



BIEN - Basic Income Earth Network NEWSFLASH 49 January 2008

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, Jurgen De Wispelaere, Elisa Grazzi, Alfred Groff, Sandro Gobetti, Claudia & Dirk Haarmann, Marek Hrubec, Günter Sölken, Guy Standing, 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. 12th BIEN CONGRESS, June 2008, Dublin (Ireland)

Preparations are well advanced for the 12th International Congress of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) which will be held on 20-21 June 2008 in Dublin, Ireland. The theme of this World Congress is: **Inequality and Development in a Globalised Economy - The Basic Income Option.**

We have already received proposals for presentations from people in all continents of the world. This two-day event will be preceded by a one-day event (June 19, 2008) which will focus on Basic Income in Ireland and link it to issues concerning the Social Contract. The 'Ireland Day' (9.45am to 5.00pm) will be open to all participants in the World Congress at a discounted rate.

The BIEN Congress will combine plenary sessions featuring invited speakers and parallel workshops with volunteered papers. The closing date for making proposals for inclusion in Congress 2008 has been extended to February 15th. All details can be accessed at Congress dedicated website www.basicincomeireland.com

From February 1st, the website will have full information on registration, accommodation, etc. The venue for Congress 2008 will be the Quinn Business School in University College Dublin (UCD). The terminus of one of the city bus routes is outside the door of the Quinn Business School so it will be easy to travel to and from the venue.

Participants are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements directly. **Campus-style** accommodation will be available on the UCD campus. En-suite rooms can be booked for €40 a night (no food provided). Details of how to book these rooms will be available on our website from February 1st. **Hotel and 'Bed and Breakfast'** accommodation can be booked all over Dublin city. For those who wish to book this type of accommodation we will provide details of various options along the bus route that goes to the Congress venue. Details will be available on the Congress website from February 1st.

All those presenting papers or participating in panels or simply attending the Congress must register in advance and pay the Congress fee. People can register for the Congress and pay their registration fee online by going to our website www.basicincomeireland.com and following the directions on the site. This facility will be available from February 1, 2008. We are using Paypal for this purpose. For those who have a Paypal account they can follow the directions on the Congress website. For those who do not have a Paypal account they can set one up very easily - just follow the directions which will be on the Congress website from February 1st. **Registration must be completed and fully paid by May 19, 2008.** We look forward to welcoming participants in Congress 2008 to Dublin in June.

2. BASIC INCOME STUDIES

Basic Income Studies has published BIS Vol. 2, Issue 2 (December 2007). This issue features a debate, guest-edited by David Casassas (University of Oxford), on the justification of basic income within republican political thought. To view any of the articles, simply click on the links below.

BIS back issues are available for free sampling at <http://www.bepress.com/bis>. Click the required article and follow the instructions to get free guest access to all BIS publications.

CONTENTS OF VOL.2, ISSUE 2:

“From the Editors”.

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art2>

RESEARCH ARTICLES

David Purdy "Is Basic Income Viable?".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art4>

Manos Matsaganis and Maria Flevotomou "A Basic Income for Housing? Simulating a Universal Housing Transfer in the Netherlands and Sweden".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art5>

Johannes Hohlenberg, Simon Birnbaum and Erik Christensen "Anthroposophical Reflections on Basic Income".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art6>

RESEARCH NOTES

Bill Jordan "Basic Income and Economic Integration".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art7>

Lily L. Batchelder and Fred T. Goldberg, Jr. "Reforming Tax Incentives Into Uniform Refundable Tax Credits".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art8>

DEBATE: "BASIC INCOME AND THE REPUBLICAN LEGACY"

David Casassas "Basic Income and the Republican Ideal: Rethinking Material Independence in Contemporary Societies".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art9>

Philip Pettit "A Republican Right to Basic Income?"

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art10>

Antoni Domènech and Daniel Raventós "Property and Republican Freedom: An Institutional Approach to Basic Income".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art11>

Carole Pateman "Why Republicanism?"

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art12>

Stuart White "The Republican Case for Basic Income: A Plea for Difficulty".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art13>

BOOK REVIEWS

Monika Wallmon "Review of Harvey and Boyle (eds.), Basic Income Guarantees and the Right to Work".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art14>

Adam Whitworth "Review of "Guy Standing and Michael Samson, A Basic Income Grant for South Africa".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art15>

Gerard Cotterell "Review of Tony Fitzpatrick, New Theories of Welfare".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art16>

Wim Van Lancker "Review of Erik Olin Wright (ed.), Redesigning Distribution".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss2/art17>

To submit your next paper to Basic Income Studies, visit <http://www.bepress.com/bis>, and click "Submit Article". If you like to discuss your contribution informally, contact editors Jurgen De Wispelaere or Karl Widerquist at bis-editors@bepress.com.

BIS is sponsored by the [Spanish Instituto de Estudios Fiscales \(IEF\)](#), the Spanish basic income network [Red Renta Básica \(RRB\)](#), and the [Basic Income Earth Network \(BIEN\)](#), and supported by the [US Basic Income Guarantee Network \(USBIG\)](#). BIS gratefully acknowledges the support of these organisations and their members.

3. EVENTS

* **VALLES OCCIDENTAL (ES)**, 15-16 December 2007: Young Socialists' School debates Basic Income

The Educational Section of Catalonia's Socialist Party at Vallès Occidental (one of the most politically active regions in Catalonia) held a two-day course on December 15 and 16 which gathered many politicians from PSC (Catalan Socialist Party) and other Catalan left-wing parties, as well as members of unions and independent experts. Sessions dealt with issues such as work conditions in present-day Spanish labour markets, a general assessment of Zapatero's turn of office (General Election at Spanish Parliament will take place in March 9 2008), and included a lecture given by Daniel Raventós, President of Red Renta Bàsica, on "The Feasibility of Basic as a Right Promoting Social Justice".

* **BRUSSELS (BE)**, 19 December 2007: launch of EU-wide adequate income campaign

"Everyone deserves a decent life": EAPN kicked off EU wide campaign for Adequate Minimum Income schemes. On December 19, 2007, The European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) launched an EU wide campaign for Adequate Minimum Income schemes. 24 out of 27 Member States have minimum income schemes in place at this present time, but there are serious flaws with their accessibility and their adequacy. It is time, EAPN argues, to state clearly that adequate Minimum Income schemes are a fundamental prerequisite for an EU based on social justice and equal opportunities for all. The campaign was launched in Brussels in presence of NGO representatives, Members of the European Parliament, European Commission officials as well as national representations and social partners (ETUC, EPSU, etc.) representatives.

"Minimum income schemes do not exist in all EU countries and accessibility for all is not guaranteed in the places that they do exist. Some groups are not entitled to Minimum Income

due to their age, employment situation, or status as migrants”, declared Ludo Horemans, President of EAPN. “Complexities of the systems prevent people from taking up their rights. Moreover, Minimum Income schemes are often not set at a level adequate enough to lift people out of poverty. They do not take into account the rise in the cost of living nor the increasing price of services that people rely on, such as housing or energy.”

17 October 2007 saw the launch of a second EU-Commission consultation about concrete proposals on how to move the ‘active inclusion’ strategy forward, including a new EU Recommendation, and a new tool to support its implementation. It will only be implemented if it is widely supported in the EU, and notably if Member States respond favorably to this proposal by the end of the consultation period (February 2008). *“Against this background, EAPN calls on the EU Member States to recognise Adequate Minimum Income schemes as an essential element of the Social Protection System as well as to guarantee access to Adequate Minimum Income as a basic right at national level”,* said Fintan Farrell, Director of EAPN. *“We also call on the EU Member States to engage positively in the current Commission consultation on Active Inclusion and support the proposal that ‘income support sufficient for a dignified life’ should be given key importance in a comprehensive approach to the fight against poverty and social exclusion.”*

For further information: <http://www.eapn.org/>

* **POLA DE SIERO, ASTURIAS (ES)**, 19 January 2008: Conference on Basic Income held by Izquierda Unida

Asturia’s Section of Izquierda Unida, the main Spanish left-wing party to the left of Spanish Socialist Party, organised a very well-attended Conference on the philosophical justification of Basic Income, its political feasibility and its possible financial schemes. Daniel Raventós and Jordi Arcarons (both of them are members of Red Renta Básica) gave background lectures and conducted vivid discussions with practitioners working at municipal and regional public agencies, members of social and political movements and Izquierda Unida’s politicians. Many papers, radio stations and TV channels covered the event, which proves that Basic Income keeps going deeper into Spanish social and political debate.

* **OXFORD (UK)**, 9 February 2008: Conference on Social aspects of Green Economics

In association with Pluto Press, Zed Books, The International Journal of Green Economics, Inderscience Publishers of academic journals, Etopia Journal (Belgium), and Alternatives Economiques (France), *The Green Economics Institute* organizes a Green Economics Conference/Seminar at Oxford University (UK) on "Social aspects of Green Economics: basic income, women and debt poverty, pensions, trafficking in women, and women’s access to economics". Karl Widerquist, of the University of Reading, will give the keynote lecture entitled “An Introduction to Citizens Capital Accounts.” This conference will take place at Mansfield College, Oxford University, UK, and will also be run in the French Senate in June 2008.

For further information: <http://www.greeneconomics.org.uk/>

* **ERMUA (ES)**, 20-22 February 2008: Conference on Social Welfare Programmes, held by Ermua’s City Council

Ermua's City Council is organising a Conference on Social Welfare Programmes for mid-size cities (20,000 inhabitants) as the result of its willingness to provide politicians and practitioners a broad and election-independent picture of the main challenges these programmes are expected to face. This interdisciplinary Conference will deal with issues like social participation and political responsibility in the provision of welfare services, welfare schemes and migration, and the debate on the (un)conditionality of these welfare schemes, among others. Many experts have been invited to give a talk on these subjects. Speakers include, among others, Joan Subirats (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), who will make a general assessment of present-day social welfare policies in Europe, Imanol Zubero (Universidad del País Vasco), Josep Ramoneda (Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona), Daniel Raventós (Universitat de Barcelona and Red Renta Básica), who will give a talk on "Universal and Unconditional Basic Income and Social Inclusion", and Gemma Zabaleta (Member of Basque Socialist Party), who will offer a reflection on new perspectives for cash transfer schemes in the Basque Country.

* **BOSTON (US)**, 7-9 March 2008, Seventh USBIG Congress

The USBIG Network will hold its Seventh Congress at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel on March 7-9, 2008. The tentative program is now online at <http://www.usbig.net/cong2008/schedule2008.html>

The Conference will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Economic Association, which will hold hundreds of sessions on a wide variety of topics. Attendees of either conference are welcome to attend the sessions of the other. At the Congress, academics and activists from the United States, Canada, Britain, and several other countries will discuss issues such as Occupational Citizenship, the Ethics of BIG, the Politics of Basic Income, Economic Insecurity and Poverty, the Relationship between BIG and Work, the Meaning of Freedom, Distribution and Redistribution, and the Institutional Context for Progressive Policy. Featured speakers include Philippe Van Parijs, Eduardo Suplicy, Yannick Vanderborght, Jurgen de Wispelaere, Guy Standing, Sean Healy, and Brigid Reynolds. Everyone welcome to attend the conference.

The 2008 USBIG Conference is organized by a committee of Michael Lewis (chair), Eri Noguchi, and Almaz Zelleke. For more information go to <http://www.usbig.net> or contact Michael Lewis at mlewis@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

* **BERLIN (DE)**, 24 – 26 October 2008: Third German Basic Income Congress

"On the Way to Basic Income – Unconditional and Viable" (« Auf dem Weg zum Grundeinkommen - bedingungslos und existenzsichernd »). Under this title, the Berlin Congress will discuss a wide range of approaches to basic income, from philosophical concepts to practical policy proposals; from fundamentalist Marxist critiques of capitalism to market-oriented proposals for reform – all the way to neoliberal considerations. The Congress is organized in such a way as to encourage maximum participation, covering events in the fields of art, theatre, and music as well as practical workshops aimed at training proponents of basic income in public debate skills and sharpening their discussion abilities. The classic forms of lectures, panel discussions and workshops will provide information and broaden awareness of current problems and solutions in the debate on basic income.

Current congress plans are published on the German Basic Income Network's website www.grundeinkommen.de. Presently, the schedule offers more than ten main events such as lectures and panel discussions as well as 36 workshops to be held in two blocks of two hours each.

This year's congress will take place in Berlin following past events in Vienna and Basel. As in previous years, the Congress is organized by the national Basic Income Networks in Austria, Germany and Switzerland jointly with the national chapters of ATTAC and BIEN Switzerland.

The Humboldt University is a fitting venue providing adequate space for such a large event, including lecture halls and catering facilities. No translation into other languages will be provided. The HU is situated in the centre of Berlin and is thus easily accessible.

The Congress will be preceded by a "Basic Income Week" throughout Austria, Germany and Switzerland, where the many local initiatives will organize a wide variety of events around the idea of basic income. We hope that these independent activities will provide an incentive for many people to participate in the Berlin Conference.

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

4. OBITUARY: ANDREW GLYN (1943-2007)

Andrew Glyn, fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, died of a brain tumor at the age of 64. He was one of the most respected and most loved left-wing political economists. He was also, as the *Times* obituary put it (8 January 08), "an ideological radical who proved himself to be one of the finest exponents of the most traditional of all teaching methods - Oxford's Socratic tutorial system" and "one of the most inspiring and giving of Oxford's teachers".

His last book, *Capitalism Unleashed* (OUP 2006), republished in paperback shortly before his death, revealed, as he put it himself in the preface, that "the campaign in support of Basic Income eventually notched up one more adherent". The top priority, he wrote in the final chapter, should be to establish "the basis for a new balance between work and other activities". How? "the most innovative policy suggestion to encourage moves in this direction is the proposal of a Basic Income". It "would involve a recasting of elements of the welfare state in an egalitarian direction which would be extremely worthwhile".

The funeral ceremony, on January 4th, 2008, was attended by David Miliband, British foreign secretary, and his brother Ed Miliband, Minister for the Cabinet Office in charge of the fight against exclusion, both his former students and friends. In his speech, Ed Miliband mentioned that Andrew Glyn "ended brightly by talking about the need to turn society towards more leisure, and away from consumption, and about the potential of the basic income idea."

See "In Memoriam Andrew Glyn", intervention by Ph. Van Parijs at the funeral ceremony, available at <http://www.uclouvain.be/8611.html>

See also the obituary in "Socialist Unity": <http://www.socialistunity.com/?p=1417> and in "The Guardian": <http://politics.guardian.co.uk/politicsobituaries/story/0,,2233842,00.html>

5. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

*** BELGIUM: BASIC INCOME ADVOCATE BECOMES FEDERAL SENATOR**

On December 21, 2007, Roland Duchâtelet, the founder and President of the political movement "Vivant", became a member of the Belgian Federal Senate. The core programme of "Vivant" includes an unconditional basic income, direct democracy, and a tax shift from labor taxes toward consumption tax. In the Senate Roland Duchâtelet succeeds Guy Verhofstadt of the right-liberal "Open Vld", the coalition partner of "Vivant", who has agreed to lead a so-called "interim government" until March 23, 2008. Vivant now has two

representatives in the Senate: Roland Duchâtelet and Nele Lijnen.

For further information: <http://www.senate.be/> and <http://www.vivant.org/site/en/>

*** ITALY: GUARANTEED SOCIAL INCOME IN LAZIO REGION**

On November 9, 2007, approximately 300.000 Italians have demonstrated in several cities, within the framework of a general strike for the "right to work" and "social rights for all". The demonstration was promoted by autonomous and independent trade unions, as well as by social movements such as student's organizations, and the movement for a right to decent housing. One of the claims was "a right to an income for all", as was written on the main banner of the demonstration, as well as on big posters. It was a first time where student, social movement and independent trade union, make unite the request of new right in work and income for all.

On January 25, 2008, the Government of "Regione Lazio" (the Region which includes the province of Roma) approved the proposal of law on the "reddito sociale garantito" (guaranteed social income). The proposal was voted by all members of the Regional Government. In the coming weeks this proposal will be discussed in a Regional Commission, as well as in the Regional General Council, where it has to be definitively approved. The proposal entails an income support of EUR450 per month, and a package of free services (free transport, electricity, free entrance in art centres, etc.). It is means-tested and targeted at individuals whose earnings are below a threshold of EUR7,500 per year, such as precarious workers and the unemployed. This proposal was made by Alessandra Tibaldi (*Partito della Rifondazione Comunista*), the "Assessore al Lavoro" ("Assessor of work") of the Lazio Region, after long discussions with representatives of social movements, trade unions, and political parties. The proposed funding is approximately EUR30,000,000 for the first stage of experimentation, during the next three years. Some proponents of a basic income in Italy see this event as an important first step towards a true basic income for all.

For further information: <http://www.regione.lazio.it/web2/main/>

*** NAMIBIA: IMPLEMENTATION OF BASIC INCOME IN ONE COMMUNITY**

During the past few years, the Namibian Basic Income Grant (BIG) Coalition has argued that while it is the ultimate goal to lobby Government to take up its responsibility to implement a Basic Income Grant for all Namibians, the Coalition should lead by example. The BIG Coalition thus fundraised in order to pay a Basic Income Grant in one community. Thereby it sets an example of redistributive justice through concrete action to help the poor, and to document what income security means in terms of poverty reduction and economic development. The BIG pilot programme is the first of its kind, to concretely pilot income security in a developing country.

On January 15, 2008 the BIG Coalition started with the implementation of the BIG in one Namibian community, namely the Otjivero - Omitara settlement (consisting of about 1,000 people, some 100 km to the east of Windhoek) for a limited period of time (2 years,) to practically prove that income security indeed works and that it has the desired effects.

The BIG Coalition has reached agreement with United Africa to facilitate the payout of the BIG in Omitara for the next two years. The first payout took place on 15 and 16 January 2008 and entailed registration and verification of recipients and the payout itself. All future payouts will then take place through a sophisticated smart card system (similar to that used for the government old age pensions), which will allow the speedy identification of and payout to recipients.

According to the Press Statement of the Namibian BIG Coalition, January 15, 2008 this marked a historic occasion, as a first concrete step was taken towards redressing the debilitating levels of poverty that many Namibians still experience. Omitara shares many of the social and economic problems of Namibian communities around the country. A baseline study on the living conditions of Omitara residents was carried out at the end of last year. Follow up studies will be carried out every six months over the next two years to scientifically document the concrete impact of the BIG in Omitara. The findings of these studies will be made available to the media. Over 900 Omitara residents were registered for the BIG pilot phase and thus will receive N\$100 each month (approximately EUR9.5) from January 2008 until December 2009. Thereafter, the coalition expect the BIG (if proven to be effective) to be implemented by government on a national basis.

According to Wezi Tjaronda, from the *New Era* (one of Namibia's main Newspapers), the Big Payout Exercise was "a Success". In an article published on January 18, 2008, Tjaronda explains that the Basic Income Grant Coalition was satisfied with the turnout of residents who collected their first grants. "Out of 950 that were registered, 371 were collectors of grants who could have been parents or guardians that collected on behalf of those under 21, while 300 were registered as individuals. Initially, the coalition registered 1005 people, a number that came down to about 950. (...) New Era is informed that some of the recipients of the N\$100 grant were seen with bags of maize meal, which they said was made possible by the grant. (...) With alcohol abuse rife within the community, some fear that many will use the money on alcohol. But Committee Director, Steven Eigowab, said the committee has been holding meetings with community members to advise them on how to use the money. "We think they will adhere to the advice we gave them. We have told them that liquor is there but this money is not meant for luxuries," he said, adding that he suspected only a small percentage of the community would misuse the grant."

For further information: <http://www.bignam.org/>

New Era's website: <http://www.newera.com.na/>

See also: <http://www.cdhaarmann.com/>

6. PUBLICATIONS

* CZECH

VAN PARIJS, Philippe, HRUBEC, Marek, BRABEC, Martin et. al., (2007), *Vseobecny zakladni prijem. Pravo na lenost, nebo na preziti?* (In English: *A Universal Basic Income. The Right to Laziness or the Right to Survival?*), Prague, publishing house Filosofia, 2007. 202 pp. ISBN 978-80-7007-259-2.

The collection of papers is the first book on basic income in the Czech language. The main authors of the book are Philippe Van Parijs from Université de Louvain (now Harvard) and two Czech philosophers: Marek Hrubec and Martin Brabec, both from the Centre of Global Studies, a joint centre of the Czech Academy of Science and Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic.

Marek Hrubec and Martin Brabec initiated a discussion on basic income in the *Czech Philosophical Journal* (issue 3, 2005). The first replies to their paper and the Czech translation of Van Parijs's paper were published in next issues of the same journal. Because other Czech and Slovak philosophers, economists, sociologists and political scientists planned to reply and wrote their papers as well, the publishing house *Filosofia* (a part of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic) decided to publish the whole discussion as a book. It contains all the papers that appeared in *Philosophical Journal* and new papers that have not

been published yet: together 19 articles, including two papers written by Philippe Van Parijs and five papers by Marek Hrubec and Martin Brabec.

In the book, Van Parijs explains the idea of real freedom for all, and links that to the idea of basic income in general and in Kongo, South Africa and other countries. Marek Hrubec and Martin Brabec analyse, firstly, left libertarianism in relation to liberalism, communitarianism, Critical theory of the Frankfurt School, analytical marxism and other theories. Secondly, from the points of view of those various theories, they focus on the conception of basic income, and on Van Parijs's book *Real Freedom for All*.

In a discussion with other authors, Hrubec and Brabec defend the idea of basic income, and explain its strong and weak aspects. The book contains different approaches and arguments in favour and against basic income from the perspectives of various kinds of libertarianism, critical theory of the Frankfurt School, analytical Marxism, classical socialism, feminism, communitarianism and anarchism explained also by Miloslav Bednar, Martin Skabraha, Vaclav Tomek, Dan Stastny, Josef Sima, Ladislav Hohos, Milan Valach, Zuzana Uhde, and Ondrej Stech. The book focuses especially on issues of liberty, self-ownership, justice, and social and cultural framework of basic income. The discussion proved that the idea of basic income is considered an important topic in the Czech academic circles.

The first presentation of the book took place in the conference *Social Aspects of Globalization: Global Social Inequalities* that was held in the main building of the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic, Prague, November 26-28, 2007.

For further information see: <http://cgs.flu.cas.cz>

***ENGLISH**

PRABHAKAR, Rajiv (2007), 'Attitudes towards the Child Trust Fund: What do Parents Think?', *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 9 (4), 713–729.

The British government has recently introduced the Child Trust Fund. This pays all new babies a £250 (EUR337) or £500 (EUR673.5) capital endowment (or 'stakeholder grant') from government. This is locked into a special account until the child's 18th birthday. Parents are key to the success of this policy as they will make many of the key decisions about savings and investment. Little is known, however, about what new parents think of this policy. This article addresses this question by providing original evidence on what parents think of the basic features of this policy; whether the Child Trust Fund will make them more likely to save; attitudes towards the responsible use of the Child Trust Fund; and whether parents would prefer money spent on different forms of assistance rather than the Child Trust Fund.

*** FRENCH**

MOULIER-BOUTANG, Yann (2007), Special issue of "*Multitudes*" magazine on guaranteed basic income, Issue 27, Winter 2007.

The French left-wing magazine *Multitudes*, directed by Economist Yann Moulier-Boutang, has issued a special edition on the guaranteed basic income discussion. It includes several papers focusing on the cognitive aspects of capitalism. According to Moulier-Boutang, "the current transformations that simultaneously affect work, the substance and the form of value all lead to a profound instability which brings capitalism back to a pre-Keynesian situation. The emergence of a stable regime of cognitive capitalism faces a major contradiction: on the one hand, the new forms of employment promoted by cognitive capitalism tend to make a

guaranteed income scheme the only form of payment suitable to the new regime of production; at the same time, this form of payment undermines the relationship of command and domination which capitalism must impose in order to perpetuate itself. In fact, one observes, within cognitive capitalism, a perpetual oscillation between its openness to the emancipatory forces it unleashes and the repressive moves through which it attempts to recodify the capture of working hours and the production of knowledge."

For English abstracts, see: <http://multitudes.samizdat.net/spip.php?article3039>
(Issue 27 is Winter 2007, not Winter 2006 as announced on the English page of Multitudes' webiste)

* SPANISH

REY PEREZ, José Luis (2007), *El derecho al trabajo y el ingreso básico. ¿Cómo garantizar el derecho al trabajo?*, Dykinson, Madrid, 2007.

This book tries to answer the question of whether it makes sense to talk about the right to work in the context of globalization, deregulation and precariousness of labour. The author defends that the right to work is not the right to a job, but the right to social insertion, to be recognised as a full member of the society. In consequence, he tries to find a good guarantee to this right because he defends that it is possible to distinguish between the rights (that are moral claims contained in a legal rule) and the guarantees (that are the institutions that try to make effective the content of a right). Basic income would be a good guarantee to the right to work understood as the right to social insertion. The book has five chapters. In the first one, the author studies the conceptual differences between Social and Welfare State and analyzes the models and crisis of the last one. In the second chapter the author studies deeply the origin and different meanings of the right to work. In the third one, he studies the characteristics and history of basic income. In the fourth, he studies the foundation of basic income distinguishing between normative and consequentialist foundations. He studies the egalitarian liberal arguments of Philippe Van Parijs and all the critics he has received. Finally, in the last chapter, the author discusses if basic income can be institutionalized as a right or as a guarantee.

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7. NEW LINKS

* GUY STANDING

Guy Standing is co-chair of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), and Professor of Economic Security at the University of Bath, Professor of Labour Economics at Monash University, Melbourne, and Associate Director of the Work and Employment Rights Research Centre, Melbourne. His new personal website has sections with publications and speeches about basic income. See <http://www.guystanding.com/>

* EUROPEAN GREENS

A short overview (in German) of the basic income discussion in Europe by Green MEP Elisabeth Schroedter, including information about Finland, Ireland, and Austria.
<http://www.gruene-europa.de/cms/default/dok/199/199688.htm>

* CAROLE PATEMAN ON BASIC INCOME

In this video, Professor Carole Pateman discusses the necessity of a "basic income" as a right to all citizens in a democratic society. From UCLA Faculty Research Lectures (Humanities) <http://thoughtware.tv/videos/show/1343>

*** BASIC INCOME DISCUSSED IN DANISH NEWSPAPER**

Following an exchange on equality between a socialist (Henrik Herløv Lund, (Dec. 29, 2007) and a liberal (Martin Ågerup, Dec. 28, 2007) in the Danish newspaper « INFORMATION », Erik Christensen has defended a « third way », i.e. the introduction of a basic income (Jan.7, 2008) under the title: "Lighed – en betingelse for forskellighed" (Equality - a condition for diversity).

The article is available at: <http://www.information.dk/152764>

*** BASIC INCOME IN LUXEMBURG**

A new link about basic income in Luxembourg (in German):

www.mtk.lu/bedingungslosesgrundeinkommen.html

*** BASIC INCOME GROUPS IN GERMAN CITIES**

This website lists the German towns with an active group for Basic income (with interactive map).

<http://web.aktiongrundeinkommen.de/staedte>

8. 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

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