

BIEN - Basic Income Earth Network - NEWSFLASH 41, September 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, David Casassas, Sascha Liebermann, Ingrid van Niekerk, Eri Noguchi, Philippe Van Parijs, and Karl Widerquist.

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

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1. EDITORIAL: BIEN's Regional Networks

At the last executive meeting of BIEN in Philadelphia this year, the Regional Co-ordinators, Eri Noguchi and Ingrid van Niekerk, were tasked with doing an assessment of the state of basic income in

the BIEN networks and to update information on them. A form has been designed to this effect, and can be obtained by sending an e-mail to Eri Noguchi, Regional Co-ordinator (en16@columbia.edu). All networks are asked to complete the form as soon as possible and return it to BIEN and [<research@epri.org.za>](mailto:research@epri.org.za) before 20 October. In particular we hope that you will give some thought to the issue of how BIEN can help your organisation/network be more effective. This information will be used to draw up a report to be presented at the BIEN CONGRESS in November.

On behalf of BIEN's Executive Committee,
Ingrid van Niekerk and Eri Noguchi

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

News from Ingrid van Niekerk, Congress organizer

Work on the Congress is going well. A wide range of countries are represented in the proposals sent in. There are ten European countries represented and the countries with the most proposals sent in are Namibia, USA, Brazil and of course South Africa. For those of you who may have thought that a trip to South Africa was too expensive a few months ago, please note that the rand/dollar exchange rate currently stands at R7.67 to the dollar. I think the exchange rate is definitely working in our favour. Also, despite the fact that Archbishop Emeritus Tutu will be on his round the world birthday celebration trip, he has offered to make a video presentation to the Congress. In addition, I have received several emails to extend the deadline as some members are still trying to raise funds for the trip to Cape Town, while others are still working on their papers. It seems that for many in the north this is a very difficult time of the academic year and I applaud all those who have managed to re-arrange their schedules to come to the first Basic Income Earth Network Congress hosted in the South. We also commend Senator Eduardo Suplicy and others who made time to send in their proposals despite their busy schedule and wish them all the best of luck in the forthcoming Brazilian elections. Because this is the first time that the BIEN Congress has been held outside of Europe with all its additional difficulties, we have decided to extend the final deadline. We would be happy to receive proposals, papers and registrations until 15 October. Papers received by this date will still be eligible for the Basic Income Studies Prize. The programme for the Congress will be posted on the website www.epri.org.za by 9 October. On a lighter note, Cape Town is warm and sunny in November as it is late Spring early Summer with temperatures ranging from 14 degrees to 25 degrees Celsius and the beaches are not yet crowded. We look forward to seeing you all in Cape Town November.

Warm regards,
Ingrid van Niekerk

3. EVENTS

*RIO DE JANEIRO (BR), 4-6 September 2006: International Seminar on Poverty and Vulnerability

This conference on "Development and Vulnerability: Outlooks for Resuming Development in Southern Countries", was organized by the Instituto de Economia (IE) at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro. Some prominent experts on the issue of poverty in developing countries, such as Pierre Salama (University of Paris XIII and author of the recent book "Le Dfi des ingalits") and Joachim Von Braun (director of the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington DC), had been invited to analyze the situation of Brazil. The Brazilian Minister of Social Development, Patrus Ananias, also gave a speech on Sept. 4. Anti-poverty

programmes, including basic income, were thoroughly discussed by one panel on Tuesday 5 September. In her presentation Lenas Lavinias (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro) focused on the regressive impact of Brazil's current tax-and-transfer system, and argued for a reform of the "Bolsa Familia" scheme. Yannick Vanderborght (Facults universitaires Saint Louis, Brussels), also emphasized several perverse effects of this targeted scheme, and argued in favour of basic income in the Brazilian context. On the evening of Monday 4 Sept, the Brazilian version of Van Parijs and Vanderborght's book on basic income was officially launched, and this event offered another opportunity to discuss the proposal, especially with enthusiastic students in economics.

For further details see for instance http://www.ufrj.br/detalha_noticia.php?codnoticia=31

See also Vanderborght's interview in the Newspaper O'Popular:

http://www.uclouvain.be/cps/ucl/doc/etes/documents/Interview_OPopular_Sept2006.pdf

*CORDOBA (ES), 13-15 October 2006: 5th International Conference on Exclusion and Human Rights.

This conference shall be held by the Asociacin "Pro Derechos Humanos de Andaluca" in Crdoba, Spain.

The organisers of this event state that it is essential for an Association that is fighting for the defence of human rights to analyse the mechanisms that generate and perpetuate the situations of poverty and social exclusion in todays societies. In view of the daily drama of millions of people starving, being forced to abandon their places because of wars and suffering the effects of certain supposed models of development, it is necessary, more than ever, a claim for an effective consideration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Speakers will include, among others, Federico Mayor Zaragoza (former President of UNESCO) and Daniel Ravents (Universitat de Barcelona and President of Red Renta Bsica), who will give a lecture on the scope of Basic Income with regard to the problems that will be raised during the Conference.

For further information, contact cordoba@apdha.org

*VALLADOLID (ES), 18-20 October 2006: International Congress on Human Rights.

The International Congress on Human Rights shall be held by the Instituto Internacional de Historia Simancas (Universidad de Valladolid, Spain).

Speakers will include (among others): Gregorio Peces-Barba (Universidad Carlos III, Madrid), Carole Pateman (School of European Studies, Harvard University), Javier de Lucas (Universidad de Valencia), Michael Walzer (Princeton University), and Daniel Ravents (Universitat de Barcelona), who will give a talk on Citizens Basic Income as a Right to Social Existence.

For further information: <http://www3.uva.es/simancas/actividad2-2006.htm>

*LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE (BE), 22 November 2006, Workshop: "Is an Unconditional Basic Income Fair to Women ?"

This workshop will be held at the Hoover Chair for Economic and Social Ethics at the University of Louvain (22 November 2006, 14-17.30, 3 Place Montesquieu, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Dupriez 305, Salle Vives).

Discussions will be based on a paper presented by Julieta ELGARTE (Universidad Nacional de La Plata & UCLouvain, Chaire Hoover). Other participants include Pascale VIELLE (UCLouvain, Facult de droit), Yannick VANDERBORGHT (Facults universitaires Saint

Louis, Brussels & UCLouvain, Chaire Hoover), David CASASSAS (Universitat de Barcelona & UCLouvain, Chaire Hoover), and Philippe VAN PARIJS (UCLouvain, Chaire Hoover). All available evidence suggests that the greater freedom the basic income would give for reducing or interrupting paid work would be exercised to a significantly greater extent by women than by men. This could largely offset the redistribution of income generated by the introduction of such a scheme. More seriously perhaps, it might end up strengthening the division of labour between genders, weakening women's commitment to the labour market, increasing their vulnerability to the circumstances of life and their dependence on men. If this is true, would it mean that a basic income, all things considered, would be unjust? Could accompanying measures prevent these consequences? Do alternative ways of strengthening women's position, such as a "homemaker's wage", collectively funded full-time childcare or strict enforcement of equal pay for equal work, offer better prospects for making our social and economic system fairer to women?

Registration free of charge but obligatory no later than 15 November by mail to Threse Davio, <davio@etes.ucl.ac.be>. For further information: <http://www.etes.ucl.ac.be/>

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

The 6th Symposium of Red Renta Bsica, Spains official network of BIEN, will be held at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Santiago de Compostela on Thursday November 30 and Friday December 1, 2006. The provisional programme includes roundtables on "20 Years Arguing for Basic Income: Philosophical Assessment and Persepctives"; "20 Years Arguing for Basic Income: Political Assessment and Persepctives", and "Basic Income Assessed by Galician Social Actors".

For further information, see www.redrentabasica.org

*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.

Featured speakers include Dalton Conley, Stanley Aronowitz, William DiFazio, and co-chair of BIEN Eduardo Suplicy. 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". William DiFazio is Professor of Sociology at St. Johns University. He is the author of "Longshoremen: Community and Resistance on the Brooklyn Waterfront" and co-author of "The Jobless Future". His most recent book, "Ordinary Poverty", presents the results of welfare reform from ending entitlements to diminished welfare benefits through the eyes and voices of those who were most directly affected by it.

Scholars, activists, and others are invited to attend, to propose papers & presentations, and to organize panel discussions. Proposals are welcome on topics relating to the Basic Income Guarantee or to the current state of poverty and inequality. Suggested topics include but are not limited to the financing of BIG; the history of BIG; gender, family, and labor market issues of BIG; rights and responsibilities relating to BIG; strategies from implementing BIG; and empirical issues of BIG, and of poverty including cost estimates. The purpose of the

conference is discussion, and all points of view are welcome. The USBIG Congress is entirely autonomous in content and submissions are welcome in any academic discipline and from non-academics.

Deadline for Submissions: Oct 27, 2006. Further details on <http://ww.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>

An official call for papers has been released, and can be downloaded at http://www.yu.edu/Wurzweiler/CallForPapers_SaveTheDate.pdf

4. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

*IRELAND: Sinn Fin advocates basic pension

On August 21, 2006, Sinn Fin Employment and Workers Rights spokesperson Arthur Morgan TD, commenting on figures published by financial institution Irish Life that three quarters of Irish women have no pension coverage, said that the figures once again demonstrated that the Governments pension policy is failing women in particular. Morgan further argued that private pensions are not the solution and called for the introduction of a universal basic-income pension funded out of the general taxation system for all those of retirement age to ensure economic independence for older women. For further information: <http://www.sinnfein.ie/news/detail/15602>

*EUROPEAN UNION: Spanish Euro MP supports basic income study

The President of the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament, Marcin Libicki, approved on June 2006 the processing of a proposal to study the viability of a Basic Income sent by the association "Arenci" (Len, Spain) with the support of Spanish socialist representative at the European Parliament Elena Valenciano. As it is stressed in the text approved by the Committee on Petitions, the proposal will be considered because the issues that are raised fit in the list of tasks the European Union is responsible for. This proposal considers a Basic Income of 421 euros per month, to be paid with consumption tax revenues. Elena Valenciano hopes that, as a result of this proposal, the European Parliament will issue a report on Basic Income.

For more information, contact arenci@hotmail.com.

*NAMIBIA: International Monetary Fund criticizes basic income proposal

In its recent "Country Report" on Namibia (No. 06/153 April 2006), the International Monetary Fund indicates 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 current estimate suggests that the cost of such a grant would be close to 5 percent of GDP. While it would reduce poverty, the likely effect on income distribution is debatable, the IMF says.

According to the fund, the implementation of a well-targeted conditional cash grant could be more effective in reducing poverty and improving income distribution over time. A targeted

transfer would be significantly less costly and impinge less on macroeconomic stability. Furthermore, a conditional transfer could be directly linked to the achievement of lagging Millennium Development Goals (MDG) indicators, hereby addressing both current and future poverty.

The report can be downloaded at <http://www.imf.org/>

5. PUBLICATIONS

*GERMAN

WERNER, Gtz W. (2006), Ein Grund für die Zukunft. Das Grundeinkommen, Stuttgart: Verlag freies Geistesleben, ISBN 3772517897

Gtz W. Werner is the founder and CEO of the drugstore chain DM, which employs 23.000 people, and part-time professor of entrepreneurship at the University of Karlsruhe. He advocates the introduction of a basic income in Germany. This new book entitled "A Reason for the Future: the Basic Income" includes selected articles by and interviews with Werner, published in several newspapers and magazines. They all refer to the debates about reforms of the welfare state in Germany. The book also includes articles by Wolf Lotter (Journalist, Brandeins), Benediktus Hardorp (chartered accountant), Thomas Straubhaar (Scientific Director of the Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI)), and Sascha Liebermann (Initiative "Freedom, not Full Employment").

Publisher's website: <http://www.geistesleben.com/>

For further information on Gtz Werner's ideas and campaign see <http://www.unternimm-die-zukunft.de/> or get in touch with Andr Presse <andre.presse@iep.uni-karlsruhe.de>

*SPANISH

CASASSAS, David (2005): Sociologías de la elección y nociones de libertad: la Renta Básica como proyecto republicano para sociedades de mercado, *Isegora. Revista de Filosofía Moral y Política*, Num. 33, pp. 235-248. [Sociologies of Choice and Notions of Freedom: Basic Income as a Republican Project for Market Societies].

The making of social policies depends on a particular description of social life. Its specification is something necessary when it comes to give a conscious political direction to all mechanisms and institutional devices that make up social policy as a whole. The way contemporary political philosophy has approached the proposal of a Basic Income constitutes an especially revealing example of this question. In this paper David Casassas (Barcelona & Louvain) presents, first, the conceptual framework and the analysis of social life from which republican tradition has tackled its controversial notions of freedom and neutrality. Second, he compares the perspective of republican freedom with the notion of freedom that operates within the framework of Philippe Van Parijs' *real freedom* perspective, which upholds a criterion of justice stating that a free society is that in which the number of options at the most disadvantaged person's disposal is the greatest. Third, the author defends an approach to Basic Income requiring a categorization of options so as to give priority to those options that, even being maybe of less importance in numerical terms, confer individuals greater guarantee of security in the definition and development of their own life plans, that is, that ensure the absence of arbitrary interference by others. In that way, Casassas proposes, in keeping with the republican tradition, a normative approach to Basic Income in which it is assumed that those entities that are to be considered free or unfree are not decisions themselves, but socio-

institutionally embodied individuals facing the task of making them. He finally shows the outcome of the bringing into play of the republican perspective when it comes to politically institutionally - design the implementation of Basic Income in the context of the market societies we are living in.

Author's address: "David Casassas" <dcasassas@ub.edu>

6. NEW LINKS

*BASIC INCOME GUARANTEE

MASTERTON, Thomas (2006), Economic Alternatives: Basic Income Guarantee, Econ-Atrocities, June 14.

A short overview of the American basic income debate, published by the "Center for popular economics".

<http://www.fguide.org/Bulletin/basicincomeguar.htm>

*NEGATIVE INCOME TAX IN THE 1960s

MARSHALL, Jennifer A., LERMAN, Robert, DAFOE WHITEHEAD Barbara & al. (2006), The Collapse of Marriage and the Rise of Welfare Dependence, Heritage Lectures, issue 959, August 15, 2006 (published by the Heritage Foundation).

A transcription of a panel discussion that took place in May 2006. Part of the discussion was devoted to the negative income tax proposals made by Senator Daniel P. Moynihan during the 1960s.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Welfare/hl959.cfm> (HTML)

http://www.heritage.org/Research/Welfare/upload/hl_959.pdf (PDF)

*SWISS BLOG

A Swiss blog on basic income: <http://www.care2.com/c2c/share/detail/185168>

*PRESIDENT OF GERMAN STATE ADVOCATES BASIC INCOME

In July 2006 the President of the State of Thuringen, Dieter Althaus (CDU), has advocated the introduction of an unconditional citizen's income of 800 euro for everyone in Germany (see NewsFlash 40). A short paper on the topic has been posted on <http://www.mdr.de/nachrichten/3242712.html>

*WIKIPEDIA ON BASIC INCOME

A short article on basic income, that mentions BIEN and Basic Income Studies.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guaranteed_minimum_income

7. ABOUT THE BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

Co-chair:

Eduardo SUPPLY, 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 <dcasassas@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)

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 Duchetelet (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 Moulrier Boutang (FR), Joachim Mitschke (DE), Rik van Berkel (NL), Francois Blais (CA), Katrin Tns (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), Rubn 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 Sheahen (US), Christopher Balfour (UK), Jurgen De Wispelaere (UK), Wolf-Dieter Just (DE), Zsuzsa Ferge (HU), Paul Friesen (CA), Nicolas Bourgeon (FR), Marja A. Pijl (NL), Matthias Spielkamp (DE), Frdric Jourdin (FR), Daniel Ravents (ES), Andrs Hernandez (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 Prez (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 Ferrire (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 Guen (BE), Alain Massot (CA), Marcel Bertrand Paradis (CA), NN (Geneve, CH), Marc Vandenberghe (BE), Gianluca Busilacchi (IT), Robert F. Clark (US), Theresa Funicello (US), Al Boag & Sue Williams (AU), Josef Meyer (BE), Alain Boyer

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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@etes.ucl.ac.be

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