

BASIC INCOME 29

Newsletter of the Basic Income European Network

<http://www.econ.ucl.ac.be/etes/bien/bien.html>

SPRING 1998

CONTENTS

BIEN' 7TH CONGRESS (Amsterdam, September 1998)

OTHER EVENTS

- Oxford (GB), May 1998
- Wellington (NZ) March 1998

NOBEL LAUREATES FOR BASIC INCOME

- James Tobin, the demogrant and the future of U.S. social policy
- Herbert Simon, the flat tax and our common patrimony

A GLIMPSE OF

- The Belgian debate
- The Finnish debate

PUBLICATIONS

- Dutch
- English
- French
- Italian

PRIZE

- Lelio Basso Prize for economic and political alternatives

RESEARCH POSITION

- Basic income and the new social question (Louvain-la-Neuve)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- National networks on basic income
- To know more about basic income or BIEN
- To become a member of BIEN

THIS ISSUE OF BASIC INCOME

was prepared with the help of Loek Groot, Claudio César Salinas, Herbert A. Simon, Guy Standing, James Tobin, Robert van der Veen and all those who spontaneously sent relevant material.

The reviews it contains are not protected by any copyright. They can be reproduced and translated at will. But if you use them, please mention the existence and address of BIEN (including its web site) and the exact references of the events or publications concerned.

Please send BIEN's secretary a copy of any relevant publication (by yourself or by others) you come across, with full references and, if possible, author's address and brief summary. Many thanks!

BIEN's 7th CONGRESS (Amsterdam, 10-12 September 1998)

The 7th International Congress of the Basic Income European Network will be held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from the morning of Thursday 10 until the afternoon of Saturday 12 September 1998. It will take place in the Felix Meritis Building, a beautiful 18th century building which is situated on one of the canals in the city centre, within easy reach of Amsterdam's Central Railway Station and airport. The Congress will be organized under the auspices of the Dutch Basic Income Network (Vereniging Basisinkomen), the University of Amsterdam, and BIEN's Executive Committee. The provisional schedule comprises a sequence of plenary sessions and parallel workshops (in English), starting on Thursday the 10th at 10 a.m. and finishing in the late afternoon of Friday the 11th. On the Thursday evening there will be a reception by the Municipality of Amsterdam, and BIEN's General Assembly meeting will be held on the Friday evening. The Saturday sessions (in Dutch before lunch, in English after lunch) will focus on the possibility of implementing a basic income scheme in the Netherlands in the context of an increasingly integrated Europe, and involve some of the most prominent participants in the Dutch debate.

Registration

To receive the registration form, the updated programme and all practical information, either download the material from

[http:// www.uva.nl/congresbureau](http://www.uva.nl/congresbureau)

or send your name and address (+ "BIEN September 1998") to:

Conference Office, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Postbus 19268, 1000 GG Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel: +31 20 5254791, fax: +31 20 5254799, e-mail: congres@bdu.uva.nl.

The all-inclusive conference fee of Dfl 450 also covers the lunches to be served in the Foyer on the ground floor of Felix Meritis.

Hotel reservations

The Conference Office has arranged for preliminary reservations for hotel rooms in Amsterdam. The hotels are in different price categories and are located in the centre of Amsterdam, in the neighbourhood of the conference venue. Participants who have requested the Conference registration form will also receive hotel reservation forms by regular mail towards the end of May. Furthermore, anyone who wishes to receive addresses of low budget hotels in Amsterdam should contact the Conference Office before June 15, 1998 for further information. Since other large conferences are going on in the city of Amsterdam at the time of our Congress, it is highly advisable to make your reservations as soon as possible but in any case before July 1.

Parallel workshops

Parallel sessions are open for volunteered papers. Many proposals have been received and they are currently being selected.

Most of the following themes are likely to be covered:

1. Basic income and lifetime patterns of work, education, care and leisure.
2. Unconditional basic income: does it conflict with reciprocity?
3. Radical basic income proposals for one country and for the world.
4. Sustaining a basic income: income tax versus ecological levies.
5. Sustaining a basic income: distributive versus redistributive funding.
6. Can it work? Experimentation with basic income or similar schemes.
7. From here to there: different paths towards basic income.
8. How can one get basic income onto the political agenda?
9. Between group interest and solidarity: can trade unions support basic income?
10. Shaping a European minimum guarantee: convergence or federalisation?
11. Basic income outside Europe: attractions and pitfalls.
12. Basic income and globalisation.

Coordinator: Robert VAN DER VEEN, Vakgroep Politicologie, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Oudezijds Achterburgwal 237, 1012 DL Amsterdam, E-mail: vanderveen@pscw.uva.nl

Provisional programme:

10-12 September 1998, Felix Meritis, Keizersgracht 324, Amsterdam.

(The building can easily be reached by Tramway 13 and 17, get off at 'Westermarkt'.)

All sessions are in English, except on the Saturday morning (in Dutch). Speakers will be reminded to bear in mind that most people in the audience are not native English speakers.

THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER

- 08.45 - 09.45 Arrival and Registration of Congress Participants
(Reception and Foyer Felix Meritis)
- 09.45 - 10.00 Opening address of welcome by Edwin Morley Fletcher (Professor at the University of Macerata (Italy) and Co-chairman of BIEN) (Plenary Conference Room)
- 10.15 - 11.45 Plenary Session 1: Full Employment Without Poverty (Plenary Conference Room)
Chair: Ilona Ostner (Professor of Social Policy, University of Göttingen, and member of BIEN Executive Committee)
Introduction by Michel Hansenne (Director General, International Labour Organisation)
Contributions by:
* Joachim Mitschke (Professor of Economics, Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität Frankfurt),
* Kees Schuyt (Professor of Sociology, Universiteit van Amsterdam and member of the Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy)
* Guy Standing (International Labour Organisation and Co-chairman BIEN)
- 11.45 - 13.15 Country Survey (Plenary Conference Room)
Short statements of country representatives, chaired by Philippe Van Parijs (Chaire Hoover, Université Catholique de Louvain, and Secretary of BIEN)
- 13.15 - 14.45 Lunch (Foyer Ground Floor)
- 14.45 - 16.15 Plenary Session 2: Sustainable Funding (Plenary Conference Room)
Chair: Walter Van Trier (Research Fellow at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, and member of BIEN Executive Committee)
Contributions by:
* Zsuzsa Ferge (Professor of Social Policy, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)
* Paul Metz (Executive Director, European Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future, Velp, The Netherlands)
* Steven Quilley (political economist at the Centre for Research on Innovation and Competition, University of Manchester)
- 16.15 - 16.45 Tea and Coffee Break
- 16.45 - 18.30 Parallel Workshops (to be held in the Plenary Conference Room and two Workshop Rooms). In each workshop, led by a workshop chair, about three papers are presented and discussed in 25 minute slots. Details to be announced.
- 18.30 - 19.30 Cocktail Reception (Zuilenzaal Felix Meritis)
Drinks and cocktail food
Address by the Mayor or Rector of the University of Amsterdam

FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER

- 09.00 - 09.30 Morning Coffee (Reception and Foyer Felix Meritis)
- 09.30 - 11.00 Plenary Session 3: Social Europe (Plenary Conference Room)
Chair: Edwin Morley-Fletcher (Professor at the University of Macerata (Italy) and Co-chairman of BIEN)
Contributions by:
* Maurizio Ferrera (Professor of Social Policy, University of Bocconi (Italy), and Director of the European University Institute Forum on the Future of the Welfare State) [To be confirmed]
* Didier Livio (President of the European Confederation of Young Employers, and CEO of Synergence, Dijon)
* Fritz Scharpf (Professor at the Max Planck Institute for Social Research, Cologne)
- 11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30 - 13.15 Three Parallel Workshops (to be held in the Plenary Conference Room and two Workshop Rooms). In each workshop, led by a workshop chair, about three papers are presented and discussed in 25 minute slots. Details to be announced.
- 13.15 - 14.45 Lunch (Foyer Ground Floor)
- 14.45 - 16.30 Three Parallel Workshops (to be held in the Plenary Conference Room and two Workshop Rooms). In each workshop, led by a workshop chair, about three papers are presented and discussed in 25 minute slots. Details to be announced.
- 16.30 - 17.00 Tea and Coffee Break
- 17.00 - 18.00 Plenary Round Table Event (Plenary Conference Room)

19.00 - 21.00 Business Meeting (Zuilenzaal Felix Meritis)
General Assembly of the Basic Income European Network. Chaired by the Co-chairmen of BIEN. Sandwiches & Drinks provided.

SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER
DUTCH DAY

Until lunch, the programme of this event covers the themes of the first two plenary sessions of the international part of the Congress, relating the relevance of the findings to the Netherlands experience, in two subsequent rounds of discussion which include invited Dutch speakers. This part is to be held in Dutch, and it is meant to attract fresh participants from the Netherlands (as well as retaining those participants in the Congress who are in command of the language). After lunch, the proceedings will specifically cover the third plenary theme - Social Europe. This part is to be held in English, in order to provide other participants of the Congress the opportunity to take part in the Dutch day, in relation to its European dimension. These participants are meant to join after lunch, which is therefore provided to the participants in the first part of the Dutch day only.

FIRST PART (In Dutch)

- 09.15 - 10.00 Welcome of participants in the Dutch day (Reception and Foyer Felix Meritis)
10.00 - 10.15 Opening by Robert van der Veen (University of Amsterdam, and member of BIEN Executive Committee) (Plenary Conference Room)
10.15 - 10.30 Report on Full Employment Without Poverty, by Paul de Beer (Social and Cultural Planning Bureau, Netherlands Basic Income Society) (Plenary Conference Room)
10.30 - 11.30 Discussion on Full Employment Without Poverty (Plenary Conference Room)
11.30 - 12.00 Coffee Break
12.00 - 12.15 Report on Sustainable Funding, by Loek Groot (University of Utrecht, and Netherlands Basic Income Society) (Plenary Conference Room)
12.15 - 13.15 Discussion on Sustainable Funding (Plenary Conference Room)
- 13.15 - 14.15 Lunch (Foyer Felix Meritis)

SECOND PART (in English)

- 14.15 - 14.30 Report on Social Europe by Philippe Van Parijs (Chaire Hoover, Université Catholique de Louvain, and Secretary of BIEN) (Plenary Conference Room)
14.30 - 15.30 Discussion on Social Europe (Plenary Conference Room)
15.30 - 15.45 Concluding statement by BIEN's co-Chairmen, Edwin Morley Fletcher and Guy Standing
16.00 - 18.00 Farewell Reception with food, music and drinks (Zuilenzaal Felix Meritis)

Amsterdam

Amsterdam, the capital of The Netherlands, is a small city by European standards (population 750.000), but it possesses the largest historical inner city in Europe. It is a city easily discovered on foot: museums, theaters, shopping streets, monuments, markets, and most other features of interest are generally within walking distance of one another.

Amsterdam is also one of the leading cultural centres of Europe. Among Amsterdam's most famous museums are the Rijksmuseum and the Stedelijk Museum, the Rijks-museum houses among others a world famous collection of Dutch paintings from the 15th until the 19th century which includes works of Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Frans Hals. The Stedelijk Museum is one of the most influential museums in the field of modern art. The permanent exhibition includes works by Monet, Van Gogh, Cézanne, Picasso, Matisse and Chagall. Furthermore, one can visit the Anne Frank House, where Anne Frank wrote her famous diary during the early years of the German occupation of The Netherlands, and the Jewish Historical Museum, which is situated in the beautifully restored High German Synagogue complex dating from the 17th and 18th century. This is just a small selection of what Amsterdam has to offer.

Schiphol International Airport, located about 15 kilometers (10 miles) from the centre of Amsterdam, has direct scheduled connections to many cities in the world. Since Schiphol Railway Station is located in the arrival/departure building of the airport, the centre of Amsterdam can be reached easily by train in approximately 15-20 minutes. The trip costs DFL 6,25. The taxi fare will be approximately DFL 60. Amsterdam is also conveniently linked to many European cities by rail. The Netherlands' excellent network of highways connects with all the major trans-European routes. However, please note that long term parking on public streets in the centre of Amsterdam is nearly impossible or extremely expensive.

OTHER EVENTS

Sharing our Common Heritage: Resource Taxes and Green Dividends (Rhodes House, Oxford, GB, 14 May 1998)

On the eve of the 1998 Economic Summit of world leaders, the conference will explore the prospects for:

- the replacement of existing taxes by taxes on the use of natural resources, including pollution,
- site-value land taxation, and
- a citizen's income financed by revenue from these taxes

Presentations by David Marquand, James Robertson, Philippe Van Parijs, Mason Gaffney, Fred Harrison, Tatiana Roskoshnaya and Alanna Hartzok.

For further information: Anne Maclachlan, OCEES Administrator, Mansfield College, Oxford, OX1 3TF, Tel & Fax: 01865 270886, anne.maclachlan@mansf.ox.ac.uk

Beyond Despondency - The UBI Alternative to the Welfare Meltdown (Wellington, New Zealand, 26-28 March 1998)

The Second National Conference on the Universal Basic Income took place in Wellington, NZ, on 26-28 March, 1998.

Keynote speaker: Sally Lerner, University of Waterloo (Canada).

Papers:

Farewell to Alms, by John Tomlinson (Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane)

Universal Basic Income: a System of Tax Reform. by Keith Rankin (Auckland)

What other Systems, Policies and Attitude changes are needed in a UBI Structure, by Prue Hyman (Victoria University)

The Revolution Of Human Consciousness Necessary to Create a Sustainable Future, by Patrick Danahey

The economic effects of introducing a full UBI into the New Zealand economy, by Lowell Manning

Welfare and Freedom in the 21st Century, by Michael Goldsmith (University of Waikato)

Beyond Scarcity and Greed, by Alan Fricker (Wellington)

Workshops: Why are we here, What do we want to achieve?, The Future of Work, Taxes and Benefits,

Strategies to achieve the introduction of a UBI, Ensuring gender equity under a UBI regime

Further information: UBINZ, c/- Private Bag 11 042, Palmerston North, fax 06 350 6319,

Ian.Ritchie@psa.union.org.nz, <http://www.iconz.co.nz/~iwgordon/ubinz.html>

NOBEL LAUREATES FOR BASIC INCOME

1. JAMES TOBIN, THE DEMOGRANT AND THE FUTURE OF U.S. SOCIAL POLICY

James Tobin has been interested in basic income for several decades. During the term he spent at Yale as a Visiting Professor, Philippe Van Parijs, Secretary of BIEN, had a long conversation with him on the subject. The account below is based on this conversation and published with Professor Tobin's kind permission.

When James Tobin hit upon the idea of a basic income, many of us were still children, and many were not born. The US was in the middle of the turbulent sixties, and Tobin was thinking, among other "liberal" (i.e. left-of-centre) economists, about how to design a generous but economically sound strategy against poverty. His solution consisted in a comprehensive minimum income system which he called a "credit income tax" and argued for in a sequence of classic articles (see list below). This idea displayed some resemblance with two other, very differently motivated proposals, which were floating around at the time. On the one hand, Milton Friedman's "negative income tax" – buried in his popular book *Capitalism and Freedom* (1962) and unknown to Tobin when he started developing his own proposal – aimed to simplify and de-bureaucratize the welfare state in such a way that it could be gradually phased out – not at all Tobin's objective, who rather sought to expand the state's role in income protection. On the other hand, the "guaranteed income" advocated by Robert Theobald and his Ad Hoc Committee on the Triple Revolution (1964) was inspired by the belief "that automation is rendering work for pay obsolete, and that government handouts are the only way to give the public the means to buy the immense bounty produced by automatons" – a diagnosis with which Tobin (1966: 36) strongly disagreed. Under Tobin's proposal – more generous than Friedman's and more precise than Theobald's –, each household was to be granted a basic credit at a level varying with family composition, which each family could supplement with earnings and other income taxed at a uniform rate. This "credit income tax" could be administered in two ways. One relied on "the payment of net benefits upon execution of a declaration of estimated income", while those making no such declaration would receive the credit in the form of a reduction of their tax bill (this corresponds to what is now commonly called a "negative income tax"). The other consisted in "automatic payments of full basic allowances to all families, except those who waive payment in order to avoid withholding of the offsetting tax on other earnings" (this corresponds to what Tobin's co-author Joe Pechman insisted on calling "demogrants" and to what BIEN has chosen to call "Basic income"). Both methods Tobin found workable, but his preference was for the second: "The declaration method imposes the burden of initiative on those who need payments; the automatic payment method places the burden on those who do not want them. It may be argued that the latter are more likely to have the needed financial literacy and paperwork sophistication." (Tobin & al. 1967: 23).

Tobin went on to become an economic adviser to the democrat presidential candidate George McGovern, who took over his demogrant proposal. The issue was salient in the 1972 Democratic primaries, especially in California, with Hubert Humphrey, McGovern's main rival, ridiculing the idea of a large handout being given to everyone, rich and poor. McGovern won the primaries, but badly lost to Nixon in the presidential election itself, in which other issues overshadowed the demogrant proposals. In the previous year, the Family Assistance Plan, a far less ambitious guaranteed income scheme prepared from within the Nixon administration by the democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan failed to be approved by the U.S. Senate. McGovern's defeat – which was a great disappointment to Tobin – sealed the fate of anything more ambitious. Some modest reforms were made to improve work incentives for welfare recipients, but several of them were rolled back in the 1980's under Reagan (see Burtless 1990 for an informative account). Negative income tax experiments were also conducted in various places. Their most talked about conclusion was that there was some significant negative effect on the labour supply of secondary earners. This finding was in line with what Tobin expected, but what did surprise (and disappoint) him is that this was widely viewed as a decisive argument against the idea.

Which way forward? Perhaps McGovern and his aides did not package the idea of a demogrant as well as was possible at the time. But however economically and socially sound, there is something politically tricky about these large unconditional handouts to everyone. Political resistance can be lessened by going first for a NIT variant: it may be less

efficient and, in the senses that matter, more expensive, but somehow looks more plausible to the electorate. Also, one has to reckon with the fact that Americans, in the 90's probably no more but also no less than in the 60's, "are mortally afraid that some potential workers will choose idleness even at the expense of income" (Tobin 1968: 113). It is because of this "puritan ethic" that EITC could get off the ground under the Ford administration and be massively expanded under Clinton, while assistance to the non-working poor is being largely dismantled as a result of the replacement of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) by Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) in 1996 (federal block grants to the states, time limits, etc.). The cruel impact of these measures on poor families is currently obscured by favourable macroeconomic conditions and the fact that the new five-year time limit on the claiming of welfare benefits has not yet started kicking off. The need for a general guaranteed income system remains as strong as ever. But one could design it in a way that would accommodate to some extent the puritan concerns. This would certainly be good for its general cultural acceptance, and hence its political feasibility. It may also be good in itself – Tobin confesses to some ambivalence on this –, providing the "contribution" condition is understood in a sufficiently broad sense. Rather than excluding any non-working able-bodied adult from the right to the grant — a possibility he mentions without endorsing it (Tobin 1968: 113-14) —, he favours subjecting that right to the beneficiary's declaring that (s)he is spending a minimum amount of time performing a socially useful activity (looking after one's children and volunteering for a church would count just as much as paid work). More than this amendment may be needed to assuage the fear for welfare loafers and to get again a new ambitious project on the track. But this is a task for another generation.

So at least James Tobin said this morning – marvellously alert and bubbling with questions and perceptive remarks – as I was leaving his office.

PVP (New Haven, 24 April 1998)

James Tobin (born 1918) is Sterling Professor Emeritus at the economics department of Yale University (New Haven, USA). He was awarded the 1981 Nobel Prize in economic sciences "for his analysis of financial markets and their relations to expenditure decisions, employment, production, and prices".

References:

- Burtless, Gary. 1990. "The Economist's Lament: Public Assistance in America", Journal of Economic Perspectives 4(1), 57-78.
- Tobin, James. 1965. "On the Economic Status of the Negro", Daedalus 94(4), Fall 1965, 878-98.
- Tobin, James. 1966. "The Case for an Income Guarantee", The Public Interest 4, 31-41.
- Tobin, James, Pechman, Joseph A. & Mieszkowski, Peter M. 1967. "Is a Negative Income Tax Practical?", The Yale Law Journal 77 (1), 1-27.
- Tobin, James. 1967. "It Can Be Done", The New Republic 3 June 1967, 14-18.
- Tobin, James. 1968. "Raising the Incomes of the Poor", in Agenda for the Nation (Kermit Gordon ed.), Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 77-116.
- Tobin, James, William Brainard, John B. Shoven & Jeremy Bulow. 1973. "Tax Reform and Income Redistribution: Issues and Alternatives", in Essays in Economics. Theory and Policy Vol 3, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1982, 585-609.

2. HERBERT SIMON, THE FLAT TAX AND OUR COMMON PATRIMONY

In reply to an internet announcement of BIEN's 1998 Congress, the Amsterdam-based organizing team received the following message from Professor Herbert A. Simon in early February 1998. Professor Simon kindly agreed to its being reproduced in BIEN's newsletter.

Dear Professor Groot:

I was interested in your message about the forthcoming conference on Basic Income. My agenda prevents me from attending (in fact, a couple of years ago, I decided that I would do not more foreign travel), but the subject is of considerable interest to me.

I have published nothing on it yet, but I have been trying out on economist friends and others a version of Forbes' "flat tax." Income tax would be levied at a flat rate of 70% (the exact number is not important, but the general magnitude is). Half of the proceeds would go to government (matching approximately the present expenditure level in the U.S., and the other half would go, as a patrimony, at a flat per capita rate, to all inhabitants: about \$8,000, or about \$20,000, on average, per household unit. This would of course greatly reduce the cost of welfare programs.

The "obvious" objections are (1) "fairness, and (2) the effect on saving and capital investment. With respect to (1), I observe that any causal analysis explaining why American GDP is about \$25K per capita would show that at least 2/3 is due to the happy accident that the income recipient was born in the U.S. (hence, the "patrimony"). With respect to (2), I observe that (a) people with strong retirement or estate motives will be motivated to save at higher rates than before, and (b) perhaps the most important saving related to increased productivity is government investment for infrastructure and for the promotion of new technologies -- autos, airplanes, computers, etc., in the case of the U.S.

Am I correct in thinking that my "flat tax" is quite similar in structure, motives and rationale to the policies your group is advocating? I would be interested in your comments.

Of course, I am not so naive as to believe that my 70% tax is politically viable in the U.S. at present, but looking toward the future, it is none too soon to find answers to the arguments of those who think they have a solid moral right to retain all the wealth they "earn."

Sincerely yours,
H.A. Simon

Herbert A. Simon (Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA) was awarded the 1978 Nobel Prize in economic sciences "for his pioneering research into the decision-making process inside economic organizations".

A GLIMPSE OF

THE BELGIAN DEBATE

The Antwerp-based engineer and businessman Roland Duchatelet (Van Steenbergelaan 52, B – 2100 Deurne, rdu@elex.be) founded a new nation-wide party (called "Vivant") in February 1998, with as its central proposal a radical reform of the tax and benefit system: income and payroll taxes and most current benefits are abolished, while the Value-Added-Tax is raised to 50% and a basic income of BF 20000 per month is paid to every adult. (See La Libre Belgique 4.2.1998 for a critical comment by Louvain economist Bruno Van der Linden). More modestly, the (centre-right) Parti réformateur libéral, the main francophone opposition party, is trying out the idea of a negative income tax of BF 8000 for a single worker, BF 12000 for a couple, in order to reduce the unemployment trap (for further information: Pierre Wunsch, c/o Cabinet du secrétaire d'Etat Luc André, rue Capitaine Crespel 35, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium, pwunsch@andre.irisnet.be).

THE FINNISH DEBATE

In a speech given at the Finnish Institute in London on the occasion of an agreement made between Scandinavia's Lutheran Churches and the UK's Anglican Church, the Archbishop of Finland John Vikström publicly embraced the idea of a basic income as a solution to social exclusion. "In this way", he said, "even working a little would be possible and would make sense. The system would not push people into idleness and divide citizens into winners and losers as cruelly as is the case now. I look at the question from the point of view of human dignity. A basic income paid to everyone would be less humiliating than the present benefit system can sometimes become. Basic income would send every citizen the following

encouraging and motivating message: 'You are important. You are not a burden, but a resource. You are important by being a human being for others. Whatever work you do, in whatever situations, whether or not you are paid to do it, you still contribute to building our society.'

(For further information: Tapani Lausti (t.lausti@mcr1.poptel.org.uk) and the Eagle Street Newsletter 3 at <http://www.finnish-institute.org.uk>)

PUBLICATIONS

DUTCH

BLOKLAND, Hans. 1997. "De arbeid, de vrije tijd en het goede leven.: een alternatief perspectief op de huidige economische ontwikkelingen en vooruizichten", in H. Blokland, *Publiek gezocht. Essays over cultuur, markt en politiek*, Amsterdam: Boom, 1997, pp. 136-83.

This essay by socialist political theorist Hans Blokland (author of *Freedom and Culture in Western Society*, Routledge, 1997) is heavily indebted to André Gorz's writings about the future of work and contains an extensive discussion of Belgian sociologist Dirk Diels's plea for a citizenship income (in his book *Ondergesneeuwde sporen: Een andere visie op arbeid en burgerschap*, Leuven: ACCO, 1996). Blokland shares Diels's vision of increasingly scarce jobs, but he worries that the substitution of a basic income for unemployment and other benefits may too easily relieve the government's concern for people kicked out of paid jobs. Moreover, basic income faces a dilemma: if high, there won't be enough people to fill the remaining jobs; if low, there will be an increased colonization of society by market relations through the expansion of lousy service jobs performed by the poor for the rich. Though agreeing that Diels's citizenship income proposal points to the direction in which we should be moving, Blokland therefore defends for the short term a general reduction in working time, preferably at the European level.

(Author's address: Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam School of Management, Dept. Public Management, P.O.Box 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands, hblokland@fac.fbk.eur.nl)

DIELS, Dirk. 1996. *Ondergesneeuwde sporen: Een andere visie op arbeid en burgerschap*, Leuven: ACCO, 1996.

Building on the work of Benjamin Barber, Ulrich Beck, Hans Blokland, Anthony Giddens, André Gorz, Pierre Rosanvallon and Philippe Van Parijs, this book aims to contribute to a radical rethinking of our work-centred society. It argues, in particular, for the gradual introduction of a citizenship income to which any citizen actively involved in the community would be entitled. This would broaden the condition for recognition as a genuine citizen far beyond the area of work, as now conceived.

(Authors' address: Van den Houtelei 106, 2100 Deurne, Belgium.)

GROOT, L.F.M., "Het basisinkomen geconfronteerd met gangbare noties van rechtvaardigheid", in *Tijdschrift voor Politieke Economie* 20/4, 1998, pp. 65-84.

Even if the basic income proposal proves to be economically feasible and sustainable, it is nevertheless not a serious alternative to present social security systems as long as some obvious objections against the proposal cannot be refuted or shaded. In this article, the basic income proposal is confronted with the demands of independence (self-maintenance, self-support), reciprocity and the work ethic (if you do not work, you shall not eat). It is undeniable that the necessity of self-support becomes less as soon as everyone is granted a basic income. This however does not automatically imply that people will behave in such a way that their extent of independence declines, certainly not when both the opportunities to and perspectives for those with the least marketable skills become better. In this respect it is important to note that the basic income can be seen as a non-stigmatizing subsidy for all those with low earning capacities, while at the same time removing the bite of the poverty trap and the relatively high minimum wages. Neither can it be denied that under a basic income scheme the government must abandon the conditions which are now attached to benefit entitlements. Therefore, there is no guarantee that recipients of a basic income will reciprocate this gift of society with a counter-gift. As in the case of independence, what one tries to exact from citizens (reciprocity) is here replaced by voluntariness. What about the (neutral) work ethic, understood as requiring that work, insofar as it involves a sacrifice, must be compensated? Two arguments can be offered in defence of basic income to those committed to this view. Firstly, to allow the possibility of parasitism is a price worth paying to attain compensatory justice on segments of the labour markets with high unemployment. Secondly, it is not unlikely that low wage workers and all those workers who are now involuntarily employed (the two groups who are in the moral position to

demand that the requirements of the neutral work ethic be respected), will gain from the introduction of a basic income.

(Author's address: Faculteit der sociale wetenschappen, Heidelberglaan 1, NL 3584 CS Utrecht, L.Groot@fsw.ruu.nl)

NIEUWSBRIEF BASISINKOMEN n°22, december 1997, 16p. and n°23, maart 1998, 16 p.

Of these latest two issues of the newsletter of the Dutch basic income network the first contains a helpful survey of the various political parties' positions regarding basic income a few months before the elections (the Labour party PvdA seems to support a form of negative income tax advocated by the Trade Union confederation FNV, the christian-democrats of CDA favour the transformation of the tax allowance for non-working partners into a "caring wage", the left-liberals of D'66 dropped basic income from the final version of their platform because there was no agreement on how to fund it, and the ecologists of Groenlinks defend an unconditional "foot income" of Dfl 250 per month and per person. Issue n°23 contains mainly the text of a talk held by economist Paul de Beer (p.de.beer@scp.nl) on how basic income could be a double-edged sword, i.e. provide a means for tackling both poverty and unemployment, and whether it would be better, in this respect, not only than the status quo — which is clear enough —, but also than a policy of reduction of social security contributions on low earnings — which is more debatable.

(Address of the Vereniging Basisinkomen: Herman Heijermansweg 20, 1077 WL Amsterdam, tel. 20-5731803, fax: 20-6713541, E-mail: basic.income@pi.net, <http://www.pi.net.nl/~schafer/home.html>)

VANDEVELDE, Toon. 1997. "Basisinkomen, arbeid en reële vrijheid. Over het werk van Philippe Van Parijs", in Tijdschrift voor filosofie (Leuven) 59 (4), December 1997, 666-697.

A lucid and comprehensive critical presentation of Van Parijs's "real-libertarian" justification of basic income, as expounded mainly in his *Real Freedom for All* (O.U.P. 1995, paperback, 1997), by the philosopher and economist Toon Vandeveld, followed by a brief reply by Van Parijs on why basic income can simultaneously be good for work and good for freedom ("Arbeid, vrijheid, basisinkomen", pp. 698-701).

(Author's address: Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Centrum voor economie en ethiek, 69 Naamsestraat, B-3000 Leuven, antoon.vandeveld@econ.kuleuven.ac.be)

ENGLISH

CITIZEN'S INCOME BULLETIN n°25, February 1998, £ 5, 32p.

As neatly presented and well documented as ever, the latest issue of the journal published twice a year by the Citizen's Income Trust contains, among other articles and reviews of British and foreign publications, several pieces on the future of the UK's pension system (basic pension versus Frank Field's proposals), a further contribution on the impact of a combined basic income and minimum wage (by Hermione Parker and Holly Sutherland), and an interesting article from the Guardian (1.11.1997) on why a less work-conditional benefit system would pay off by making it easier for potential pop stars to flourish!

Overshadowing the whole issue is the fact that the New Labour government expectedly gives little sign – to put it mildly – of going the basic income way. Thus Professor Ruth Lister (Loughborough University, author of *Citizenship: Feminist Perspectives*), who was a member of the Labour Party's Social Justice Commission, recalls the Commission's concession that, under some circumstances, "the notion of some guaranteed income, outside the labour market, could become increasingly attractive", but also her own scepticism "about the acceptability of a scheme which calls for no input to society from its members". For BI supporters, she concludes, "there must be worrying signals that ... New Labour could be moving in a direction which makes less likely any future introduction of a BI scheme. Even for those of us who are ambivalent about BI, this should be a cause for regret." In the same vein, though far more complacent, is the final article by Professor David Donnison (University of Glasgow, author of *Policies for a Just Society*). He starts off mentioning his attraction to basic income when in the 70's he was asked by the (negative-income-tax-inclined) Conservative minister Keith Joseph to replace Richard Titmuss as vice-chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission. He soon realized, however, that basic income was a big project, and since then "things have been happening which makes Citizen's Income even more difficult to believe in", essentially a shift from a "Germanic" rigid job and household structure to a more fluid, "Latin" one. Why such trends, often used by BI supporters to argue for its relevance, should reduce its credibility, Donnison does not explain. Far more persuasive as an explanation of this reduced credibility is therefore the reason Donnison offers as an afterthought: "I could add that reasonably fair, income-related taxation is believed by politicians to have become so unpopular that both the main

political parties have sworn to reduce it... Citizen's Income, I regretfully conclude, was the great North-West passage of social policy. It had to be explored. But there is no way through." At least as long, Professor Donnison, as the politicians' beliefs you mention are held to be inalterable. Why should they be?

(Citizen's Income Study Centre, St Philips Building, Sheffield Street, London WC2A 2EX, citizens-income@lse.ac.uk, <http://www.citizens-income.org.uk>)

FUNICIELLO, Theresa. *Tyranny of Kindness. Dismantling the Welfare System to End Poverty in America*, New York: The Atlantic Monthly Press, 1993, 340p., ISBN 0-87113-543-4.

A former welfare mother turned into a welfare state expert and activist, Theresa Funicello forcefully argues in this trenchant book for liberating the poor from the oppression of the welfare lobbies and bureaucrats. Full of instructive stories about the daily functioning of the American welfare state, her book advocates reviving the idea of a guaranteed minimum income buried too soon in the US after a brief flourishing in the late sixties.

(Author's address: 33 Park Drive, Woodstock NY 12498, USA)

SHAVIRO, Daniel. 1997. "The Minimum Wage, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and Optimal Subsidy Policy", *The University of Chicago Law Review* 64 (2), 405-481.

There are three main ways of raising the incomes of people with low wages. One consists in introducing or increasing a statutory minimum wage. It can be regarded as equivalent to providing a subsidy to the low-paid workers funded entirely out of a tax on the employment of low-wage labour. The received wisdom is that it boosts unemployment. This view has been challenged in a controversial book by David Card and Alan Krueger (*Myth and Measurement. The New Economics of the Minimum Wage*, Princeton U.P., 1995). Shaviro discusses at length their empirical and theoretical arguments and finds them unpersuasive. A second approach consists in subsidizing low wages, more sensibly, out of general tax revenues. The form it has taken, in the United States, is the Earned Income Tax Credit, a refundable tax credit that gradually increases and next decreases as total annual earnings increase. However, the fact that it is phased out rather steeply implies, in conjunction with what is left of AFDC (now decentralized at state level) that the effective marginal rate of tax bounces up and down and may exceed 100%.

"Reflecting only the haphazard interaction of programs that were conceived and enacted separately, the lower-tier rate schedules have the look of something designed by a drunk, or perhaps a chimpanzee." (469) A third approach would remove these defects. It consists in reviving the idea of a negative income tax or demogrant espoused in the 1960's by economists from both the left and the right, approximated in the eventually unsuccessful Nixon-Moynihan Family Assistance Plan (1971) and proposed by George McGovern in his disastrous election campaign (1972). Once the demogrant level chosen, a linear or progressive positive tax schedule can apply to all other income, thus avoiding confiscatory and erratic rates on the lowest wages. If a special encouragement to enter the labour market is required, such a scheme can accommodate a negative rate at the start (for example, with the demogrant at \$6000 per year for a single person without any earned income rising to \$8000 as her earnings reach \$10000, and remaining at that level beyond). "In an era when major welfare reform legislation has been enacted, reflecting concern about the adverse effects of previous welfare programs, it is appalling that the NIT approach, with or without negative rates in the low brackets, has received so little attention. This approach could provide more coherent, better-directed income redistribution and poverty amelioration at a lower cost in work effort among the poor and overall efficiency. Its absence from contemporary debate is sad testimony to our political system's institutional inertia and lack of thoughtfulness or long-term memory." (473)

(Author's address: New York University Law School, New York, NY, shavirod@turing.law.nyu.edu.)

STANDING, Guy. "The folly of social safety nets: Why basic income is needed in Eastern Europe", *Social Research* (New York, New School for Social Research), Vol.64, No.4, Winter 1997, pp. 1339-1380.

This paper by BIEN co-chairman and Eastern Europe expert Guy Standing examines the restructuring of social protection in the countries of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, showing the growth of poverty and inequality and the drift into more selective, conditional forms of state benefits that are out of step with developments in labour markets and with the institutional capacities of governments and their bureaucracies. It documents the rapid and extensive growth of reliance on means-tested assistance, and the problems of low take-up, stigmatisation and inadequacy of schemes introduced on the basis of "western models". Standing argues that a simpler, more transparent, universal scheme of basic income would be the only way to reach the poor in the specific and awful circumstances in the region, and that given the extensive social state, low money incomes and the proceeds of privatisation, funding such a

scheme would be feasible. He concludes by considering some of the labour market advantages of moving in that direction.

(Authors's address: ILO, CH-1211 Geneva, GuyStanding@compuserve.com)

STANDING, Guy. "Globalisation, labour flexibility and insecurity: The era of market regulation", *European Journal of Industrial Relations*, Vol.3, No.1, March 1997, pp . 7-38.

This article develops the author's views on the growth of labour insecurity and the evolving character of labour market regulation in the context of global labour market flexibility. It dismisses the notion of labour "deregulation" and considers the character of socio-economic fragmentation, which sets the context for redesigning a strategy for distributive justice. The article concludes by sketching three possible routes of reform, in which a citizenship income is regarded as an essential component. Since writing this article, Guy Standing has developed his treatment of the subject into a book to be published shortly.

(Authors's address: ILO, CH-1211 Geneva, GuyStanding@compuserve.com)

FRENCH

AIRE, Lettre de liaison n°17, hiver 1998, 11 p.

This latest issue of the newsletter of the French association for the introduction of an unconditional basic income contains an in-depth presentation of the proposal for a basic income for Ireland made by the Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI), an announcement of BIEN's Amsterdam congress and an annotated list of relevant articles published in the French Press on the occasion of the massive demonstrations by the unemployed (Michel Aglietta in *Le Monde* 9.12.1997, André Gorz in *Le Monde* 9.1.1998, André de Castemalle in *Libération* 14.1.1998, report on Edouard Balladur in *Nouvel Observateur* 15.1.1998, interviews with Yoland Bresson, Pierre Rosanvallon, JB de Foucault, etc. in *Libération* 27.10.97). The association has also produced a little brochure that can be obtained from its secretariat.

(Address: Ch. Bernard, Association pour l'instauration du revenu d'existence, 33 Avenue des Fauvettes, F-91440 Bures-sur-Yvette.)

DE CHARRIÈRE, Jacques. 1998. "Fracture salariale: La critique scandaleuse", in *Bilan. Le Magazine économique suisse* 3, mars 1998, pp. 68-72.

Published as a special dossier in a business magazine, a vigorous plea for the relevance of an unconditional basic income on the background of Geneva canton's recent introduction and forthcoming generalization of a French-style guaranteed minimum income. The article is followed by an interview with the head of Ticino canton's social policy department (and BIEN member) Martino Rossi.

(Magazine's address: Avenue de la Gare 33, 1001 Lausanne, bilan-redaction@edicom.ch)

LELEUX, Claudine. 1998. *Travail ou revenu? Pour un revenu inconditionnel*. Paris: Cerf ("Humanités"), 124 p., 59 FF, ISBN 2-204-05816-5.

Published in the same series as Jean-Marc Ferry's *L'Allocation universelle* (1995) and Philippe Van Parijs's *Refonder la solidarité* (1996), this little book provides a brief survey of the recent French-language discussion on the proposal of an unconditional basic income: the pro arguments of Ferry, Van Parijs and Bresson precede the anti arguments by Rosanvallon, Gorz (before his recent conversion) and Méda and the intermediate positions of Caillé and Laville (means-tested but not work-tested). The author is definitely on the side of the pros — especially of Jean-Marc Ferry, as the amounts mentioned by Van Parijs and Bresson (around FF1500) are too stingy in her eyes.

(Author's address: claudine.leleux@euronet.be)

VAN PARIJS, Philippe. "L'allocation universelle contre le chômage: De la trappe au socle", in *Liber. Revue internationale des livres* (52 rue Cardinal Lemoine, 75005 Paris) 33, décembre 1997, 3-4.

Published in the *European Review of books* directed by the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, this is an abridged version of a succinct statement of the economic case for a (partial) basic income published in 1996 in a special issue of the *Revue du MAUSS*

(Author's permanent address: Chaire Hoover, 3 Place Montesquieu, 1348 LLN, vanparijs@etes.ucl.ac.be.)

ITALIAN

CAILLE, Alain & al., *La Democrazia del reddito universale*, Roma: Manifestolibri (via Tomacelli 146, Roma), 1997, 222 p., LIT 28000, ISBN 88-7285-115-7.

This is the first book-length publication on basic income since the collections published by the research institute of the Trade Union Confederation CGIL in the late 1980's. Published at the initiative of intellectuals close to the *Manifesto* (a daily paper to the left of the PDS), it contains translations of several contributions to the international discussion: by the Berlin political scientist Claus Offe and the Louvain philosopher Philippe Van Parijs (their contributions to *Arguing for Basic Income*, Verso, 1992), by the Paris sociologist Alain Caillé (a lecture delivered in Caen in 1994) and by the Manchester economist David Purdy (a 1994 *New left Review* article). This is preceded by two long chapters, one by Marco Bascetta and Giuseppe Bronzini and one by Andrea Fumagalli. Both are strongly influenced by the work of André Gorz, build upon a critique of the post-fordist variety of capitalism, and advocate a firm alliance between basic income and working time reduction: "it is only together that they can represent an alternative to the neo-liberal trend" (Fumagalli).

(Fumagalli's address: Dipartimento di Economia Politica e Metodi Quantitative, Università di Pavia, I-27100 Pavia, Italia)

SALIMBENI, Antonio Pollio. "Reddito di cittadinanza: formula da coniugare" & "Niente lavoro ma soldi per tutti", in *Reset* 45, febbraio 1998, 66-72.

A substantial and sympathetic dossier on the European discussion basic income and other forms of income support published in one of Italy's main left monthlies. The distinctions between the various formulas and the objections pertaining to each are not always clear, but the information provided gives a flavour of the debate in the various countries. The dossier incorporates a presentation of Università Tor Vergata Professor Nicola Rossi's refundable tax credit proposal. It is preceded by an Italian version of Philippe Van Parijs's article in *Liber* ("Contro la disoccupazione? Un reddito per tutti", pp. 34-37).

(Editorial address: *Reset*, Largo di Torre Argentina 11, 00185 Roma)

PRIZE

INTERNATIONAL LELIO BASSO PRIZE FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ALTERNATIVES

Although Socialism in the former Soviet Bloc failed, the question of alternatives to the neoliberal dominance of the global market and the pressures of structural adjustment is again on the agenda. Political crises, military conflicts, social exclusion and ecological destructiveness are threatening the survival of humankind. Named after a prominent Italian political theorist and socialist, the International Lelio Basso Prize for Economic and Political Alternatives aims to stimulate the search for alternatives in the tradition of Lelio Basso's understanding of "collective research". How is it possible to conceptualize the idea of a democratic and socialist society in the 21st century after the experiences of the 20th century? The Prize is dedicated to written works on theoretical and strategic aspects as well as on practical political experiences. The International Lelio Basso Prize consists of two \$ 10,000 awards to be given to the 2 prize winners. Works to be considered should be submitted by July 15th, 1998, to the Committee of the International Lelio Basso Prize, written preferably in English, French, Spanish or Italian, either elaborating crucial theoretical, strategic and political issues or describing and reflecting on practical political experiences. They should not exceed 50 pages.

For further information: Raffaele Piria c/o Prof. Elmar Altvater
Freie Universität Berlin, Dept. of Political Science, Ihnestr. 21, Berlin D-14195
Tel: +49-30-838 4964, Fax: +49-30-838 4066, E-Mail: piriaraf@zedat.fu-berlin.de
www.grisnet.it/filb

RESEARCH POSITION

BASIC INCOME AND THE NEW SOCIAL QUESTION (LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE, BELGIUM)

The Louvain-based component of a Belgian inter-university research project on "the new social question" (Pôles d'Attraction Interuniversitaires, Services du Premier Ministre) aims to look at basic income as an attempt to reduce unemployment without increasing poverty and to compare basic income to other major reforms pursuing the same aim, in an ethically aware and economically competent way.

Within this framework, one research position will be opened for a person with adequate training in economics, to be located at the Chaire Hoover d'éthique économique et sociale (Prof. Ph. Van Parijs) and the Institut de recherches économiques et sociales (Prof. B. Van der Linden & B. Cockx) of the Université catholique de Louvain.

Qualifications: degree of Master in economics (or equivalent) with suitably high grades, adequate knowledge of English and French (some knowledge of Dutch and a lasting interest in issues of social policy and distributive justice are advantages)

Length: two years as from 1 October 1998, with the possibility of an extension until 31 December 2001.

Status: research assistant (about BF40.000 post-tax)

Tasks: (1) preparation of a PhD thesis in economics on one aspect of the subject;
(2) Collaboration with Ph. Van Parijs on the preparation of a general book on basic income (to be published both as a paperback and on the web).

Application: By 6 July 1998, with a detailed CV (including courses followed and marks obtained) and two reference letters, to Bruno Van der Linden, IRES, Place Montesquieu 3, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, fax : (32)-(0)10-47.39.45, tél. (32)(0)10-47.34.33, E-mail : vanderlinden@ires.ucl.ac.be.

BASIC INCOME

is an income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means test or work requirement.

THE BASIC INCOME EUROPEAN NETWORK (BIEN)

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.

BIEN's MEMBERSHIP

is open to anyone who shares these objectives. To join, please follow the instructions at the end of this newsletter.

BIEN's SECRETARIAT

is located at the Chaire Hoover d'éthique économique et sociale, Université catholique de Louvain, 3 Place Montesquieu, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. hilippe Van Parijs, BIEN's secretary, is currently on sabbatical leave in Oxford but he remains reachable by e-mail (vanparijs@etes.ucl.ac.be), and Claudio Salinas will answer queries at the usual address (tel. 32-10-472893, fax: 473952, e-mail: bien@etes.ucl.ac.be).

BIEN's NEWSLETTER

appears three times per year. It is sent free of charge via internet to anyone who requests it by sending the message "subscribe BIEN" to bien@etes.ucl.ac.be. Hard copies can be mailed to any member of BIEN who so wishes.

BIEN's NEXT CONFERENCE

will be held in Amsterdam on 10-12 September 1998. For further information, read below or contact the local organizers (basic.income@pi.net).

BIEN's WEB SITE

contains general information about basic income and BIEN, the latest newsletter, up-to-date information about the next conference and a comprehensive annotated inventory of relevant events and publications since 1986. Its address is :

<http://www.econ.ucl.ac.be/etes/bien/bien.html>

NATIONAL NETWORKS ON BASIC INCOME

CITIZENS' INCOME STUDY CENTRE (UNITED KINGDOM)

Director: Rosalind Stevens-Strohmann

Secretary: Carolyn Armstrong, Citizens Income Study Centre, St Philips Building, Sheffield Street, London WC2A 2EX, United Kingdom. Tel.: 44-171-9557453; fax: 44-171-9557534; citizens-income@lse.ac.uk, Web site: <http://www.citizens-income.org.uk>

VERENIGING BASISINKOMEN (NETHERLANDS)

Coordinator: Emiel Schäfer, Herman Heijermansweg 20, NL-1077 WL Amsterdam. tel. 31-20-5731803, fax: 31-20-6713541, basic.income@pi.net, <http://www.pi.net.nl/~schafer/home.html>

BIEN IRELAND

Coordinator: John Baker

Equality Studies Centre, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, tel.: 353-1-706.7623, fax: 353-1-2691963, John.Baker@ucd.ie

ASSOCIATION POUR L'INSTAURATION D'UN REVENU D'EXISTENCE (FRANCE)

Chairman: Prof. Yoland Bresson

Secretary: Ch. Bernard, 33 Avenue des Fauvettes, F-91440 Bures sur Yvette, France.

UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME NEW ZEALAND (UBINZ)

Coordinator: Ian Ritchie

Address: Private Bag 11.042 Palmerston North, New Zealand, tel.: 6-3506316, fax: 6-3506319,

E-mail: di.parsons@psa.union.org.nz,

<http://www.iconz.co.nz/~iwgordon/ubinz.html>

BIEN's EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

currently consists of

Edwin MORLEY-FLETCHER, co-chairman, CNEL, Viale Lubin 2, 00196 Roma. Tel: 39-6-3692321, Fax: 39-6-3692305, m-fletcher.cnel@telpress.it

Guy STANDING, co-chairman, ILO, CH-1211 Geneva. Tel/Fax: 41-22-774 2239, GuyStanding@compuserve.com

Robert VAN DER VEEN, conference coordinator, Vakgroep Politologie PCSW, Oudezijds Achterburgwal 237, NL-1012 DL Amsterdam. Tel: 31-20-5254783, Fax 31-20-5252086, vanderveen@pscw.uva.nl

Ilona OSTNER, research coordinator, Institut für Sozialpolitik, Platz der Göttinger Sieben 3, D-37073 Göttingen, Tel 49-551-397243, Fax: 49-551-397834, iostner@gwdg.de

Alexander DE ROO, treasurer, Greens in the European Parliament, Rue Béliard 97-113, B-1047 Brussels, Tel: 32-2-2843052, Fax: 32-2-2307837, aderoo@europarl.eu.int

Philippe VAN PARIJS, secretary, Chaire Hoover, 3 Place Montesquieu, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Tel. 32-10-473951, Fax: 32-10-473952, vanparijs@etes.ucl.ac.be.

Walter VAN TRIER, deputy secretary, 21 Bosduifstraat, B-2018 Antwerpen, walter.vantrier@hiva.kuleuven.ac.be

IF YOU WISH TO EXPRESS YOUR PRECIOUS SUPPORT BY BECOMING A MEMBER OF BIEN (until 31 December 1998), please

1. mail or e-mail to BIEN's secretariat (Chaire Hoover, 3 Place Montesquieu, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Fax: 32-10-473952, bien@etes.ucl.ac.be) the following information:

Surname:

Name:

Institution (if any):

Full postal address:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Mode of payment:

Preference for receiving the newsletter by e-mail or by post:

AND

2. PAY BF 1000 or equivalent (£ 20, DM 50, Dfl 50, LIT 50.000, FF 200, US \$ 35, etc.)

- if from outside Belgium, preferably in cash in a well-sealed envelope to BIEN's secretariat
- if from Belgium, preferably straight into BIEN's bank account (001-2204356-10 at the CGER, Brussels)

Other possibilities include:

- by US Cashier's cheque to BIEN's secretary (if from the US)
- by cheque to BIEN-Ireland, c/o John Baker, Equality Studies Centre, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4 (if from Ireland)

For institutional membership, the fee is 4 times the individual fee and should be sent straight into BIEN's account (001-2204356-10 at the CGER, Brussels).

In all cases, an acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt.]

We look forward to welcoming you into our network.