
BIEN The Basic Income European Network

BIEN was founded in 1986 and aims to serve as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income, and to foster informed discussion on this topic throughout Europe.

Link to BIEN Online at <http://www.basicincome.org>

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NewsFlash N°10

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BIEN's *NewsFlash* contains up-to-date information on recent events and publications related to BIEN or basic income more generally. The *NewsFlash* is mailed electronically every two months to over 800 subscribers throughout Europe and beyond, and simultaneously made available for consultation or download at [BIEN Online](#). Requests for [free subscription](#) or [items for inclusion or review](#) in future *NewsFlashes* are to be sent to BIEN's secretariat: Philippe Van Parijs, 17 rue de Pavie, 1000 Brussels, Belgium, E-mail: bien@etes.ucl.ac.be.

This *NewsFlash* has been prepared with the help of Guido Erreygers, Jeroen Knijff, Sigrid Leitner, Kengo Nakamura, Dani Raventos, Malcolm Torry, Yannick Vanderborght and Karl Widerquist.

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1. EDITORIAL

The UK's Citizen's Income Study Centre has had to suddenly close its office at the LSE owing to its funding not being renewed. At about the same time, Spain's Red Renta Básica is getting off the ground, with its first General Assembly held and its first committee elected (see "Events" below). Diverging fortunes for two of our national networks which should keep us alert to managing our resources on the model of marathon runners.

Despite Citizen's Income having unexpectedly dropped out, issue 36 of our printed newsletter will be posted shortly to all full members.

We hope you will find this light mid-Summer flash instructive and wish you a relaxing holiday.

The Executive Committee

2. EVENTS

SANTA ROSA (US), 4 May 2001. ROBERT SCHUTZ DIES

Robert Schutz, a long-time advocate of basic income, died on the 4th of May, 2001, after a short illness. An economist of varied interests, he taught at the University of California at Berkeley, was the CEO of the American Society for Eastern Arts and the Public Affairs Director of KPFA, the first listener-sponsored educational radio station in North America. In his book "The \$30,000 Solution" (**Santa Barbara, 1996**), he argued for setting both a minimum and maximum level of income and for the introduction of a high universal basic income. He came to BIEN's 1996 Amsterdam Congress and took an active part in it. Robert Schutz's memory will remain with us and keep strengthening our faith in the possibility of a better world.

BARCELONA (ES), 8-9 June 2001: FIRST SYMPOSIUM OF SPAIN'S BASIC INCOME NETWORK

For its official launching, the Red Renta Básic held a successful first Symposium, with over one hundred participants and a significant newspaper, radio and TV coverage (see e.g. Dani Raventos's piece in the daily El País on 12 June 2001: <http://www.elpais.es>). A book based on the symposium is being planned by the Fundacion Bofill. On the following day, the founding meeting of the network took place. As all conditions for a successful application seem to be fulfilled - a focus on promoting a non-sectarian, well-informed debate on an unconditional universal basic income and related ideas -, the newly founded Spanish network has decided to apply for an official recognition by BIEN (on a par with the Dutch, British and Irish networks). It has also elected its first executive committee: Chairman: Daniel Raventós, Deputy chairmen: Rafael Pinilla and José Antonio Noguera, Secretaries: David Casassas & Anna París, treasurer: Jorge Calero, members: Albert Demetrio, Rocío Martínez, Luis Sanzo. For further information, visit <http://www.redrentabasica.org> or contact "Daniel Raventos" at ravento@eco.ub.es.

BASTIA (FR), 19-20 June 2001: CONFERENCE ON FIGHTING SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Organised by the staff and students of Corsica's " Institut Régional d'Administration ", which trains civil servants for the French administration, this (French-language) conference devoted one whole afternoon to basic income as a way of tackling poverty. The afternoon started with a debate between Denis Clerc (the driving force behind the influential French magazine "Alternatives économiques and a major voice on the French Left), who criticized basic income as being unfeasible (while defending a form of negative income tax) and Yannick Vanderborght (researcher at Louvain University, Belgium), who argued for basic income on both pragmatic and moral grounds. The debate was followed by a long and lively discussion with the audience. Organisers : Institut Régional d'Administration de Bastia, Quai des Martyrs de la Libération, 20200 Bastia, France, ira.bastia@wanadoo.fr, <http://www.fonction-publique.gouv.fr/irabastia>

LONDON (UK), 2 July 2001: A NEW DIRECTOR FOR CITIZEN'S INCOME

In May, Stuart Duffin resigned as Director of the Citizens Income Research Centre to take up a post in Sctland. Subsequently, the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust decided to fund the organisation no longer, and the lease on the office at the LSE has come to an end. On the 2nd July the trustees appointed Dr. Malcolm Torry (who was director during the early '90s) as part-time director.

New address:

- Until the 1st of September: Citizens Income Trust, St. George's Vicarage, 89 Westcombe Park Road, London SE3 7RZ;
- From the 1st September: Citizens Income Trust, P.O. Box 26586, London SE3 7WY, UK, tel. +44 (0)20 8305 1222, fax +44 (0)20 8305 9944.

Unchanged for the time being:

- E-mail: citizens-income@lse.ac.uk
- Website: <http://www.citizensincome.org>.

GENEVA, 12-14 September 2002: NINTH CONGRESS OF THE BASIC INCOME EUROPEAN NETWORK

Preparation is progressing, under the leadership of Guy Standing (GuyStanding@compuserve.com), co-chair of BIEN and director of the ILO's InFocus Programme on Socio-Economic Security, with the collaboration of Bridget Dommen-Meade (bdommen@hotmail.com) and Lena Lavinias (lavinias@ilo.org).

3. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

CANADA: LEFT PARTY ADOPTS BASIC INCOME PROPOSAL

At its June 2001 congress, the Rassemblement pour l'Alternative progressiste (RAP), the most significant party to the left of the two main parties (Parti libéral and Bloc québécois) adopted the proposal of a universal "citizenship income" at the level of the official poverty line. At the next elections for Québec's provincial Parliament, the RAP will be part of a broader front (Union des Forces progressistes), which will also campaign in favour of proportional representation. For further information, contact Jean Lambert (jlambertj@hotmail.com).

GERMANY: MODEST STEP TOWARDS A BASIC PENSION

A major pension reform initiated by pension minister Walter Riester which was finally approved by the Bundesrat (second chamber of the German Parliament) on 16 february and 11 may 2001. It introduces a new pension formula which is meant to reflect economic as well as demographic developments and will lead to a general reduction of pension benefits. To mitigate these cuts and to guarantee the standard of living in old age, private pension plans will be subsidised. For those in need, a basic pension ("bedarfsgeprüfte Grundsicherung") will be provided from 2003 onwards: People over 65 years of age (and also handicapped people over 18) are entitled to this benefit after a means test. The benefit is similar to social assistance, but - and this is a major innovation in the German context - there are lesse family obligations than before regarding income maintenance. The means test includes only the individual and his/her household members but not children who live in separate households (unless their income exceeds 100.000 Euro per year). This should hinder hidden poverty among the elderly. The means test will be repeated every year. The basic pension will be financed by taxes. More information on this pension reform is available at <http://www.bma.de>.

BELGIUM: PRIZE STRENGTHENS CREDIBILITY OF BASIC INCOME

On 28 June, Philippe Van Parijs (professor at the Université catholique de Louvain) was given by Crown Prince Philippe of Belgium the Francqui Prize for 2001. The Francqui Prize is Belgium's main scientific distinction. Worth EUR 100.000 tax-free, it is awarded once a year to a Belgian scholar aged less than 50. The international jury awarded the 2001 prize to Van Parijs for his work as "one of the main philosophers of social justice in today's world". But a significant part of the considerable press coverage focused on Van Parijs's advocacy of basic income. Thus the French-language daily *Le Soir* (29/06/01) carried a full-page interview entitled "Basic income is a weapon against exclusion", while the main Dutch-language dailies's titles were "BEF 10.000 per month for everyone, scientifically crowned" (*De Standaard*, 29/06/01), "Francqui Prize for basic income theorist: 'It is an academic's task to be right too early.'" (*De Morgen*, 29/06/01) and "Universal basic income, a perfect response to neo-liberalism" (*De Financieel-economische Tijd*, 29/06/01). As to *The Bulletin*, the English-language "newsweekly of the capital of Europe" and the main medium of Brussels's Eurocrat community, it published a long interview under the heading "Free Lunch for Everyone. Charlie Onians meets an academic whose radical views on the redistribution of wealth have won him a prestigious prize and a place in high-level political debates (19/07/01). Van Parijs's "acceptance speech" (which indicates,

among other things, what he intends doing with the money!) can be found on <http://www.etes.ucl.ac.be/>.

4. PUBLICATIONS

ENGLISH

CUNLIFFE John & ERREYGENS Guido, "The Enigmatic Legacy of Charles Fourier: Joseph Charlier and Basic Income", *History of Political Economy* 33(3), Fall 2001, 459-484. (Secons author's address: Department of Economics, Faculty of Applied Economics, University of Antwerp, Prinsstraat 13, 2000 Antwerpen 1, Belgium, guido.erreygens@ua.ac.be.)

This paper explores a completely neglected early formulation of the basic income idea - conventionally defined as an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement. Until now it was believed that the first fully-fledged basic income proposal, known as 'State Bonus', was formulated in 1919, while some core aspects of the basic income approach can be traced back to Thomas Paine and Charles Fourier. In our paper we focus upon the Fourierist tradition. First we demonstrate that Fourier's own idea of the 'right to the minimum' differs considerably from the modern 'basic income'. Fourier held a physical concept of the minimum, and in addition he stressed that its introduction could only take place under certain conditions, of which the most important was the availability of 'attractive labour'. Next we review how the idea of the minimum was associated with the 'right to work' by some of Fourier's disciples, notably Victor Considérant. Finally, we concentrated on the writings of the Belgian writer Joseph Charlier, strongly inspired by the Fourierist tradition and soon almost entirely forgotten. He unambiguously transformed Fourier's "minimum" into a genuine basic income scheme, which he first proposed in great detail in 1848, and continued to defend for half a century.

GOODIN, Robert E. "Work and Welfare. Towards a Post-Productivist Welfare Regime", in *British Journal of Political Science* 31, 2001, 13-39. (Author's address: RSSS, Australian National University, Canberra ACT 0200, Australia, goodinb@coombs.anu.edu.au)

A sustained argument for the actual existence and the normative desirability of a welfare regime distinct from those commonly identified (e.g. by Gosta Esping-Andersen): a "post-productivist" regime which "combines generous social benefits and a relaxed attitude towards work requirements, aiming at 'autonomy' as its core value". According to Goodin, this model, of which a universal basic income would be a paradigmatic component, is best approximated in the real world by the social policy pattern of the Netherlands.

GOUGH Ian. *Global Capital, Human Needs and Social Policies*. Basingstoke & New York: Palgrave, 2000, 242p., paperback, ISBN 0-333-92687-0. (Author's address: Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY, hssirg@bath.ac.uk)

A renowned political economist ever since the publication of *The Political Economy of the Welfare State* (1979), Ian Gough took part in the founding conference of BIEN (1986). He is now professor of social policy at the University of Bath and editor of the *Journal of European Social Policy*. The whole of the final chapter of his new book ("Real Freedom and Basic Income", pp. 203-217) is devoted to basic income, in the form of an in-depth critical discussion of Philippe Van Parijs's *Real Freedom for All*. Towards the end of his introductory chapter (pp. 26-27), he states succinctly his fundamental objections to the "best articulated alternative to existing post-war welfare states", i.e. a "basic income welfare state" characterised as "replacing all government transfers and some services with an unconditional income paid to all citizens, irrespective of present income, commitment to work or household membership". There are two reasons why Gough believe that this is "the wrong way forward". One is that it rests on "fundamentally individualist, libertarian world view", rather than on one which "recognises the social bases of our individuality" and therefore requires that "all persons who can should have the right - and the duty - to contribute in some way to the common wealth.". The second reason is that "Basic Income is historically and institutionally naive": "it does not recognise the role of institutions and path dependency in shaping social policies and their welfare outcomes". Unconditional cash benefits to certain groups may still be sound, "but these packages will vary according to welfare regime and form of capitalism".

JORDAN, Bill (with Charlie JORDAN), *Social Work and the Third Way. Tough Love as Social Policy*. London: Sage Publications (www.sagepub.co.uk, 2000, 242p., ISBN 0-7619-6721-4.

(First author's address: Perriton Farm House, Whimble, Exeter EX5 2QY, England, G.M.Watson@exeter.ac.uk)

Ever since his striking little book on *Paupers. The Making of the New Claiming Class* (1973), Bill Jordan, now professor of social policy at the Universities of Huddersfield and Exeter and member of the Board of Trustees of the Citizen's Income Trust, has been among the most vigorous advocates of basic income. In this new book, written jointly with his brother, he takes on New Labour's social policies and argues that they are plagued by fundamental tensions which can be resolved only through pushing them further towards a universal citizen's income: "a movement for a citizen's income is likely to be generated by criticism of the tax credit approach, and would have as its natural constituent carers, volunteers, the community sector, and many others who recognize the shortcomings of the Third Way's version of distributive justice." (p. 198) A CI, he argues, would be more effective than tax credits or a negative income tax, as a means of combating social exclusion, inequality of opportunity and disempowerment, and as a means of promoting trust and co-operation, democratic voice, lifelong learning and social cohesion.

SHAFARMAN, Steven. *HealingPolitics: Citizen Policies and the Pursuit of Happiness*. Xlibris Corporation (www.xlibris.com, orders@xlibris.com), 2000, 216p., ISBN 0-7388-3268-5. (Author's address: www.citizenpolicies.org.)

A Feldenkrais Method practitioner and Washington-based political activist, Steven Shafarman wants to build a movement for two "citizen Policies": Citizen Dividend and Citizen Service. "Citizens Dividend" is Shafarman's term for a universal basic income, whose pedigree he knows well, including the BIEN connection. "Citizen Service" refers to an obligation for all citizens to perform eight hours per month of service to the community, mandated though not enforced by the government, a very soft version of the social income/ social service combination to be found in the French "distributist" and "federalist" schools, as well as in some early writings by André Gorz. Shafarman argues that everyone would be happier in a healthier society without the extremes of deprivation that exist today and with a feeling that we have all contributed to making our society a better place for everyone to live in.

SHAFARMAN, Steve. *We the People: Healing Our Democracy and Saving our World*. Van Nuys (California): GAIN Publications (PO Box 2204, Van Nuys, CA 91404, USA), 2001, 118p., US\$ 10, ISBN 0-910725-06-3, (Author's address: www.citizenpolicies.org.)

This political pamphlet is an attractive short version of Shafarman's *HealingPolitics* (see above). It opens with a foreword by "Granny D" Doris Haddock, who, in February 2000, at the age of 90, completed her 5000km walk across the United States, from California to Washington, in support of campaign finance reform. "The plan is fair, gives us all a level playing field, and could work. Please read this book, and think about it. Then act on it.", she recommends.

VIVES, Juan Luis. *On the Assistance to the Poor*. Translated with an Introduction and Commentary by Alice Tobriner, Toronto & London: University of Toronto Press ("Renaissance Society of America Reprints Texts"), 62p., ISBN 0-8020-8289-0.

A welcome English translation of *De Subventionem Pauperum* (1526), the earliest detailed formulation and defence of a guaranteed minimum income scheme by the Valencia-born humanist and Louvain University professor J.L. Vives. A right to subsistence, even to those who have deserved to become poor, but not to those who refuse to do the work they are asked to perform.

FRENCH

GAMEL, Claude, "Quelle réforme des 'minima sociaux'. L'allocation universelle en débat.", in *La Lettre d'information de l'économie publique* (GREQAM, Centre de la Vieille Charité, 2 rue de la Charité, F-13302 Marseille) 6, printemps 2001, 1-4. (Author's address: claud.gamel@fea.u-3mrs.fr)

A brief report on ongoing research at the University of Aix-Marseille, which explores how the reform of France's various categorical minimum incomeschemes (the most general one being the RMI) might lead towards a universal basic income.

VANDEBORGHT, Yannick, "La France sur la voie d'un 'Revenu minimum inconditionnel'?" *Mouvements* (Paris), n°15-16, mai-juin-juillet-août 2001, pp.157-165. (Author's address : Hoover Chair, Place Montesquieu 3, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be)

Is France on its way to an " unconditional minimum income " ? It might well be, Vanderborght cautiously suggests, after the Jospin Government decided to implement, under the label "prime pour l'emploi" a modest version of a negative income tax for low-income workers (see BIEN's Newsflash 7). Published at the invitation of *Mouvements*, a left-wing monthly, the article is mainly aimed at clarifying some ambiguities and confusions which have characterized France's recent public debate on basic income and related schemes. The first part is focused on the "Belorgey Report", published by France's Central Planning Office ("Commissariat général du plan") in May 2000. This report states that basic income "makes no economic sense ", that it is an "ineffective" way of tackling poverty. Yet, at the same time, it argues for of a comprehensive form of negative income tax scheme, far closer to a genuine basic income that Jospin's "prime pour l'emploi". The second part of the article focuses on the latter and assesses the common left criticism that it constitute a "Friedmanian" or "neo-liberal" policy instrument.

JAPANESE

OZAWA, Shuji, "A Theory of Basic Income and the Prospect of a Welfare Society" (in Japanese), in Proceedings of the 102nd National Conference of the Academy of Social Policy in Japan, 26 May 2001, pp. 1-8. Author's address: s_ozawa@kpu.ac.jp

A sympathetic account of the case for basic income and the European debate on the subject, with special reference to André Gorz's work. The author is a professor at the University of the Kyoto Prefecture.

5. NATIONAL NETWORKS

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- *Citizen's Income Study Centre*
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- *Red Renta Básica (Spain)*.
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OTHER EUROPEAN GROUPS

- *Asociación Renda Basica (AREBA)*
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Website: <http://www.vobs.at/asav/pax1.htm>
- *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Sozialhilfeinitiativen (BAG-SHI)*
Contact: Wolfram Otto Kiel
E-mail: aloini@gaarden.net
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OUTSIDE EUROPE

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Convenor : Allan McDonald
PO Box 280 Urangan Qld. 4655, Australia
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Provisional website: <http://www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/Research/FW>

OTHER RELEVANT WEBSITES

- <http://www3.sympatico.ca/tim.rourke/bi.html>: "A quick seminar on what Basic Income is all about, so that people can then get up from the computer screen and go and do something about it." Contact: Tim Rourke at tim.rourke@sympatico.ca
- www.petitiononline.com/qd4e/petition.html: All those who support the idea of some kind of (partial) basic income, or participation income, at the European level are invited by the Swedish basic income supporter Mats Hoglund to sign this petition and send comments. Contact: Mats Hoglund at vivantinternational@hotmail.com
- <http://www.jaspersbox.com>: The site includes several essays on various aspects of money, a basic income plan funded by a non-confiscatory method (Excalibrator) and a novel ("Daily Bread: The Story of Jasper's Box.") about a group of ATM machines that mysteriously appear and begin to distribute an equal daily dose of money to any and all. Contact: Stephen C. Clark at stephen.c.clark@worldnet.att.net

6. MORE ABOUT BIEN

BIEN's EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Prof. Ilona Ostner (iostner@gwdg.de), co-chair;
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- Prof. Claus Offe (coffe@sowi.hu-berlin.de), research coordinator;
- Prof. Philippe Van Parijs (vanparijs@etes.ucl.ac.be), secretary,
with support from Yannick Vanderborght (vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be)
- Dr Stuart Duffin (Stuart.Duffin@SINE.org.uk), communication co-ordinator,
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HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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- Prof. Robert J. van der Veen (vanderveen@warwick.ac.uk)
- Dr Walter Van Trier (Walter.VanTrier@hiva.kuleuven.ac.be)
- Dr Steven Quilley (steve.quilley@ucd.ie).

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF BIEN

Membership of BIEN is open to anyone who shares its objectives. The individual membership fee is 25 Euros for 1999-2000 or 100 Euros for life membership. BIEN Members receive hard copies of the Newsletter, are kept informed of relevant meetings, seminars and research projects and have voting rights at BIEN's General Assembly held every second year in conjunction with the Congress. A broad membership strengthens BIEN in its efforts to put basic income on academic and political agendas. It also provides much appreciated support to the unpaid activity of the Executive Committee and gives BIEN a firm basis for the funding of its modest running costs. A full statement of accounts is submitted to the General Assembly. To become a BIEN member, please fill out the *Membership Subscription Form* or download the *Individual Membership Form* which are both on the BIEN web site (<http://www.etes.ucl.ac.be/BIEN/JoinBien.htm>). An acknowledgment will be sent upon receipt. For further questions, e-mail BIEN at bien@etes.ucl.ac.be.

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), NN (Geneva, CH), Andrew Williams (UK), Roland Duchatelet (BE), Manfred Füllsack (AT), Anne-Marie Priels (BE), Philippe Desguin (BE), Joel Handler (US), Sally Lerner (CA), David Macarov (IL), Paul Metz (NL), Claus Offe (DE), Guy Standing (CH), 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 Moulier Boutang (FR), Joachim Mitschke (DE), Rik van Berkel (NL), François Blais (CA), Katrin Töns (DE), NN (New York, US), Gérard 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), Ruben Lo Vuolo (AR), Manos Matsaganis (GR), José Iglesias Fernández (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 (AND), Jurgen De Wispelaere (UK), Wolf-Dieter Just (DE), Zsuzsa Ferge (HU)

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