

BIEN - Basic Income Earth Network

NEWSFLASH 55 January 2009

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, Reimund Acker, Simon Birnbaum, David Casassas, Julieta Elgarte, Xavi Fontcuberta, Axel Gosseries, Elisa Grazzi, Louise Haagh, Dirk Jacobi, Ulrich Leicht, Ralf Leonhard, Eri Noguchi, Philippe Van Parijs, Karl Widerquist, and Thérèse Davio.*

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

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1. EVENTS

PAST EVENTS

* **MADRID (ES)**, 11 November 2008: 'The Right to Work and Basic Income'

An official presentation of the book by José Luis Rey Pérez entitled *The Right to Work and Basic Income* took place on November 11th, 2009 in the Julian Besteiro School in Madrid. The author responded to the question 'How it is possible to guarantee the Right to Work?' (Dykinson, Madrid, 2007). The book was introduced by José Manzanares, Director of ISCOD and by José Miguel Sebastian, member of ATTAC-Madrid. The author José Luis Rey Pérez presented the main thesis defended in the book and there was an interesting debate about the role of labour in the economic crisis and the role the trade unions might play in the defense of basic income.

* **VIENNA (AT)**, 22 January 2009: 'Social Cash Transfers and Basic Income'

The question addressed at this event concerned whether cash transfers may be helpful in fighting poverty in a sustainable manner. In several African countries and in Brazil pilot projects have been launched to test the effects of cash transfers rather than direct food supply to the poorest. First experiences are documented and discussed in a study called "A Human Rights View of Social Cash Transfers for achieving the Millennium Development Goals" which was presented in Vienna on January 22nd by the authors Rolf Künemann and Ralf Leonhard, both members of FIAN - for the right to food. Surveys show that cash transfers are effective even when no conditions are attached. It is expected that more countries will follow suit and development agencies may support the programmes. Markus Schallhas - member of "Round table_BI" in Austria- reported on the BI pilot project in Namibia and presented the results of the first assessment report. Manfred Schnitzer from the Austrian Foreign Ministry then joined in the panel discussion. Experts from development agencies, NGOs and different initiatives participated in the workshops which went into more detail. The event was jointly organized by FIAN (Austria) and B.I.E.N. Austria.

The study can be downloaded at :

<http://www.fian.org/resources/documents/others/a-human-rights-view-of-social-cash-transfers-for-achieving-the-mdgs>

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **UNITED KINGDOM (various places)**, Feb.-March 2009: Citizen's Income Trust's Seminar Series 2009.

The UK Citizen's Income Trust (CIT) is coordinating a series of four seminars across the UK, on the topic of "A Citizen's Income For All?"

Tuesday 10 February, 2-4pm - University of Newport, Wales

Dr. Tony Fitzpatrick, University of Nottingham, "Citizen's Income and Paternalism"

Venue: School of Health and Social Sciences, University of Wales, Newport (Lodge Road, Caerleon). Info and RSVP: gideon.calder@newport.ac.uk

Wednesday 4 March, 1.15-3pm - University of York

Professor Bill Jordan, University of Plymouth: "Citizen's Income and the Crash: Credit, Debt and the Citizen's Income"

Venue: Politics Department, Derwent College, Room D013, University of York.

Info and RSVP: lh11@york.ac.uk

Tuesday 10 March, 5-7 p.m. - University of Nottingham

Dr. Louise Haagh, University of York: "Citizen's Income, Varieties of Capitalism and Occupational Freedom"

Venue: Room B1, Law & Social Sciences Building, University of Nottingham.

Info and RSVP: tony.fitzpatrick@nottingham.ac.uk

Friday 20 March, 3-5pm - Queen's University Belfast

Dr. Stuart White, University of Oxford: "Basic Income versus Basic Capital: Can We Resolve the Disagreement?"

Venue: Conference Room (20.103), School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy, Queen's University Belfast. Info and RSVP: keith.breen@qub.ac.uk

This seminar series is organised by the Citizen's Income Trust,

For full details see: <http://www.citizensincome.org/seminars2009.shtml>

* **YORK (UK)**, 12 March 2009: *Basic income and social justice*

On the 12th of March at 6.45pm Philippe van Parijs will give the second Joseph Rowntree Foundation Lecture, at 6.15 pm in Vanburgh College (room V/045) at the University of York. The Lecture is entitled 'Basic Income and Social Justice: Why Philosophers Disagree'. It will be followed by a comment by Sir Tony Atkinson and open discussion. This is a public lecture (there is no charge) and all are welcome.

For further information : <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/pep/seminars.htm> or e-mail

lh11@york.ac.uk

* **NEW YORK (US)**, 27 February – 1 March 2009: *The Eighth Congress of the U.S. Basic Income Guarantee Network*

The Eighth Congress of the *U.S. Basic Income Guarantee* (USBIG) Network provides a forum for considering alternative frameworks for addressing poverty. It brings together academics, students, activists, policy analysts, and others interested in exploring the merits of the basic income proposal. The conference will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the *Eastern Economic Association* (EEA). Attendees at the USBIG conference are welcome to attend any of the EEA's events.

Featured speakers invited so far include academics and politicians from both left and right. Conservative Canadian Senator Hugh Segal has been a supporter of the basic income guarantee for the last three decades. He is currently leading a renewed campaign for basic income in Canada. Tony Martin is Member of the Canadian House of Commons for the left-of-center *New Democratic Party* (NDP). Brazilian Senator Eduardo Suplicy is a third-term Senator representing the state of São Paulo in the Brazilian Federal Senate and one of the founding members of Brazil's ruling Workers' Party. Steve Pressman, of Monmouth University, is an economist with interests in poverty, public finance, and macroeconomics. He

is co-editor of *The Ethics and Economics of the Basic Income Guarantee* and author of *Fifty Major Economists*. Brian Steensland, of Indiana University, is a sociologist and author of *The Failed Welfare Revolution*. Pablo Yanes is the head of the Mexican affiliate of the *Basic Income Earth Network*. USBIG hopes to be confirming these and other speakers soon.

* **HERZOGENRATH (DE)**, 16-17 May 2009: Symposium on basic income

Following the October 2008 Basic Income Conference (Berlin), German basic income supporters have organized a two-day symposium which will take place on May 16-17, 2009. It is intended to be more focused and scientifically oriented than the Berlin conference and will be open for invited participants only. Both the Berlin conference and the symposium are part of the "Basic Income on its Way to Europe" project, which is funded by the European Union.

Further info : acker@grundeinkommen.de

* **EDINBURGH (UK)**, June 29 –July 1, 2009: *Social Policy Association Conference*

The Citizen's Income Trust—BIEN's affiliate in the United Kingdom—is attempting to organize several sessions on basic income at the Social Policy Association's 43rd annual Conference at the University of Edinburgh June 29 –July 1, 2009. The conference will provide a great opportunity for presentations on all aspects of basic income. Now that BIEN has become a worldwide network, it only holds congresses in Europe every four years. The CIT sessions may provide an opportunity for English-language meetings on basic income in Europe in between BIEN meetings.

To participate in one of the CIT's sessions, send a title, an abstract of 300-400 words, together with full contact information and affiliation, to Annie Miller at the CIT office, info@citizensincome.org by Friday, 16 January 2009. These papers will be grouped by topic and sent to the SPA for their approval.

For more information: www.citizensincome.org.

2. NEW ISSUE OF BASIC INCOME STUDIES

[*Basic Income Studies*](#) Basic Income Studies is pleased to announce the publication of BIS Vol. 3, Issue 3 (December 2008). This issue features a debate, guest-edited by Ingrid Robeyns (Erasmus University Rotterdam), discussing basic income policy from a feminist perspective. 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>. Browse for the volume and issue on the bottom-right menu, click the required article and follow the instructions to get free guest access to all BIS publications.

CONTENTS OF VOL. 3, ISSUE 3:

RESEARCH NOTES

“Introduction: Revisiting the Feminism and Basic Income Debate”
Ingrid Robeyns, Erasmus University Rotterdam

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol3/iss3/art3>

“Basic Income and the Gendered Division of Labour”

Julieta M. Elgarte, Universidad Nacional de La Plata & Université Catholique de Louvain

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol3/iss3/art4>

“Basic Income Grants or the Welfare State: Which Better Promotes Gender Equality?”

Barbara R. Bergmann, American University – Washington, D.C.

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol3/iss3/art5>

“All Things Considered, Should Feminists Embrace Basic Income?”

John M. Baker, University College Dublin

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol3/iss3/art6>

“Institutionalizing the Universal Caretaker Through a Basic Income?”

Almaz Zelleke, The New School

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol3/iss3/art7>

“Basic Income, Gender Justice and the Costs of Gender-Symmetrical Lifestyles”

Anca Gheaus, Université Catholique de Lille & University of Oxford

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol3/iss3/art8>

“Can a Basic Income Lead to a More Gender Equal Society?”

Jacqueline O'Reilly, University of Brighton

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol3/iss3/art9>

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Amilcar Moreira, “The Activation Dilemma: Reconciling the Fairness and Effectiveness of Minimum Income Schemes in Europe”

Mikael Dubois, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol3/iss3/art10>

Review of Erik Christensen, “The Heretical Political Discourse: A Discourse Analysis of the Danish Debate on Basic Income”

Roland Paulsen, University of Uppsala

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol3/iss3/art11>

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 published by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress), sponsored by Red Renta Básica (RRB), the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) and the Spanish Instituto de Estudios Fiscales (IEF), and supported by the US Basic Income Guarantee Network (USBIG).

3. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

*** BELGIUM: PARTIAL BASIC INCOME IN THE GREEN PARTY'S PLATFORM**

The Flemish Green Party *Groen!* has cautiously included the idea of a partial basic income into its official platform. According to the daily newspaper *De Morgen*, in the first stage of its implementation the green ‘basic income’ would be means-tested. In a second stage, and only if a significant reduction of inequalities has been observed, the partial basic income would be paid to all. It would be financed by taxes on capital and inheritance.

See : <http://demorgen.be/dm/nl/989/Binnenland/article/detail/603930/2009/01/10/Groen-pleit-voor-32-urenweek.dhtml>

* **CANADA** : CANADA WITHOUT POVERTY

The Canadian *National Anti-Poverty Organization* (NAPO) is a prominent supporter of basic income. In early February, it announced its new logo and its new public name: Canada Without Poverty (Canada sans pauvreté)! “National Anti-Poverty Organization” remains the formal name until such time as it can be legally changed, per amendment procedures in the NAPO by-laws and per Industry Canada approval. These changes are part of NAPO’s repositioning for the strongest possible contribution to combating poverty, inequality and social exclusion in Canada. The new name is meant to keep NAPO’s focus squarely on the ultimate goal, and to inspire others.

For further information: Rob Rainer, rob@cwp-csp.ca; www.cwp-csp.ca

* **GERMANY** : BASIC INCOME SUPPORTERS FOR EU-PARLIAMENT

At the recent conference of the German Green Party (23-25 January 2009) in Dortmund, the Greens elected their candidates for the European parliament. Four dedicated supporters of a universal basic income are now in good positions to become members of the European parliament after the forthcoming elections in June 2009: Ska Keller, Werner Schulz, Elisabeth Schroedter and Gerald Häfner. At the party conference the manifesto for this election was approved. The German Greens support the request of the European parliament to the Commission to examine basic income as a means to fight poverty. The German Greens also aim for guaranteed minimum income schemes for all citizens of the European Union. These minimum income schemes should be individualized and should provide for the ‘socio-cultural minimum’. Basic income is mentioned explicitly as a possibility to implement a guaranteed minimum income.

Link to the list of candidates for the European parliament:

http://www.gruene.de/cms/default/dok/267/267120.starkes_team_zieht_in_europawahlkampf.htm

Link to the preliminary version of the manifesto:

http://www.gruene.de/cms/default/dokbin/267/267118.kapitel_iv_soziales_europa.pdf

* **NAMIBIA**: CONTROVERSIES ABOUT PILOT PROJECT

In recent months, the Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit (Nepru) and the Labour Resource and Research Institute (LaRRI) have been at the centre of the debate on basic income in Namibia. A recent report of Nepru was very critical of the pilot project launched by the Basic Income Grant (BIG coalition). The BIG coalition replied and criticized the evidence provided by Nepru. On December 12, 2008, one of the main critics of the project, Economist

Rigmar Osterkamp, (Nepru & IFO Institute for Economic Research, University of Munich) has published an extensive article about the Basic income pilot project, criticizing the very idea of an unconditional grant. He also stated that ‘one could regard the cash grant project as just another imported development fashion, promoted by foreign (here German) donor money. But there may be a "higher" idea behind it: some of the donors may, in effect, have Germany and not Namibia in mind. Those wishing to introduce cash grant programmes in Germany might find Namibia a convenient "laboratory" in which their proposals may be tested more easily.’

For Osterkamp’s article, see : <http://allafrica.com/stories/200812120461.html>

For a summary of the controversy, see ‘Face-off between BIG Coalition and Nepru’

[http://www.namibian.com.na/index.php?id=28&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=1668&tx_ttnews\[year\]=2008&tx_ttnews\[month\]=12&cHash=6afd521edb](http://www.namibian.com.na/index.php?id=28&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=1668&tx_ttnews[year]=2008&tx_ttnews[month]=12&cHash=6afd521edb)

*** SOUTH AFRICA: NO BASIC INCOME IN ANC’S MANIFESTO**

On January 28, 2009, the African National Congress (ANC) unveiled its election manifesto, a largely pro-poor and pro-worker platform. According to DispatchOnline, “the manifesto shows that the party will place education at the centre of its efforts. It promises better pay for teachers, re-opening of teacher training colleges, improving the quality of schooling by giving incentives to mathematics and science teachers, and making education free and compulsory for all children.” But the manifesto does not include any explicit reference to basic income: ‘The basic income grant that was widely expected to be on manifesto has not been included. Instead, the party has decided to expand unemployment insurance.’

Source : <http://www.dispatch.co.za/article.aspx?id=284903>

*** TAIWAN: SHOPPING VOUCHERS TO ALL CITIZENS**

According to BBC News, Taiwan “has been handing out shopping vouchers to all its citizens in a bid to stimulate the island’s economy and shrug off the global downturn”. Since January 18, 2009, millions of Taiwan residents lined up to receive their US\$108 (EUR 83,5) vouchers. All residents, regardless of age or income, qualify for this money, which is part of a stimulus package. According to CNN.com, vouchers are good through September 2009. Interestingly, the measure is presented as a way of redistributing the wealth equally amongst the citizens, instead of supporting corporations directly.

For further information:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7836458.stm>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/asiapcf/01/18/taiwan.vouchers/>

http://www.taiwannews.com.tw/etn/news_content.php?id=860015

4. PUBLICATIONS

***ENGLISH**

BLACKBURN, Robin (2007), ‘A Global Pension Plan’, *New Left Review*, 47, Sept.-Oct. 2007, pp.71-92.

In this paper, Robin Blackburn (New School, USA, and Essex University, UK) proposes the

creation of a global pension scheme, an income paid at a modest rate to every older person, to be financed by a modest tax on global financial transactions and corporate wealth (according to Blackburn, US\$205 billion a year would be needed). This non means-tested and non-contributory global pension could be set at one dollar a day, which would already lift hundreds of millions out of poverty. The author argues that one could see this Global Pension as a useful stepping stone towards a basic income for all.

BEN-SHALOM, Yigal & SABATO, Yitzhak (2007), 'Social security and the labour market: A mismatch?', *Paper presented at the 5th International Research Conference on Social Security* (International Social Security Association Research Programme), Warsaw, 5-7 March 2007. Available at :

<http://www.issa.int/index.php/aiss/content/download/39559/772483/file/2ben-shalom.pdf>

The various plans to battle poverty among, and encourage employment of, poor working families include a grant to low-wage workers' families that is known as negative income tax (NIT) or tax credit. The aim of this measure, implemented in various countries, is to provide adequate compensation to the working poor, to decrease poverty while increasing employment at the same time. Chapter 1 of this paper reviews various definitions of the basic concept of NIT and discusses the combination between the tax and welfare systems. Chapter 2 introduces the models of NIT in the USA and Britain, and presents findings on the implications of NIT for the individual and the economy – on labor supply, poverty and family structure. Chapter 3 relates to fundamental matters that precede the implementation of NIT and details the alternatives that are currently being discussed and their possible application to Israel.

SHEAHEN, Al (2009), 'MLK's dream exists as poverty persists' (Opinion), *Los Angeles Daily News*, January 19, 2009.

In this column, Sheahen recalls that in his 1967 book, "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?" the Rev. King wrote, "I am now convinced that the simplest solution to poverty is to abolish it directly by a now widely discussed measure: the guaranteed income. A host of positive psychological changes inevitably will result from wide-spread economic security." According to Sheahen, 'the concept of a guaranteed income is not discussed much anymore, especially in light of our current financial crisis. But it remains, as the late economist Milton Friedman always maintained, the most practical and sensible way to end poverty in America and provide economic security to all Americans. President Obama is on the right track with his economic stimulus plan. Give the money directly to the people, not just to the big banks and corporations. But don't stop there. Keep the stimulus coming. Every year.'

See article at : http://www.dailynews.com/editorial/ci_11486358

WHITE, Stuart & LEIGHTON, Daniel. (eds.) (2008), *Building a Citizen Society: The Emerging Politics of Republican Democracy* (192 pages), London: Lawrence & Wishart, ISBN: 9781905007820.

This new volume of 15 short and accessible chapters explores and defends a public philosophy for progressive politics called republican democracy. The core aim of the republican ideal defended is "the sustenance of a strong and participative civil society as well as an active and democratic state". Debating the meaning and role of liberty, participation and

the common good, several contributions argue that the republican ideal of freedom as non-domination demands policies for economic egalitarianism and personal independence. Two chapters focus specifically on basic capital, basic income and similar proposals. In “Assets and Citizenship”, Rajiv Prabhakar discusses republican paths for the expansion of the existing Child Trust Fund. Prabhakar suggests that some conditionality might be needed in order to ensure responsible use and political legitimacy of such a universal endowment. By contrast, the chapter “Social Republicanism and Basic Income”, by Simon Birnbaum and David Casassas, defends a fully unconditional basic income. Such a scheme, they argue, would provide a foundation of independence and bargaining power in all spheres of social life and help stimulate many unpaid contributions on which a thriving republic relies.

Further information can be obtained from:

The Public Policy Unit, Dept. of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford
<http://ppu.politics.ox.ac.uk/publications/BuildingCitizenSociety.pdf>

* FRENCH

VAN PARIJS, Philippe (2008), ‘De la sphère autonome à l'allocation universelle’, in *André Gorz, un penseur pour le XXI^e siècle* (Christophe Fourel ed.), Paris: La Découverte, 2009, pp. 161-175.

André Gorz was one of the founding thinkers of political ecology. He was also one of the most notorious converts to basic income on the left of the political spectrum. In September 2007, he committed suicide, jointly with his wife. Philippe Van Parijs knew him personally and dedicated one of his books to him. In this contribution to a volume published in Gorz's memory, he draws on their correspondence to sketch the path that led Gorz from emphasizing the place of the so-called autonomous sphere to advocating a universal basic income and joining BIEN.

Paper available at: <http://www.uclouvain.be/8609.html>

See the letter of André Gorz in which he writes that he joined BIEN at:

<http://www.basicincome.org/bien/papers.html#Archive>

* GERMAN/ITALIAN

KUSSTATSCHER, Sepp & al. (2008) *Ausstieg aus der Arbeit – warum? Wie das Grundeinkommen die Welt verändern kann/Addio società del lavoro? Come il Reddito di cittadinanza può cambiare il mondo*, Bozen/Bolzano, Prokopp & Hechensteiner Verlag, 160pp, ISBN 978-88-6069-003-6.

The book tries to present the idea of basic income to the wider public, in a simple language and in short form. It is divided in four parts. In the first, Sepp Kusstatscher, member of the European Parliament for the Greens, presents the idea from a political point of view, pointing out the reasons why a Basic Income is worth striving for. Kusstatscher underlines especially the positive potential for social change and equality put forward by Basic Income, and at the same time he shows how this innovative idea is rooted in history and philosophy. Madeleine Rohrer presents the basic concepts which are needed to understand Basic Income by using the framework of a classic short story for children in German literature. Elisa Grazzi summarizes the main characteristics and the evolution of the Italian debate on Basic Income. Finally, both Elisa Grazzi (in Italian) and Markus Lobis (in German) describe the Namibian experiment on

Basic Income, right after having visited the village of Otjivero on a study trip in Namibia together with Sepp Kusstatscher.

For further info: <http://www.prokopp-hechensteiner.com/verlag/grundeinkommen/index.html> ; http://www.kusstatscher.net/newsdetail_new.asp?lProductID=134160&L=1 ;

To order the book: <http://www.prokopp-hechensteiner.com/verlag/Bestellung.html>

Contact: info@kusstatscher.net; sepp.kusstatscher@europarl.europa.eu

* GERMAN

Special issue of *Ethik und Gesellschaft* (2008), 'Rückkehr der Vollbeschäftigung oder Einzug des Grundeinkommens?', in: *Ethik und Gesellschaft – Ökumenische Zeitschrift für Sozialethik*, 2, 2008, <http://www.ethik-und-gesellschaft.de/>

The latest edition of the online-journal 'Ethik und Gesellschaft - Ökumenische Zeitschrift für Sozialethik' is dedicated to the question as to whether full employment or a basic income is preferable. Michael Sommer, chairman of the Confederation of the German Trade Unions, argues that the introduction of a basic income amounts to the capitulation of the welfare state. A basic income would undermine the work ethic and cause social segregation. In the same issue Wolfgang Strengmann-Kuhn, member of the German parliament for the Green party, argues that it is not a question of either full employment or basic income. He demonstrates that while in Germany nowadays more people are employed than in the 60s and 70s, more people are unemployed too. The reason for this paradox is that more people, especially women, belong to the labour force. Strengmann-Kuhn argues that with a basic income a drastic reduction of the unemployment rate is feasible. A basic income would stimulate a reduction of working hours which results in an interpersonal redistribution of work. At the same time a basic income gives strong incentives for the unemployed to get employed.

JACOBI, Dirk (2009), 'Mit Blick zurück nach vorn – Grüne Grundwerte nach den Debatten um Aktivierung und Grundeinkommen', *Die Kommune*, 1 (2009), <http://www.oeko-net.de/kommune/>

The author discusses the paradox that the Green party in Germany was (together with the social democratic party) responsible for the so-called Hartz-reforms and only two years later discussed the proposal of a basic income very intensely and with more supporters than in any other party in Germany. Dirk Jacobi argues that both the support for the Hartz-reforms and for a basic income is caused by more fundamental values of the Green party: the engagement for positive liberty and for individual responsibility for the common welfare.

Special issue of *Publik-Forum* (2009), 'Ein Grund zum Leben. Die Vision eines Grundeinkommens für alle', *Publik-Forum* Ausgabe 1/2009.

<http://www.publik-forum.de/shop/Default.asp?id=9088&kategorie1=12&kategorie2=10>.

The ecumenical journal *Publik-Forum* has been well-known to critical Christians in Germany for more than 30 years. The German basic income network has now co-published a special issue about basic income.

STRENGMANN-KUHN, Wolfgang (2009), 'Steuersenkungen sind das falsche Mittel', 09.01.2009, *Frankfurter Rundschau*.

In this special issue, the author, member of the German Bundestag for the Greens, discusses

the planned tax cuts of the German government as a counter-cyclical measure. While households with high incomes benefit most from tax cuts their savings ratio is also the highest. As a consequence tax cuts are very inefficient in promoting consumption. Strengmann-Kuhn proposes public investments and a negative income tax of 500 Euro. Low income households, which have the lowest savings ratio, would benefit most. A negative income tax would also reduce insecurities because of the income guarantee.

Link: http://www.fr-online.de/in_und_ausland/wirtschaft/aktuell/1656577_Steuersenkungen-sind-das-falsche-Mittel.html

* ITALIAN/GERMAN

KUSSTATSCHER, Sepp & al. (2008) *Ausstieg aus der Arbeit – warum? Wie das Grundeinkommen die Welt verändern kann/Addio società del lavoro? Come il Reddito di cittadinanza può cambiare il mondo*, Bozen/Bolzano, Prokopp & Hechensteiner Verlag, 160pp, ISBN 978-88-6069-003-6.

See section 'GERMAN/ITALIAN' above.

* ITALIAN

GOBETTI, Sandro & al. (2008), *BIN REPORT n° 2*, BIN ITALIA, Dicembre-Gennaio 2009

This new issue of the Newsletter of the Italian Basic income network includes information on national (Italian) and international debates.

See : <http://www.bin-italia.org/>

* SPANISH

New issue of *Sin Permiso* (2008), 'Dossier monográfico sobre la renta básica y el legado de la tradición republicana', Issue 4, December 2008.

“Basic Income and the Republican Legacy” was published in *Basic Income Studies* vol.2, issue 2. This debate is now published in Spanish in *Sin Permiso* (4th Issue of its printed edition). While Carole Pateman’s and Stuart White’s contributions haven’t changed in this new edition, David Casassas’ and Antoni Domènech’s & Daniel Raventós’ contributions include minor changes, and Philip Pettit’s includes an entire new section that adds more detail to the former text. This collection of papers attempts to provide an answer to the following questions regarding the possible link between Basic Income and democratic republicanism: Can Basic Income constitute the axis of a contemporary package of measures capable of extending material independence to the whole population of present-day societies, in keeping with the republican ideal? Are there other measures capable of achieving this goal? Is Basic Income only a necessary condition for the accomplishment of republican freedom in present-day societies? If so, which other measures must accompany Basic Income? Do unconditionality and universality break the rights-and-duties rationale that – according to some scholars – shapes the moral infrastructure of a republican polity? These are the questions that are assessed by the contributors to this debate section. The Editors of *Sin Permiso* wish to thank those of *Basic Income Studies* and *The Berkeley Electronic Press* for having facilitated the publication of these papers in Spanish, for one of the aims of *Sin*

Permiso is serving as a tool to help materials that are originally published in English reach many readers from many other parts of the world.

For further information: www.sinpermiso.info

CASAUBON, Marcelo Ebrard, TORRES, Jorge Mansilla & GUADARRAMA Martí Batres (2008), 'Pensión universal ciudadana – Ciudad de Mexico y Renta universal de vejez – República de Bolivia – Un mismo derecho para personas adultas mayores en América latina' ['Universal Citizen's Pension in the City of Mexico and Universal Income for the Elderly in the Republic of Bolivia. The same rights for elderly people in Latin America'], Mexico: Ciudad de Mexico – Embaja de Bolivia, February 2008.

Since November 28th 2003, elderly citizens over 70 residing in Mexico City are entitled to a tax-funded monthly income equivalent to half the minimum wage, plus free medical assistance and medicines. Since November 28th 2007 president Evo Morales of Bolivia passed Law 3791 establishing a Universal Income for the Elderly, which benefits people over 60 across the country and which is also funded from tax. Both initiatives by left-wing governments seek to guarantee the right to a decent life to elderly people by providing economic security and easing their access to medical care. This document brings together the texts of both laws.

5. NEW LINKS

* SMI2LE – VIEW TO THE FUTURE

The journal "SMI2LE - View to the Future" is available in four languages (English, German, Russian, Ukrainian) as PDF in the internet (<http://www.smi2le.org>) and contains 'ideas for the future'. The main content of the current issue is about basic income: there are two interviews, an essay from R.A.Wilson, a "History book from the future", "A Stroll through Utopia" (written by a member from Amnesty International), an article from Goetz Werner/Ludwig Paul Haeussner, an article from Daniel Haeni/Enno Schmidt and short descriptions about the APF and Eduardo Suplicy. The acronym "SMI2LE" is explained. The essay from Wilson makes the connection between "SMI2LE" and basic income. The website contains also multimedia as completion to the journal. See <http://www.smi2le.org>

* CANADIAN PETITION IN FAVOUR OF BASIC INCOME

“The undersigned support the GAI (Guaranteed Annual Income) - also known as CI (Citizen's Income) - as a solution to persistent poverty in Canada.”
<http://www.petitiononline.com/gai08/petition-sign.html>

* PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF A BASIC INCOME

The department of work and industrial psychology at ETH-Zürich (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule) is going to launch a project on the psychological aspects of the basic income.

For further info : www.psychologiedesgrundeinkommens.ch.

e-mail : uleicht@uni-bremen.de

* GREEN ECONOMICS AND BASIC INCOME

‘How Helicopter Money/and the Citizen's Income might yet save the Planet’

<http://www.greeneconomics.org.uk/page500.html>

* DID BASIC INCOME CAUSE PEARL HARBOUR ?

An amazing (and perhaps controversial) story about the relationship between basic income (under the form of Social Credit) and Pearl Harbour.

See : <http://www.newsnet14.com/2008/12/pearl-harbour-the-real-reasons/>

* CITIZEN’S INCOME NEWSLETTER

The *Citizen’s Income Newsletter*, issue 1 for 2009 is now available. To read it go to:<http://www.citizensincome.org/resources/newsletter%20issue%201%202009.shtml>

* ECOVA PROJECT

The ECOVAproject, a new initiative to create worldwide social, economic and ecological security, was recently launched. The project proposes a monetary alternative, based on the value conversion of our basic economy and the ecological capital into legal money. It includes the possibility to guarantee a (universal) basic income.

See <http://www.ecovaproject.org/> and latest updates at:

<http://www.ecovaproject.org/news.htm>

* CITIZEN’S INCOME IN QUEBEC

In a column (*Le Devoir*, 30 Dec. 2009) on unemployment insurance in Quebec, Lucie Lamarche (University of Ottawa & Université du Québec à Montréal) briefly advocates the (re-)launching of a discussion on basic income in Quebec.

See : <http://www.ledevoir.com/2008/12/30/225189.html#>

* ITALIAN/GERMAN BLOG ON BASIC INCOME

A new blog has recently been created about Basic Income. At www.bin-st.blog.de frequent posts inform about interesting news on this subject. The Blog is in German and Italian and it has been created by an informal group of people from South Tyrol (Italy). The network was initiated by Sepp Kusstatscher, Member of the European Parliament for the Greens/EFA, and intends to promote the debate about the idea of an unconditional Basic Income.

6. ABOUT THE BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

Co-chairs:

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

Karl WIDERQUIST Karl@Widerquist.com, University of Reading, United Kingdom

Further details about BIEN's Executive Committee and International Board can be found on our website www.basicincome.org, as well as further information 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 david.casassas@uab.cat, 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:

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