
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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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.

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1. EDITORIAL

From Berlin to Geneva – BIEN's Berlin Congress was yet another culmination of thinking and debate on basic income in Europe and beyond. In an Internet area, in-flesh conferences acquire a different significance. But they have no equivalent for taking stock, creating and maintaining warm personal links and spreading enthusiasm. See below a highly selective account of this 8th Congress, whose plenary sessions were held in the packed main auditorium of the cradle of Europe's first national welfare state. The 9th Congress will be held in Geneva in September 2002. So BIEN's General Assembly decided at its Berlin meeting, whose minutes also feature below.

Join us – More than ever, the flourishing of our network depends on your active support. Do keep sending us news and material. And do consider becoming a member, if you are not already one. Life membership is particularly simple, both for you and for us. A single payment of 100 Euros, or equivalent, either into BIEN's account or in a well-sealed envelope to BIEN's secretariat. You will then receive the printed newsletter as well as the news flashes, and your name will appear (unless you ask otherwise) in our publications. This is an essential source of funding for our activities and an invaluable public expression of your support.

A welcome present – As a welcome gift, the next forty people to join as life members will receive a free copy of the latest issue of the *Boston Review* (*Delivering Basic Incomes*, October-November 2000), the most substantial contribution to the debate on basic income in North America in the last quarter of a century - and a handy counter-gift for the wonderful Christmas gift you will be pleased

to make to a good cause. To treat yourself to a life membership of BIEN, follow the instructions at the end of this news flash. 63 people have done so before you. They will be delighted if you join them.

The (new) Executive Committee

2. BIEN'S 8TH CONGRESS (BERLIN 2000)

A SUBJECTIVE ACCOUNT

Wonderfully organised by Claus Offe and Kathrin Bauer of Humboldt University, BIEN's 8th Congress was hosted by the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin, with the materially generous and symbolically significant support of the Trade-Union-linked Hans Böckler Foundation and of the green-party-linked Heinrich Böll foundation. It took place in the impressive building from which the world's very first publicly organised social insurance system was administered, under Bismarck's regime, at the end of the 19th century. Not a bad place to think and talk about the shape economic rights could take in the 21st century. Nor was the huge and astonishing futuristic loft of the Böll foundation a bad place to hold the relaxed party with which the meeting closed. As usual, the Congress defies summary, if only because half the time was devoted to parallel sessions, only very selectively (and idiosyncratically) summed up by exhausted workshop chairs at the final plenary session. More than ever, the organisers' concern was to stimulate discussion by looking at the advantages and drawbacks of related ideas, rather than to monomaniacally sing the praise of a pure unconditional basic income.

- *Negative income tax on two continents* – Thus, at the first morning session, Roger Godino (former dean of the management school INSEAD, France) and Eduardo Suplicy (Senator for Sao Paulo, Brazil) seemed to be arguing in opposite directions. In defence of his "allocation compensatrice de revenu" (ACR), in which he managed to get France's Socialist Party's ruling circles keenly interested, Godino presented himself as a critic of basic income. In defence of his "programa de garantia de renda minima" (PGRM), Suplicy presented himself as an advocate of basic income. In fact, what they are both putting forward, with adaptations to their very different respective national contexts, is nothing but a nonlinear negative income tax, which both view (one less emphatically than the other) as a key step towards a genuine basic income. Godino believes a chance was just missed in France, when the government eventually decided to help the working poor, not by turning the strictly means-tested "revenu minimum d'insertion" (RMI) into an ACR (which involves a gradual phasing out of benefits up to the level of the minimum wage), but by reducing social security contributions on the lowest earnings. Suplicy, instead, is hopeful: shortly after the Congress, his wife Marta Suplicy was elected Mayor of Sao Paulo with 3.2 million votes. Will South America's largest city show the way?
- *Two basic endowment proposals* – Also at the first plenary, Bruce Ackerman (Yale Law School) presented, in addition to his plan for making US politics economically more fair, his (and Anne Alstott's) idea of an individual and unconditional endowment of about 80.000 Euros at age 21 to be largely funded (after the transition period) by the clawback of the first 80.000 Euros of each person's estate at the time of her death (The Stakeholders' Society, 1999). In a recent book (Un Capital, 2000), Bernard Berteloot, also present at the Congress, had independently proposed a closely related idea: an individual and unconditional endowment of 40.000 Euros as an "advance inheritance payment" at age 28 to be largely funded by the clawback of anything a person receives or inherits in the course of her life up to this amount. These are interestingly different variants of the same idea. How do they both relate to that of a basic income? The endowment can be turned into a regular income (and must be for people without a secondary school degree, in the Ackerman-Alstott variant). How much would this amount to? In the Ackerman-Alstott variant, not very much if only the net interest on the 80.000 can be consumed (consistently with the idea of clawing the stake back at the end of a person's life), but quite a bit more if nothing needs to be left.
- *The ambivalence of a participation income* – Tony Atkinson's "participation income" (a non-means-tested basic income subjected to a very broad "work" condition) is another idea that was repeatedly discussed. As Ingrid Robeyns (University of Cambridge) pointed out in her plenary intervention, precisely because of its conditional nature, it offers a better promise than an unconditional basic income in terms of the objective of revaluing women's work, but by the

same token it offers a worse promise in terms of the objective of redistributing domestic work. In the final afternoon's political panel, Lord Raymond Plant, chairman of the UK's National Council of Voluntary organisations (the representative agency for the not-for-profit sector) similarly emphasised the ambivalence of a participation income and of related schemes linking minimum income security and contribution to the non-market system: while swelling the supply of "volunteers", they would turn voluntary organisations into agencies of the welfare bureaucracy, entrusted with the monitoring and disciplining of benefit recipients, and would thereby profoundly alter their very nature.

- *Parasitism* – Michel Rocard, France's former Prime Minister and chairman of the Social Affairs Commission of the European Parliament, attended both workshops and plenaries with his characteristic intellectual curiosity. Perhaps unhappily, he arrived in the middle of a pretty abstract workshop discussion prompted by one of Dutch philosopher Gijs van Donselaars's powerful challenges to the ethical justification of an unconditional basic income. While free-riding consists in becoming better off as a result of another person's work without doing anything oneself, parasitism consists in making that other person worse off in the process. Clearly, living off one's unconditional basic income is not just free-riding on the workers' efforts, it involves parasitism at their expense. How can one reply to this objection? True, as one other participant naughtily remarked, it is not only the case that van Donselaar benefits from attending a conference organised by basic income supporters, in addition he makes the latter worse off by giving them such a hard time. How would van Donselaar call such a person? But such an ad hominem reply will hardly do, and a heated transnational debate raged about whether any one could come up with a better reply to van Donselaar's interesting phrasing of the moral case against basic income.
- *Political feasibility* – Michel Rocard was perceptibly (and predictably) more interested in the workshop session on political feasibility, with the participation of two major players in recent attempts to push basic income onto the political agenda: Belgium's high-tech multi-millionaire Roland Duchatelet, who founded and funded a national political party ("Vivant") with basic income as its central proposal (2% of the vote on its first showing), and Ireland's eloquent Father Sean Healy, who got Ireland's main political forces to agree on the commissioning of an official report on basic income. Perhaps unsurprisingly for the leader of an established political party, Rocard had no doubt that the second path was the one to tread. Should he himself get the EP's Social Affairs Commission to discuss the proposal? Still somewhat too "casse-gueule", it seems. More detailed formulations and assessments of realistic reform proposals of the Godino time are first needed, rather than philosophical speculations of a sort that perhaps occupied too large a place at the Congress, he reckoned. To which political philosopher Bruce Ackerman was quick to reply from the floor that Rocard himself had devoted a large proportion of his own contribution to the political panel restating and commenting on some thoughts expressed two centuries ago by philosopher Condorcet. No doubt we need patient number crunchers, shrewd institutional fiddlers, and timely opportunistic politicians. But untimely philosophers have their use too. So Ackerman believes.

PAPERS ON BIEN'S WEB SITE

All papers received by the organisers are available at BIEN Online: <http://www.etes.ucl.ac.be/BIEN/bien.html>.

PROCEEDINGS OF BIEN'S 7th CONGRESS

Prefaced by Finland's Social Services Minister and long-time BIEN member Osmo Soiniavaara and carefully edited by Professor Robert J. van der Veen (Warwick University) and Dr Loek Groot (University of Amsterdam) on the basis the contributions to BIEN's Amsterdam Congress (September 1998), *Basic Income on the Agenda. Policy Objectives and Political Chances* came from the printer's just too late to be available in Berlin.

Part 1 compares basic income-type schemes to more conventional policies as instruments against poverty and unemployment. Part 2 surveys today's debate on basic income in the most promising European countries. A more policy-oriented successor to *Arguing for Basic Income* (London: Verso, 1992), *Basic Income on the Agenda* is a key source for anyone interested in the present and future of basic income in Europe and beyond.

The book costs 32 Euros for close to 300 pages and can be ordered either through your bookshop or directly from Amsterdam University Press (ISBN 90 5356 461 6).

The beautiful cover, the detailed table of contents and an order form are available on BIEN's web site: http://www.etes.ucl.ac.be/BIEN/AmsterdamBook/groot_vdveen.htm. For more information or a review-copy, you can contact Amsterdam University Press (tel.: 31-20-4200050, info@aup.uva.nl) or Loek Groot (groot@pscw.uva.nl).

MINUTES OF BIEN's 8th GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 8th meeting of BIEN's General Assembly was held on Saturday 7 October 2000 at the Wissenschaftszentrum für Sozialforschung (Berlin), and chaired by Guy Standing, co-chair of BIEN.

1) Accounts:

- *Total expenditure in 1998-2000*: BF 216.826 (out of which 164.230 for the printing and mailing of the newsletter), compared to BF 96.961 in 1996-98 (out of which 68.689 for the newsletter) [the difference is mainly due to the fact that the cost of some 96-98 newsletters was only billed in 98-00]
- *Total revenues in 1998-2000*: BF 288.765 (out of which BF 200.200 from life membership subscriptions alone) compared to BF 107.533 in 1996-98 (out of which BF 96.485 from subscriptions and 11.048 from interests) and BF 93.806 in 1994-96 (out of which BF 79.650 from subscriptions and 14.156 from interests).
- *Balance for 1998-2000*: 288.765 - 216.826 = 71.939.
- *Current situation*: BF 309 476 (compared to 237.537 in Sept 1998 and 225.695 in Sept. 1996). Our financial situation is sound, but only (1) because of our new life membership scheme (whose one-off aspects requires us to make provisions) and (2) because EC meetings are organised with little cost for BIEN (only once did an EC member require refunding of travelling expenses, as authorised by our Amsterdam G.A. meeting) The accounts are approved. BIEN members can ask for details from the treasurer or the secretary.

2) Congresses:

- *The 1998 Conference*: The book based on the 1998 Amsterdam conference arrived just too late for the 2000 congress, but can be ordered from Amsterdam University Press (R.J. van der Veen & L. Groot eds, *Basic Income on the Agenda*, info@aup.uva.nl, www.aup.nl)
- *The 2000 Conference*: Many warm thanks to Claus Offe and Kathrin Bauer for a first-rate organisation, to the Böckler and Böll foundations for their generous financial support, and to the Wissenschaftszentrum for its hospitality. The conference budget should have a small surplus. The conference papers will remain accessible at BIEN' Online.
- *The 2002 Conference*
 - *Place, date, organisers*: It is decided that it will be held in Geneva, preferably at the end of the 2nd week of September 2002, with the likely collaboration of the ILO, the Canton of Geneva, the University, and some other international or local organisations. Guy Standing is in charge of the coordination, in collaboration with Ed Dommen, Lena Lavinias and others.
 - *Focus*: The provisional title is "Income security as a right", and the provisional list of sub-themes: (1) Economic Security and Development, (2) Assessing Selectivity, (3) Citizenship Credit Cards and other transfer schemes, (4) Legitimising basic income politically. On each of the four sub-themes, there will be preparatory seminars around a review paper commissioned by the organisers. There will be no separate session for issues concerning less affluent countries, but these issues will be addressed under each of the four headings.
 - *Poster Display*: Participants will be invited to display posters, both on the state of the discussion on basic income in their own country and on basic income generally.
 - *Distribution of papers*: Will be organised like in Berlin (web + optional distribution by authors), but preferably with papers on the web as from July.
 - *Funding*: as usual, will have to be secured by the local organisers.
 - *Format*: Plenaries at beginning and end with workshops in between was an excellent format. No plenary country survey, but a poster commissioned for each country in which something relevant is happening.

3) Newsletter and web site (BIEN Online):

- *Newsletter:* The *NewsFlashes* are being sent every second month to about 700 e-mail list subscribers. The printed newsletter is sent every sixth month, with the collaboration of Citizen's Income, to about 120 BIEN members. This new structure, put in place in January 2000, is proving satisfactory and will be continued for the moment.
- *Web site:* Jurgen De Wispelaere (LSE) makes a precise and persuasive proposal about how to greatly improve BIEN's web site. He is willing to work on it on a voluntary basis and expects to be ready with it by March 2001. The GA gladly accepts this offer. A simpler domain name needs to be bought (www.basicincome.org, www.bien.be?), at the cost of about \$35 per year. Citizen's Income bought names that it does not need which may prove suitable. Jurgen De Wispelaere (E-mail: J.De-Wispelaere@lse.ac.uk) welcomes further suggestions about ways of improving the site.

4) Executive Committee:

- *Honorary member:* Owing to professional uncertainty, Steve Quilley (recruitment officer in 1998-2000) is unable to continue in an executive position. He becomes an honorary member of the Committee.
- *Restructuring:* The position of "recruitment officer" is replaced by that of "communication officer" (newsletter + web). The other existing positions are left unchanged.
- *Elections:* The following are elected unopposed:
 - Ilona Ostner (Göttingen University) : co-chair.
 - Guy Standing (International Labour Office) : co-chair and conference organiser.
 - Philippe Van Parijs (University of Louvain) : secretary, with support from Yannick Vanderborght (updating of web site)
 - Alexander de Roo (European Parliament) : treasurer
 - Claus Offe (Humboldt University): research co-ordinator
 - Stuart Duffin (Citizen's Income Study Centre): communication co-ordinator, with support from Jurgen De Wispelaere (restructuring of web site) and Duncan Burbidge (printed newsletter)

5) **National networks:** A national network has been set up in Spain (AREBA, coordinated by José Iglesias, ioseiglesias@wanadoo.es), and another one should be set up soon in Austria (at the initiative of Michael Striebel, michael.striebel.asav@schulen.vol.at, in Bregenz, who has already set up a web site: <http://www.vobs.at/asav>)

6) **Reinterpretation of BIEN's acronym ("Basic Income EARTH Network"):** It is decided (as it was in 1998) to stick to the original interpretation of the acronym ("European"), while making a lot of room, in particular at the Geneva conference, for basic income perspectives in other parts of the world. If any proposal along these lines was to be made in the future, it would need to be sent to all members one month in advance of the GA, as any other proposed amendment of BIEN's statutes.

3. EVENTS

Madrid, 24-26 January 2001, International seminar on "Public Policies & the Distribution of Income"

Organised by the Fundación Banco Bilbao-Vizcaya-Argentaria, with an opening lecture by Anthony B. Atkinson (Oxford) and a final lecture by Philippe Van Parijs (Louvain). For further information, contact Sara Echeverría/Paloma Galán at pgalan@grupobbva.com

Barcelona, 24-25 January 2001, Second Seminar on Inequalities

Organised by the Fundacio Jaume Bofill (Barcelona), with an opening lecture by Philippe Van Parijs (Louvain) and the presentation of a detailed basic income proposal for Catalonia. For further information, contact Fundacio Jaume Bofill at fbofill@fbofill.org or <http://www.fbofill.org>

Montréal, 25-26 January 2001, Colloquium "Social Cohesion and Social Protection"

Organised by Lucie Lamarche (Université du Québec à Montréal) and Jane Jenson (Université de Montréal), with the participation of Guy Standing (ILO and BIEN), who will

give a lecture on "Beyond Third Wayism: Basic Security as Equality." For further information: http://www.juris.uqam.ca/maitrise/Colloques_et_Actes/colloques.html4.

4. PUBLICATIONS

DUTCH

BOUCHER, Marie-Pierre, DE GREEF, Isabelle, JACQUET, Laurence, VANDERBORGHT, Yannick & VAN PARIJS, Philippe, "Participatie verzekering en participatie-inkomen", in *Oikos* (c/o Robert Crivit, PLOEG vzw, Brialmontstraat 33 - B-1210 Brussels, robert.crivit@agalev.be) 14, 2000, pp. 9-31. (Authors' contact address: Chaire Hoover, 3 Place Montesquieu, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, vanderborgh@etes.ucl.ac.be)

Published in a journal closely linked to the Flemish green party AGALEV, this is an in-depth exploration and comparative discussion of two ways of broadening the project of an "active social state": a reshaping of involuntary unemployment insurance into a "participation insurance", which broadens the eligibility condition beyond active job search to cover activity in the household, in education and training, or in the voluntary sector (as suggested in an earlier report for Belgium's King Baudouin Foundation) and Anthony Atkinson's "participation income" (a basic income subjected to a broad condition of social contribution). Which is better in terms of recognition of unpaid work? Which is better as an anti-poverty measure? Which is better for human capital formation? The answer is not always the same.

ENGLISH

McKAY, A. & VANAVERY, J. "Gender, Family, and Income Maintenance: A Feminist Case for Citizen's Basic Income", in *Social Politics* 7 (2), 2000, 266-284. (First author's address: Glasgow Caledonian Univ, Dept Econ, Glasgow G4 0BA, Lanark, Scotland.)

Economist McKay and sociologist Vanavery consider proposals for a citizen's basic income in the light of feminist arguments about welfare and inequality. Drawing on feminist critiques of the male breadwinner family, on lesbian and gay demands for sexual citizenship, and on the need to develop welfare policy suitable for a "postfamilial" society, they argue that a citizen's basic income has the potential to provide a basis for a truly universal citizenship.

NISSAN, David & LE GRAND, Julian. *A Capital Idea. Start-up Grants for Young People*, Fabian Society (11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BN, www.fabian-society.org.uk), "Second Term Thinking", February 2000, 16p., £7.50. (Second author's address: London School of Economics, Houghton St. Aldwych, LONDON WC2A 2AE)

In the same vein but more modestly than Ackerman and Alstott's *Stakeholder Society* (Yale U.P. 1999), this is a lucid and firm plea for a universal yet conditional grant of about 15.000 Euros to be paid to all young people at the age of 18, to be funded by an inheritance tax and to be used for education purposes, as a down-payment on a house or as start-up capital for a business venture. Quite a distance from an unconditional basic income. But some arguments will sound familiar to basic income supporters, for example the "fundamental reason for a universal grant": "Everyone born into a developed country benefits from a share in a common inheritance: a set of capital assets, including buildings and other infrastructure, transport links, capital equipment and agricultural land."

VAN PARIJS, Philippe. *Basic Income : Guaranteed income for the XXIst century?*, Barcelona: Fundació Rafael Campalans (c/o Rocio Martinez Sampere martinezsr@diba.es), Papers de la Fundació n°121, 2000, 36p. (vanparijs@etes.ucl.ac.be)

Neatly published by the foundation linked to the Catalan socialist party, Van Parijs's compact introduction to basic income was commissioned by the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union and served as a background paper for BIEN's Berlin conference.

VAN PARIJS, Philippe. "Basic Income and the Two Dilemmas of the Welfare State", in *The Welfare State. A Reader* (Christopher Pierson & Francis G. Castles eds.), Cambridge: Polity Press & Malden (MA): Blackwell, 2000, pp.355-59.

Now included in a major new anthology on social policy, this is a reprint of a brief plea for basic income as a response to the two central dilemmas that face welfare states in Europe and beyond as we enter the XXIst century: fighting unemployment versus fighting poverty as productivity varies ever

more widely across individuals; securing the economic feasibility of solidarity versus its political feasibility as human capital becomes more mobile across national boundaries.

WACQUANT, Loïc (2000), 'Logics of urban polarization: the view from below' in Rosemary Crompton & al., *Renewing Class Analysis*, Oxford: Blackwell, 107-119. (loic@uclink2.berkeley.edu)

In this paper on marginality and inequalities in Western cities, the renowned Berkeley-based French sociologist Loïc Wacquant briefly reasserts his commitment to a unconditional basic income: "Radical innovations, such as the institution of a citizen's wage (or unconditional income grant) that would sever subsistence from work, expand access to education through the lifecourse, and effectively guarantee universal access to essential public goods such as housing, health, and transportation, are needed to expand social rights and check the deleterious effects of the mutation of wage-labour" (p.118)

FRENCH

ALALUF, Mateo, "Contre l'allocation universelle et pour un relèvement des minima sociaux", & VAN PARIJS, Philippe, "L'allocation universelle: un plaidoyer pragmatique", in *Politique. Revue européenne de débats* (17, rue Lally-Tollendal, F-75019 Paris, France, politique-revue@wanadoo.fr) 1, octobre 2000, pp. 68-72. (Authors: malaluf@ulb.ac.be, vanparijs@etes.ucl.ac.be)

After a first publication in the magazine of the anti-poverty movement ATD-Quart Monde, this debate between anti-basic-income sociologist Mateo Alaluf (Université libre de Bruxelles) and pro-basic-income philosopher Philippe Van Parijs (Université catholique de Louvain) is now being republished in the first issue of a new French-language "European journal of debates". Alaluf's central argument against basic income and in favour of an increase of means-tested and unemployment-tested social transfers is that whereas the former would depress low wages by subsidizing them, the latter would boost them by forcing employers to pay wages in excess of higher unemployment pay.

BRESSON, Yoland. *Le Revenu d'existence ou la métamorphose de l'être social*, L'Esprit frappeur (9 Passage Dagorno, F-75020 Paris), 2000, 102p, 10 FF. (Yoland.Bresson@wanadoo.fr)

A lively pocket-sized restatement of the plea for basic income which French economist Yoland Bresson first formulated in his far more austere *L'Après-salariat* (Paris, Economica, 1984). 270 Euros per month for each French citizen is the amount that follows from his theory and calculations, duly indexed on GDP growth.

MANIERE, Philippe. *L'Aveuglement français. Le libéralisme contre la régression sociale*. Paris: Stock, 1998, 120 FF, preface by Jean-François Revel.

Philippe Manière is the editor of the French magazine *Le Point*. In this book, he advocates the revival of a good old French tradition: "social liberalism". Liberalism is not an American doctrine but was born in France before spreading elsewhere, and it is not anti-social, but contains the only remedy for unemployment. "The best track [to abolish unemployment], never followed so far, would be to abolish the minimum wage and to supplement the wages of the poorest workers. A universal basic income ("allocation universelle") would be in place. It would be paid to all and above all, great innovation, it would be combinable with earnings - in contrast with the RMI and the innumerable other means-tested benefits that exist today." (p.270)

GERMAN

B.A.G. DER SOZIALHILFEINITIATIVEN ed., *Existenzgeld für Alle. Antworten auf die Krise des Sozialen*. AG-SPAK Publikationen (Holzheimerstrasse 7, D-89233 Neu-Ulm, Germany), 100p., ISBN 3-930830-14-00. (Contact address: Wolfram Otto, Kiel, aloini@gaarden.net www.existenzgeld.be)

Germany's federal working group (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft) of social initiatives adopted in May 1998, at its Erfurt meeting, a clearly phrased declaration in favour of a universal and unconditional "existence income" for all permanent residents at a level of about 750 Euros per month supplemented by a variable additional housing grant of an average of 250 Euros for a single person, and combinable with earnings and pensions or unemployment benefits. It would be mainly funded by the abolition of all forms of social assistance and by an income taxation at 50% from the first Euro beyond the basic income. This booklet contains a clear presentation of the proposal by the editors (Cora Molloy, Heinrich Ruck, Hinrich Garms, Petra Leischen, Wolfram Otto). It is preceded by an ethical case for basic income ("Grundeinkommen ohne Arbeit. Auf dem Weg zu einer kommunikativen Gesellschaft", pp. 11-49) by the Austrian Jesuit Herwig Büchele (based on his 1985 book with Lieselotte Wohlgenannt); and

followed by an informative survey of proposals and positions taken by Germany's political parties (Hinrich Garms, "Wer nicht arbeitet, soll auch nicht essen?!" Modelle und Diskussionsstränge", pp. 73-90)

SPANISH

BUENO, Carlos. ¿Un salario para todo el mundo, trabaje o no?, in *Gaceta de los Negocios* (Madrid), 14-15 October 2000. ravento@eco.ub.es

Published in the Sunday edition of the Spanish business paper *Gaceta de los Negocios*, this substantive article presents the pros and cons of basic income, largely based on an interview with Daniel Raventos (Univ. de Barcelona).

PINTO CAÑÓN, Ramiro. "Por una Constitución económica", in *Diario de León* 14 October 2000. (c/o Los Verdes, Apartado de correos 587, E-24080 León, Spain)

In this and other free tribunes of the daily of the Spanish province of León, the green basic income activist Ramiro Pinto Cañón, author of the booklet *La Revolución del Paro*, forcefully argues for a basic income at subsistence level as a constitutional right.

IGLESIAS Fernández, José ed., *Ante la falta de derechos: ¡Renta Básica, Ya!*, Barcelona: Virus Editorial, 2000, 288p., ISBN 84 88455 83 6. (Editor's address: Salvador Espriu 89, 2º, 2a, E - 08005 Barcelona, Spain, joseiglesias@wanadoo.es.)

Behind its provocative cover (a picture of two naked men demonstrating for a basic income), this is a new collective book on (and for) basic income from the far Left, edited by José Iglesias, a Barcelona-based retired economist. Between a long introduction by its editor and a list of (mostly Spanish) events, organizations and publications concerned with basic income, the book consists of three parts. Part I collects four rather more theoretical pieces by philosophes Francisco Jose Martinez (UNED, Madrid) and Philippe Van Parijs (Louvain), by economist Dani Raventos (Barcelona) and by activist Manolo Saez Bayona (Coordinación estatal de lucha contra el Paro, la Pobreza y la Exclusión social). Part II consists of three more applied essays by Iglesias himself (on Canada, Cuba and Spain). And part III provides a critical survey of various aspects of the Spanish debate on basic income (with contributions by Agustín Morán and Tomás Etxabe).

RAVENTOS, Daniel. "La Renta Básica: un derecho", in *El Pais* (digital@elpais.es , Madrid) 1612, 1 October 2000. ravento@eco.ub.es

A brief presentation of basic income in Spain's best known newspaper by the Barcelona economist and author of *El Derecho a la existencia* (Ariel, 1999). More developed yet very accessible articles, also largely based on Raventos's book have appeared in the left-wing journal *Viento Sur* 20, 2000 ("SUG (Subsidio Universal Garantizado)", available at http://www.nodo50.org/viento_sur/articulos/sug.html) and in *Claves de la Razón Práctica* 106, October 2000, an important intellectual magazine linked to *El Pais* ("El salario de toda la ciudadanía", pp. 43-48).

SEMPERE, Jaume. "Una justificación del ingreso básico fundamentada en la eficiencia", in *El Trimestre Económico* (Mexico) 262, 2000, pp. 175-88. (Author's current address: Institute for economic analysis, Campus UAB, ES-08193 Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain, jaime.sempere@cc.uab.es)

Is a basic income a more efficient instrument to fight poverty and redistribute income than other current social security programs? This article by Mexican economist Jaime Sempere approaches this question using a maximin welfare function as a characterisation of the government's objective: the government sets tax rates and the subsidy in order to maximise the utility of the worst-off individual. The baseline for comparison is a situation in which the government can only use commodity taxation differentiated between luxury products and necessities (possibly subsidized by a negative commodity tax). Can the government do better in terms of maximin welfare, if it can use in addition a lump-sum uniform subsidy (or universal basic income)? The article shows that whether the optimum requires a positive basic income depends on the structure of demand (which affects the size of the deadweight losses induced by differentiated commodity taxation). With a calibration based on data for the UK, the article shows that maximin welfare requires positive taxes on all goods and a positive basic income, and that, therefore, "the role of a basic income to redistribute income can be significant."

5. NATIONAL NETWORKS

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- *Citizen's Income Study Centre*
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- *Vereniging Basinkomen*
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Telephone : 020-6799940 or 6167029
Fax: 020-6799940
E-mail: basic.income@wxs.nl
Website : www.basisinkomen.nl
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- *Asociación Renda Basica (AREBA)*
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Fax: 34-3-225.48.20
- *Association pour l'instauration d'un revenu d'existence (AIRE)*
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- *Folkrorelsen for medborgarlon*
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E-mail: dir.asav@schulen.vol.at
Website: <http://www.vobs.at/asav/pax1.htm>
- *Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Sozialhilfeinitiativen (BAG-SHI)*
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E-mail: aloini@gaarden.net
Website: www.existenzgeld.de

OUTSIDE EUROPE

- *Universal Basic Income New Zealand (UBINZ)*
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Website: <http://www.geocities.com/~ubin/z/>

- *Organisation advocating support income in Australia (OASIS)*
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Provisional website: <http://www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/Research/FW>

OTHER RELEVANT WEBSITES

- <http://www.apfc.org>: The official site of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation. Among much other information, it features the annual amounts of the universal and unconditional dividend paid to each Alaskan resident since 1982: nearly 2000 US dollars in 2000, compared to less than 400 at the start.
- <http://www.humano.ya.com/ademetrio>: Run by Daniel Raventos, professor of economics at the University of Barcelona, this site gives wide information on publications and events relevant to basic income, especially in Spanish and in Catalan. It has an associated electronic list: <http://www.rediris.es/list/info/rentabasica.html>. Contact address: ravento@eco.ub.es
- <http://www3.sympatico.ca/tim.rourke/bi.html>: Run by Tim Rourke, 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 address: tim.rourke@sympatico.ca

6. MORE ABOUT BIEN

BIEN's EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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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.

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