve.com, director of the Social and Economic Security Programme, International Labour Office, Geneva, Switzerland  
Regional co-ordinators:

Eri NOGUCHI en16@columbia.edu, Columbia University, New York, USA

Ingrid VAN NIEKERK ivanniekerc@epri.org.za, Economic Policy Research Institute, Cape Town, South Africa

Secretary:

David CASASSAS casassas@eco.ub.es, Universidad de Barcelona, Spain

Newsletter editor:

Yannick VANDERBORGHT vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be, Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium  
Website manager:

Jurgen DE WISPELAERE jurgen.dewispelaere@ucd.ie, University College Dublin, Ireland  
Women's Officer and Fund Raiser:

Louise HAAGH, lh11@york.ac.uk, Department of Politics, University of York, United Kingdom  
Working paper editor:

Karl WIDERQUIST Karl@Widerquist.com, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, United Kingdom

### 6.2. BIEN's international board

Chair: Philippe Van Parijs

Former members of BIEN's Executive Committee:

Alexander de Roo

Edwin Morley-Fletcher

José Noguera

Claus Offe

Ilona Ostner

Steven Quilley

Robert J. van der Veen  
Walter Van Trier  
Lieselotte Wohlgenannt

Representatives of national networks:

Ruben Lo Vuolo for the Red Argentina de Ingreso Ciudadano (AR) Magit Appel for the Netzwerk Grundeinkommen und sozialer Zusammenhalt (AT)

N for the Rede Brasileira de Renda Básica de Ciudadania (BR) Jørg Gaugler for the Borgerlønsbevægelsen (DK) Michael Opielka for the Netzwerk Grundeinkommen (DE) John Baker for BIEN Ireland (IE) Loek Groot for the Vereniging Basisinkomen (NL) Daniel Raventos for the Red Renta Básica (ES) Bridget Dommen for BIEN Switzerland (CH) Malcolm Torry for the Citizen's Income Trust (UK) Michael Lewis for USBIG (US)

6.3. Recognised national networks

ARGENTINA: Red Argentina de Ingreso Ciudadano Founded in March 2004  
[www.ingresociudadano.org](http://www.ingresociudadano.org)  
President: Ruben Lo Vuolo  
redaic@ingresociudadano.or

AUSTRIA: Netzwerk Grundeinkommen und sozialer Zusammenhalt Founded in October 2002 [www.grundeinkommen.at](http://www.grundeinkommen.at)  
Coordinator: Magit Appel redaktion@ksoe.at

BRAZIL: Rede Brasileira de Renda Básica de Ciudadania Founded in September 2004 Provisional co-ordinator: Eduardo Suplicy  
eduardo.suplicy@senador.gov.br

DENMARK: Borgerlønsbevægelsen  
Founded in January 2000  
[www.borgerloen.dk](http://www.borgerloen.dk)  
President: Jørg Gaugler  
per@borgerloen.dk

GERMANY: Netzwerk Grundeinkommen  
Founded in July 2004  
[www.grundeinkommen.de](http://www.grundeinkommen.de)  
Spokespersons: Ronald Blaschke, Katja Kipping, Katrin Mohr, Guenther Soelken, Robert Ulmer, Birgit Zenker, kontakt@grundeinkommen.de Contact persons: Katrin Mohr (kmohr@gwdg.de), Wolfgang Strengmann-Kuhn (strengmann@wiwi.uni-frankfurt.de), and Wolfram Otto (wolframotto@web.de).

IRELAND: BIEN Ireland  
Founded in March 1995  
Coordinator: John Baker  
John.Baker@ucd.ie  
Equality Studies Centre  
University College Dublin  
Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland  
Tel.: +353-1-716 7104, Fax: +353-1-716 1171

NETHERLANDS: Vereniging Basinkomen  
Founded in October 1987 (initially as "Werlplaats Basisinkomen")  
[www.basisinkomen.nl](http://www.basisinkomen.nl) / E-mail: info@basisinkomen.nl

Coordinator: Guido den Broeder  
Igor Stravinskisingel 50  
3069MA Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
Tel.: +31 10-4559538 or +31 70-3859268

SPAIN: Red Renta Basica  
Founded in February 2001  
[www.redrentabasica.org](http://www.redrentabasica.org)  
President: Daniel Raventos  
presidencia@redrentabasica.org or danielraventos@ub.edu Universitat de  
Barcelona, Facultat d'Economiques Departament de Teoria Sociologica i  
Metodologia de les Ciències Socials Avda.  
Diagonal 690, 08034 Barcelona, Spain  
Tel.: +34.93.402.90.51, Fax: +34.93.322.65.54

SWITZERLAND: BIEN Switzerland  
Founded in September 2002  
President: Pierre Hrold c/o Jean-Daniel Jimenez jean-  
da.jimenez@bluewin.ch 39, rue Louis-Favre 1201 Geneva  
Tel.: +41 22 733 41 09 or +41 78 847 47 56

UNITED KINGDOM: Citizen's Income Trust  
Founded in 1984 (initially as "Basic Income Research Group")  
[www.citizensincome.org](http://www.citizensincome.org)  
Director: Malcolm Torry info@citizensincome.org Citizens Income Trust,  
P.O. Box 26586, London SE3 7WY, United Kingdom.  
Tel.: 44-20-8305 1222 Fax: 44-20-8305 1802

UNITED STATES: U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network (USBIG) Founded in  
December 1999 [www.usbig.net](http://www.usbig.net)  
Coordinator: Karl Widerquist Karl@Widerquist.com

#### 6.4. BIEN's life members and B(I)ENEFACTORS

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 [casassas@eco.ub.es](mailto:casassas@eco.ub.es), 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 basic income advocates coming from  
developing countries or from disadvantaged groups.

B(I)ENEFACTORS:  
Joel Handler (US), ...

#### 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 (CH), 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 Lavinias (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 (US), Peter Molgaard Nielsen (DK), Fernanda Rodrigues (PT), Helmut Pelzer (DE), Rod Dobell (CA), Walter Van Trier (BE), Loek Groot (NL), Andrea Fumagalli (IT), Bernard Berteloot (FR), Jean- Pierre Mon (FR), Angelika Krebs (DE), Ahmet Insel (FR), Alberto Barbeito (AR), Rubén Lo Vuolo (AR), Manos Matsaganis (GR), Jose Iglesias Fernandez (ES), Daniel Eichler (DE), Cristovam Buarque (BR), Michael Lewis (US), Clive Lord (UK), Jean Morier-Genoud (FR), Eri Noguchi (US), Michael Samson (ZA), Ingrid van Niekerk (ZA), Karl Widerquist (US), Al Sheahan (US), Christopher Balfour (AND), Jurgen De Wispelaere (UK), Wolf-Dieter Just (DE), Zsuzsa Ferge (HU), Paul Friesen (CA), Nicolas Bourgeon (FR), Marja A. Pijl (NL), Matthias Spielkamp (DE), Frédéric Jourdin (FR), Daniel Raventós (ES), Andrés Hernández (CO), Guido Erreygers (BE), Alain Tonnet (BE), Stephen C. Clark (US), Wolfgang Mundstein (AT), Evert Voogd (NL), Frank Thompson (US), Lieselotte Wohlgenannt (AT), Jose Luis Rey Pérez (ES), Jose Antonio Noguera (ES), Esther Brunner (CH), Irv Garfinkel (US), Claude Macquet (BE), Bernard Guibert (FR), Margit Appel (AT), Simo Aho (FI), Francisco Ramos Martin (ES), Brigid Reynolds (IE), Sean Healy (IE), Maire Mullarney (IE), Patrick Lovesse (CH), Jean-Paul Zoyem (FR), GianCarlo Moiso (IT), Martino Rossi (CH), Pierre Herold (CH), Steven Shafarman (US), Leonardo Fernando Cruz Basso (BR), Wolfgang Strenmann-Kuhn (DE), Anne Glenda Miller (UK), Lowell Manning (NZ), Dimitris Ballas (GR), Gilberte Ferrière (BE), Louise Haagh (DK), Michael Howard (US), Simon Wigley (TR), Erik Christensen (DK), David Casassas (ES), Paul Nollen (BE), Vriend(inn)en Basisinkomen (NL), Christophe Guené (BE), Alain Massot (CA), Marcel Bertrand Paradis (CA), NN (Geneve, CH), Marc Vandenberghe (BE), Gianluca Busilacchi (IT), Robert F. Clark (US), Theresa Funciello (US), Al Boag & Sue Williams (AU), Josef Meyer (BE), Alain Boyer (CH), Jos Janssen (NL), Collectif Charles Fourier (+), Bruce Ackerman (US), Victor Lau (NL), Konstantinos Geormas (GR), Pierre Feray (FR), Christian Brütsch (CH), Phil Harvey (US), Toru Yamamori (JP), René Keersemaeker (NL), Manuel Franzmann (DE), Ovidio Carlos de Brito (BR), Bernard De Crum, Jan Beaufort (DE) [150], ...