

**A meeting of the Basic Income Earth Network General Assembly will be held at the BIEN Congress in Lisbon, Portugal**

**The papers for the General Assembly will appear on the website at <http://basicincome.org/about-bien/general-assembly-2017/>**

**If you would like to have copies of the papers with you at the meeting, please bring copies with you.**

**Part I: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 18:15 to 19:15**

**Agenda**

1. Explanation and discussion of resolutions before the General Assembly
2. The establishment of working groups. The purpose of the groups is to discuss items on the agenda in preparation for discussions during part II of the meeting, and also to discuss issues that might be useful to the Executive Committee as it plans its work for the next year. (There is no space on the GA agenda for additional resolutions)

**Part II: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017, 17:30 to 19:30**

**Agenda**

17.30	<b>1</b>	Opening of GA and welcome
17.35	<b>2</b>	Roll call and confirmation of membership
17.40	<b>3</b>	Approval of the rule-keeper
17.42	<b>4</b>	Approval of the agenda
17.45	<b>5</b>	Approval of the minutes of the 2016 GA
17.50	<b>6</b>	Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda
17.55	<b>7</b>	Executive Committee decision to change BIEN's status from an International Non-profit-making Association registered in Belgium to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in the United Kingdom. The GA is asked to ratify this decision and also the appointment of four additional trustees and a new treasurer. (See the note from the Chair on page 2)
18.10	<b>8</b>	Chair's report
18.15	<b>9</b>	Treasurer's report
18.20	<b>10</b>	Outreach / affiliates report
18.25	<b>11</b>	News report
18.30	<b>12</b>	A proposal to amend the requirements for affiliation.
18.40	<b>13</b>	Proposals for affiliation received: Iceland; Malawi; World Basic Income
18.45	<b>14</b>	A proposal to change BIEN policy towards donations and membership fees
18.55	<b>15</b>	<p>Elections for EC members: The Seoul GA asked the EC to study the possibility of an electronic ballot for the EC before the GA in Finland. The EC would like to recommend a one year trial for the EC to be elected in 2018.</p> <p>This GA will need to choose one of the following three options (by single transferable vote):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Multiple electronic ballots for the different officers and the different EC positions. (cost \$200 x number of ballots, so approx. \$1,800)</li> <li>2. Voting at the GA by secret ballot for the different officers and postholders, i.e., not voting by electronic or postal ballot</li> <li>3. Allowing postal ballots alongside a secret ballot at the GA for the different officers and postholders.</li> </ol> <p>(If option 1 or 3 is chosen then no candidate can stand for more than one post. If option 1 or 3 is chosen then nominations will have to be received by one month before the GA. If option 2 is chosen then the GA could decide that nominations will need to be received by one month before the GA.)</p>

19.10	<b>16</b>	Any suggestions from the working groups established during part I of the meeting
19.15	<b>17</b>	Venues for the 2019 and 2020 congresses (Note, the 2018 Congress is in Finland from the 24 <sup>th</sup> to the 26 <sup>th</sup> August)
19.25	<b>18</b>	Any other business
19.30	<b>19</b>	Close of meeting

A note from the Chair in relation to item 7:

Following Executive Committee discussion, and discussion at a previous GA, BIEN registered as an international NGO in Belgium. A number of factors have now made this problematic. Any change to the charter, or to the list of EC members, needs to be handled by a lawyer, and paid for; BIEN's bank account, which was also located in Belgium, was being managed by people no longer actively involved in the EC, and was closed; opening a new bank account in Belgium has proved impossible in the absence of active Belgian nationals willing to undertake the necessary administration; and opening a bank account anywhere else proved impossible because BIEN was registered in Belgium.

The EC therefore took the decision to explore the possibility of registration in the UK ( - a route that had been considered before but not taken). At the time of sending this agenda, the EC has approved a new constitution for BIEN (which follows the model Charitable Incorporated Organisation constitution published by the UK's Charity Commission, and which is flexible enough to enable BIEN to continue doing everything it does now), and has submitted an application for registration. If all goes to plan, and registration is achieved, then the EC will apply for a bank account to CAFBank, a UK bank that only provides accounts for non-profit organisations.

The EC is grateful to four trustees of the UK's Citizen's Basic Income Trust for assistance with the registration and bank account applications.

The new constitution might look very different from the old statutes. This is because it is the model constitution that the UK's Charity Commission expects Charitable Incorporated Organisations to use. However, allowable options have been chosen to allow BIEN to do everything that it currently does. During this next year the EC intends to construct a set of internal rules to use alongside the constitution (for instance, to re-establish the International Board). Once you have studied the new constitution, if you would like to make suggestions as to what those internal rules might be, and as to how they should be worded, then please send your suggestions to Malcolm Torry at [malcolm@torry.org.uk](mailto:malcolm@torry.org.uk). The EC will then bring an appropriate resolution to the 2018 GA.

A further report on progress will be given at the GA.