

BIEN's Basic Income Description – proposed amendments

Proposed: Louise Haagh Seconded: Pablo Yanez, Toru Yamamori, Malcolm Torry

To stimulate debate about clarifying the definition and debate about basic income, I propose the GA discuss and vote on amending how we describe basic income. I propose the GA vote separately on different parts of the proposal in steps, as per below.

I also propose that should the result of other motions be to modify parts of other proposals for extending our description of basic income, those parts can be added to the proposal below as further separate parts (e.g. for example any amendments to other motions adding level of basic income or participation in society). This way we can all debate the different parts and vote on different parts separately, which I hope will stimulate discussion without forcing a full rejection or support of all parts of a proposal at once

FOR INFORMATION

BIEN's statutes and article 4 of the new BIEN-AISBL, both read as follow:

The aim of the association is to serve as a link between the individuals and groups committed to, or interested in, basic income, i.e. an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement, to stimulate and disseminate research and to foster informed public discussion on this topic throughout the world.

Moreover, on our web-pages we have the current explanatory passage:

A basic income is an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement. It is a form of minimum income guarantee that differs from those that now exist in various European countries in three important ways:

it is being paid to individuals rather than households;
it is paid irrespective of any income from other sources;
it is paid without requiring the performance of any work or the willingness to accept a job if offered.

PROPOSAL

My suggestion to revision of our statutes/ Article 4 of the new AISBL (this has three parts, and I propose we vote on each part separately, the numbering below is for purposes of this motion only):

1. To amend:

The aim of the association is to serve as a link between the individuals and groups committed

to, or interested in, basic income, i.e. an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, paid regularly and for life, without means test or work requirement, to stimulate and disseminate research and to foster informed public discussion on this topic throughout the world.

2. To add:

BIEN supports a basic income paid at a rate at least sufficient to meet living standards compatible with sustainable nutrition and health and a life of dignity in accordance with accepted national or international standards of sufficiency.

3. To add:

This is notwithstanding many BIEN members support a basic income higher than that, and some would support an initial basic income lower than that as a first step. BIEN does not make a presumption that basic income replaces other welfare entitlements

OR 4. in place of 2 and 3:

4. To add:

A full basic income is at least sufficient to meet living standards compatible with sustainable nutrition and health and a life of dignity in accordance with accepted national or international standards of sufficiency. A partial basic income is less than that amount.

This is notwithstanding many BIEN members support a basic income higher than just enough to meet the definition of a full Basic Income. Some BIEN members support a partial basic income as a step toward a full basic income. BIEN does not make a presumption that basic income replaces other welfare entitlements.

5. The BIEN EC is mandated and trusted to amend the description of Basic Income presented on its web-pages as guided by the general formulation adopted by the GA.