

BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

SÃO PAULO, 2 JULY 2010

MINUTES

The meeting is chaired by Karl Widerquist, Co-chair of BIEN. Philippe Van Parijs, chair of BIEN's International Advisory Board, chairs the elections. James Mulvale serves as rule keeper of the meeting.

**1. Financial Report.**

The Treasurer, Almaz Zelleke, gives the financial report. The main figures are provided below:

Financial situation June 2008: EUR 15.576,08

Revenues June 2008 – July 2010:

* New Life-members:	EUR 1.687,90
* New Bienefactors:	EUR 422,22
	+ EUR 2.110,12

Expenses June 2008 – July 2010:

* Payment server BIEN's website:	EUR 43,06
* Payment Basic Income Studies (Dec. 2008)	EUR 1.200
	- EUR 1.243,06

Bank Balance (interests – bank charges): + EUR + 729,29

Financial situation June 2010: EUR 17.172,43

* Sight Account:	EUR 2.697,94
* Savings Account:	EUR 14.474,49

Increase of 1.596,35 EUR over June 2008

Guy Standing makes a motion to approve the accounts. Rubén Lo Vuolo seconds. The accounts are approved by acclamation.

**2. Proposal for amendments to the Statutes.**

A proposal to make minor changes to the Statutes had been sent by Karl Widerquist. However, this proposal was not circulated among BIEN life members one month in advance to the General Assembly meeting. Therefore, it is ruled out of order and is not debated.

**3. Recognition of New National Affiliate Networks.**

On June 18 2010, Basic Income Korean Network (BIKN) sent a letter to BIEN's Executive Committee to submit their proposal to become an officially recognised BIEN national affiliate. The Korean delegates present the proposal: membership, history, current and future activity, etc. In the light of its dynamism and growing membership (444 members in June 2010), the General Assembly decides by acclamation to recognise BIKN as a BIEN national affiliate.

#### **4. Venue of the Next Congress.**

One proposal has been submitted to BIEN's General Assembly: having next Congress of BIEN in Munich (Germany). Andrea Fumagalli, member of BIN-Italy, explains that the Italian network was also interested in organising the 2012 BIEN Congress, but finally decided not to submit its proposal because its members want to focus on growing at a national level first. Andrea Fumagalli stresses that BIN-Italy supports the German proposal.

Dorothee Schulte-Basta presents the German proposal. The attendees at the meeting agree that it is a very promising proposal.

Guy Standing suggests that the organising committee co-opts two BIEN Executive Committee members with voting rights to foster communication between both committees.

Jurgen De Wispelaere suggests to have a longer congress in order to increase time for discussions. Guy Standing adds that it might be good to have a half-day free during the congress.

Dorothee Schulte-Basta says that the German team will take these proposals into consideration.

The German proposal is approved by acclamation. The Secretary will contact the German local organising committee to ask them to nominate a representative of the German network as Executive Committee member, with full voting rights. Also, the Secretary will inform the German local organising committee about the two members of the Executive Committee that will be part of the local organising committee.

#### **5. Elections.**

Philippe Van Parijs, as Chair of the International Board, reads the election by-laws, announces the nominations and calls for votes one by one.

Co-chair: Karl Widerquist is nominated by Karl Widerquist and seconded by Robert van der Veen. The proposal goes unopposed. He is elected by acclamation.

Co-chair: Ingrid Van Niekerk is nominated by Karl Widerquist and seconded by Robert van der Veen. The proposal goes unopposed. He is elected by acclamation.

Secretary: David Casassas is nominated by Karl Widerquist and seconded by Robert van der Veen. The proposal goes unopposed. He is elected by acclamation.

Newsletter Editor: Yannick Vanderborgh is nominated by Karl Widerquist and seconded by Robert van der Veen. The proposal goes unopposed. He is elected by acclamation.

Treasurer & Regional Coordinator: Almaz Zelleke is nominated by Karl Widerquist and seconded by Robert van der Veen. The proposal goes unopposed. He is elected by acclamation.

Regional Coordinator: Louise Haagh is nominated by Karl Widerquist and seconded by Robert van

der Veen. The proposal goes unopposed. He is elected by acclamation.

Regional Coordinator: James Mulvale is nominated by Karl Widerquist and seconded by Robert van der Veen. The proposal goes unopposed. He is elected by acclamation.

Regional Coordinator: Pablo Yanes is nominated by David Casassas and seconded by Louise Haagh. The proposal goes unopposed. He is elected by acclamation.

Guy Standing informs the General Assembly that he had intended to nominate Andrea Fumagalli to serve on the EC as a regional coordinator as well, but he failed to turn in a nomination form to the secretary in advance of the meeting. The EC members in the meeting say that the EC will co-opt Andrea Fumagalli as a regional coordinator and as non-voting member of the EC.

David Casassas announces that Philippe Van Parijs has been nominated by Karl Widerquist to be the Chairperson of the International Advisory Board. The nomination has been seconded by Ingrid van Niekerk. The proposal goes unopposed. Philippe Van Parijs is elected by acclamation.

Philippe Van Parijs proposes that the General Assembly re-elect Guy Standing and Eduardo Suplicy as Honorary Co-Presidents of BIEN. Also, he suggests having Claus Offe as a third Honorary Co-President of BIEN. The three of them have been Chairs of BIEN in the past and, as Honorary Co-Presidents, can foster BIEN prestige. It is discussed whether it makes sense to have permanent Honorary Co-Presidents when there is already an International Advisory Board with very prominent figures. It is recalled that the International Advisory Board was created as a body made up of experienced individuals capable of guiding BIEN in case its leadership was interrupted, and discussed whether there is a separate role for Honorary Co-Presidents, how many co-presidents there should be, whether other prominent BIEN members should also be co-presidents. A general discussion reaches consensus that the honorary Co-Presidents must be past co-chairs of BIEN who have agreed to have a more active role in fields such as the organisation of BIEN Congresses or fund-raising, among others and who have been so approved by the GA. On that understanding, Philippe Van Parijs' proposal to elect Guy Standing, Eduardo Suplicy and Claus Offe as permanent Honorary Co-Presidents of BIEN is approved by acclamation.

## **6. Any other business.**

6.1 Eduardo Suplicy suggests that BIEN's General Assembly writes a letter to the British Prime Minister asking his government not to put an end to the Child Trust Fund. Jurgen De Wispelaere and Guy Standing state that the Citizen's Income Trust, BIEN's national affiliate in the United Kingdom, should be involved into this. Ingrid van Niekerk says that, in the future, everything that is of a national interest should go through the national affiliates. Rubén Lo Vuolo states that BIEN should avoid getting into debates at a national level in countries where there are BIEN affiliates. He says that it is impossible to do a thorough follow-up of all national debates that take place, which implies that BIEN should not intervene unless asked to do so by national affiliates themselves. Guy Standing and Andrea Fumagalli agree with him.

Jurgen De Wispelaere makes the motion that BIEN's Executive Committee approaches the Citizen's Income Trust to ask it to do whatever it finds appropriate to suggest the UK Government not to finish with the Child Trust Fund. Claus Offe seconds the motion. It passes with 6 votes in favour and any vote against.

6.2 Jurgen De Wispelaere informs the GA that, in spite of some problems with having the last two issues on time, *Basic Income Studies* is a dynamic editorial project that is creating an increasing

interest along the word. In the light of this, he asks BIEN to renew its financial commitment with BIS for the next two years (2011-2012). It is recalled that BIEN approved to make 4 transfers on a yearly basis of EUR 1.200 each (from 2007 to 2010). The two first transfers were made (in 2007 and 2008); but those of 2009 and 2010 have not been made because BIS informed BIEN that, in the light of BIS's good financial situation at the time, they were not needed. Therefore, make the two transfers BIS requests now (one in 2011 and the other in 2012) does amount to require BIEN to contribute more funds than those considered in 2006.

Almaz Zelleke, BIEN's Treasurer, seconds Jurgen De Wispelaere's motion. It is approved by acclamation.