

## **Minutes of the BIEN General Assembly, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Montréal**

Chaired by BIEN Co-Chair and Newsletter Editor Karl Widerquist. Other BIEN EC members present: Almaz Zelleke, Secretary-Treasurer; Louise Haagh, Regional Coordinator; Jim Mulvale, Regional Coordinator; Toru Yamamori, Regional Coordinator; Pablo Yanes, Regional Coordinator; Kelly Ernst, Conference Organizer; Andrea Fumagalli, Regional Coordinator (ex officio). BIEN EC members absent: Ingrid Van Niekerk, Co-Chair; Yannick Vanderborcht, Chair of Regional Coordination. Also in attendance: Chair of the International Advisory Board Philippe Van Parijs and Honorary Co-Presidents Guy Standing and Eduardo Suplicy. Total BIEN members in attendance: 31 out of 226 members.

1. The chair apologized that the minutes of the meeting were sent a few days late. [They were supposed to be sent to the membership 30 days prior to the meeting and were sent approximately 25 days prior to the meeting.] The chair asked the GA to accept the agenda anyway. The majority voted in favor.

### 2. Applications for Affiliate Status

A. South African Development Community (SADC). No representative present, letter of application read. Majority vote in favor of approval subject to approval by Ingrid Van Niekerk.

B. Portugal. No representative present, letter of application read. Majority vote in favor of affiliation. Affiliation approved.

C. France: Stanislas Jourdan and Télémaque Mason presented the application for affiliation. Majority vote in favor of affiliation. Affiliation approved.

D. Norway: Anja Askeland presented the application for affiliation. Majority vote in favor of affiliation. Affiliation approved.

E. Unconditional Basic Income Europe (UBI Europe). Barb Jacobson presented the application for affiliation. Guy Standing spoke in favour of affiliation but also raised a concern that UBIE does not become – or is seen to become – a rival organization to existing BIEN-affiliated networks in Europe, or to BIEN itself. Barb Jacobson responded that as she understands it this is not the intention of UBIE member groups or individuals and she will work with BIEN towards avoiding this outcome or impression. Suggestion by Philippe Van Parijs that UBI Europe should create relationships with each of the European national affiliates. Majority vote in favor of affiliation. Affiliation approved.

Suggestion by Guy Standing that in future we ask each affiliate to ensure that they have a democratic process for election of a board with differentiated responsibilities assigned to different elected members (such as, for example, chair a treasurer and a secretary).

3. Financial Report presented and approved by acclamation. Request by Adriaan Planken that the Financial Report be sent to all members present.

The conference organizer announced that the GA would have to give up the meeting room in 40 minutes so that the cleaning crew could do its work.

A suggestion was made from the floor to table (delay) some of the less important issues on the agenda. The chair said he would go through the most pressing issues first and then see how much time remained for everything else.

4. Election of the Chair of the International Board. Request by Karl Widerquist that the nomination deadline be extended to today. Majority vote in favor of extending the deadline, motion to nominate Philippe Van Parijs, motion seconded, elected by acclamation.

5. Election of the EC. The following candidates ran unopposed and were elected by acclamation.

Co-chair: Louise Haagh

Co-chair: Karl Widerquist

Secretary: Anja Askeland

Treasurer: Borja Barragué

News/Outreach: Pablo Yanes

News/Outreach: Toru Yamamori

News/Outreach: Andrea Fumagalli

News/Outreach: Jason Murphy

5. Renewal of titles of honorary co-presidents for Guy Standing, Eduardo Suplicy, and Claus Offe. Titles renewed by acclamation.

6. Venue of the next BIEN congress. Proposals received by Republic of Korea, Finland, and Netherlands.

Republic of Korea's proposal presented by Hyosang Ahn. The Korean network has over 400 members. If it's held in Asia, it would be the 5<sup>th</sup> continent to host the BIEN congress. June 2016 is the proposed month.

Finland's proposal presented by Johanna Perkio. The congress would be held at Tampere University, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest city in Finland. Sept. 14-16 and 21-23, 2016 are the two proposed dates. The Finish network has approximately 100 members.

The Netherlands' proposal presented by Adriaan Planken. He noted that 2016 would be the Dutch network's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The congress could be anytime in 2016.

Discussion of whether the congress should be held in alternate years in Europe.

[Outgoing secretary Almaz Zelleke left at this point in the meeting. Incoming secretary Anja Askeland took over at this point in the meeting.]

Proposal (from the floor) that the GA should delegate power on a decision of the venue among 3 candidates to the EC. It was not seconded.

Several people offered the opinion that we should have the next congress in Europe because it is better to show our presence at this critical moment in Europe.

Stanislas Jourdan stated that UBIEurope can do something in Europe the year in between this and next congress, so he is in favor of Korea.

Proposal from Guy Standing: Since there were still some un-clarities on how the different proposals were financed, and since the life members had not had the possibility to read the full applications, he proposed that the full applications should be sent to all life members and then conduct an email vote to decide in which country the next congress will be held.

Adrian Planke withdrew the application for the Netherlands. Johanna Perkiø did the same for Finland.

A motion was made to vote for having the congress in Seoul, South Korea. It was seconded.

The majority voted in favor of having BIEN congress 2016 in South Korea.

The time having expired, a motion was made from the floor and the majority voted to table (delay) the rest of the proposals on the agenda to the next meeting, because of pressure of time.