

BIEN - 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.

NewsFlash 27, May 2004

BIEN's NewsFlash is mailed electronically every two months to over 1000 subscribers throughout Europe and beyond.

Requests for free subscription and items for inclusion or review in future NewsFlashes are to be sent to BIEN's secretary: Philippe Van Parijs, UCL, Chaire Hoover, 3 Place Montesquieu, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, <<mailto:bien@basicincome.org>> .

Our web site has now been updated: <http://www.basicincome.org>. All NewsFlashes and much else can be downloaded from it.

The present NewsFlash has been prepared with the help of David Casassas, Jurgen De Wispelaere, Katja Kipping, Sascha Liebermann, Jose Noguera, Yannick Vanderborght, Ingrid van Niekerk and Karl Widerquist.

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1. EDITORIAL

Thanks to the many paper proposals and the hard work of the local organising committee, we are delighted to be able to send you a full programme of our 10th congress. Registration is through the channel of the Universal Forum of Cultures. It entitles you to participate in all the Forum events during the four days. Note that the fee is lower if you register by the end of July.

Excitement at the prospect of seeing again many of you in Barcelona should not make us oblivious of other important developments, however, such as the first meeting ever on basic

income in Turkey at the end of May, and the most significant political event around basic income in France so far at the end of June.

The Executive Committee

2. TENTH CONGRESS OF THE BASIC INCOME EUROPEAN NETWORK

The Right to a Basic Income: Egalitarian Democracy

Barcelona (Spain), 19-20 September 2004

www.redrentabasica.org, Jose Antonio Noguera <jose.noguera@uab.es>

2.1. CONTEXT

As announced previously, the 10th BIEN Congress will be held within the framework of the Dialogue on "Human Rights, Emerging Needs, and New Commitments" of Barcelona's Universal Forum of Cultures. The location is a huge new site developed along the sea, to the East of the Olympic Village, within easy reach of the city centre by public transport. The BIEN congress proper will take place on Sunday the 19th and Monday the 20th of September. But all participants are strongly encouraged to take part in the parts of the Dialogue that are common to the various events before and after our congress. Further details on the Forum's site:

<http://www.barcelona2004.org/eng/>.

2.2. REGISTRATION

To register for the BIEN Congress, please follow one of the options below:

1. Register directly on-line at www.barcelona.org.

2. Download and fill out the [registration form and send it by fax to 0034 93 4897017, or post to Fórum Universal de las Culturas, Ref. Inscripción Estudiantes Diálogos, c/ Lull, 95-97, planta 6, 08005, Barcelona - Spain](#)

The registration form is in Spanish, so please make sure to indicate the right Dialogue "Derechos humanos, necesidades emergentes y nuevos compromisos".

3. Phone 0034 901242004 and specify the title of the Dialogue: "Derechos humanos, necesidades emergentes y nuevos compromisos".

The registration fee paid before 31 July is 78 euros (35 euros for students and a 15% discount is available for people over 65, under 25, or for people with a disability).

Registered participants of the BIEN Congress have access to many other exhibitions and activities organised within the Dialogue on "Human Rights, Emerging Needs and New Commitments", 18-21 September 2004, including:

- entrance to the BIEN Congress;
- entrance to the whole Dialogue: sessions on Saturday 18th and Tuesday 21st (immediately before and after BIEN Congress) offer a very interesting programme on Human Rights;
- entrance to the Forum site with many exhibitions and shows;
- entrance to two receptions: one on Saturday 18th hosted by the Dialogue and one on Monday 20th specifically organised by BIEN-Red Renta Básica;
- free lunches and coffe-breaks.

Registration documents for the Congress and the Dialogue will be available for collection at the Forum's Registration Centre, located at the entrance to the Forum site (corner of Taulat with Rambla Prim), from 17 September onwards.

2.3. ACCOMMODATION

The registration form includes also the possibility of booking accommodation in different areas of the city and with different price levels. Accommodation should be arranged by participants, and we recommend to do it as soon as possible. More information on hotels in Barcelona and the whole province may be also found at <http://www.barcelonahotels.es/>.

2.4. LANGUAGES

Simultaneous translation for English, French, Spanish and Catalan in all plenary sessions, for English and Spanish in some of the parallel sessions.

2.5. ORGANIZING AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Daniel Raventós (President of Red Renta Básica (RRB). Professor of Social Theory at the University of Barcelona, ravento@eco.ub.es)

José A. Noguera (Program coordinator. Professor of Sociology at the Universidad Autònoma of Barcelona, and Vice-president of RRB, jose.noguera@uab.es)

David Casassas (Organization coordinator. Researcher at the University of Barcelona and Secretary of RRB, casassas@eco.ub.es)

Sandra González (Researcher at Oxford University and the University of Barcelona. Member of the Executive Committee of RRB, sandra.gonzalezbailon@lady-margaret-hall.oxford.ac.uk)

Francisco Ramos (Lecturer in Sociology at the Universidad Oberta de Catalunya. Treasurer of RRB, empo@arrakis.es)

2.6. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Saturday, September 18th:

Reception and dinner for all the participants in the Dialogue on Human Rights.

Sunday, September 19th:

9:00-11:00: Plenary session common to the 6 events organised by the Institute of Human Rights.

11:30-12:00 Coffe-break

11:30-12:00 Institutional presentation

Official welcoming by Anna Simó, Minister for Social Welfare, Catalan Government.

Daniel Raventós, president of Red Renta Básica and University of Barcelona.

Guy Standing, co-chair of BIEN and ILO, Geneva

12:00-14:00: Opening plenary session: "The Basic Challenges in the Justification of Basic Income"

12:00-13:10: Exchange 1: "Right to Basic Income and Duty of Reciprocity"

Chair: Philippe Van Parijs, secretary of BIEN and Chaire Hoover, Université Catholique de Louvain

Nancy Fraser, Graduate Faculty, New School, New York

Stuart White, Jesus College, Oxford University

Desmond King, Department of Politics, Oxford University

13:10-14:00: Exchange 2: "Basic Income and Care-Work"

Chair: Guy Standing, co-chair of BIEN and ILO, Geneva

Gosta Esping-Andersen, Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Angelika Krebs, Philosophisches Seminar, Basel

14:00-15:30: Lunch

15:30-17:00: Parallel session 1.1. Basic Income and Democratic Republicanism (I)

Coordinators & chairs: David Casassas & Daniel Raventós (Universitat de Barcelona)

Antoni Domènech, University of Barcelona

"Basic Income and the Present Threats to Democracy"

Eri Noguchi and Michael A. Lewis, Columbia University and Stony Brook University

"Basic Income: A Basic Condition of a Better Society"

Irkus Larrinaga San Felices, Universidad Autònoma de Barcelona

"Basic Income and the Requirement of Impartiality in Deliberative Processes"

Karl Widerquist, Oxford University

"Ownership as an Exception to the Work Ethic"

15:30-17:00: Parallel session 2.1. Basic Income and the Right to Work

Coordinator: Philip Harvey (Rutgers School for Law, Camden, USA)

Chair: Philippe Van Parijs (Secretary of BIEN and Université Catholique de Louvain)

Philip Harvey, Rutgers School for Law, Camden, USA
 "A Comparative Assessment of Basic Income Proposals and Proposals to Secure the Right to Work and Income Support"
 Martin Watts & William Mitchell, University of Newcastle , Australia.
 "A Comparison of the Macroeconomic Consequences of Basic Income and Job Guarantee Schemes"
 Guy Standing, International Labour Office
 "Why the Right to Work Requires a Basic Income"
 José A. Noguera, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona
 "¿Citizens or Workers? Basic Income vs. Activation Policies"
 15:30-17:00: Parallel session 3.1. Innovative and Sustainable Financing for Basic Income (I)
 Coordinator: Gianluca Busilacchi (Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy)
 Chair: Ugo Ascoli (Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy)
 Walter Van Trier, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
 "Does it matter how one finances a basic income and why?"
 Gianluca Busilacchi, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy.
 "Two Problems, One Solution: The Earth Basic Income"
 Jeffrey J. Smith, President of the Geonomy Society of Portland
 "Can Rents Fund an Extra Income for Everyone?"
 Charles Bazlinton, Surveyor, Hants, UK, and author of The Free Lunch
 "The Dangers of a Basic Income Without Land Value Taxation"
 Malcom Green, Author of Cosmic Accounting, Australia
 "Cosmic Accounting: A New Energy Economic System of Basic Income"
 15:30-17:00: Parallel session 4.1. Basic Income as a Policy to Fight Child Labour
 Coordinator & Chair: Eduardo Calderón (Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Spain)
 Maria Núbia Alves Cruz, Secretaria Municipal de Educação de Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Ada Ávila Assunção, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil
 "When Income Transfer is Not Able to Eradicate the Practice of Working in Pernicious Environments. A Case Study of the Bolsa Escola Program."
 Maria Ozanira da Silva e Silva, Universidade Federal do Maranhão, Brazil
 "From a Minimum Income to a Citizenship Income: the Brazilian Experiences"
 Elenise Scherer, Universidade Federal do Amazonas, Brazil
 "Programme on Elimination of Child Labour in Brazil: Reinforcing Poverty and Denying Human Rights"
 Araceli Brizzio de la Hoz, Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico
 "Child Labour, a Contemporary Form of Slavery"
 17:00-17:30: Coffe-break
 17:30-19:00: Parallel session 1.2. Basic Income and Democratic Republicanism (II)
 Coordinators: David Casassas & Daniel Raventós (Universitat de Barcelona)
 Chair: Jordi Mundó (Universitat de Barcelona)
 María Julia Bertomeu, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires
 "Property and Basic Income"
 Simon Eli Birnbaum, Stockholm University
 "Real Freedom and the Challenge of Structural Subordination"
 Julieta Magdalena Elgarte, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires
 "Non-domination, Real Freedom and Basic Income"
 Hans Harms, Doctor in Sociology
 "Precariousness versus Flexicurity"
 17:30-19:00: Parallel session 2.2. After Workfare. A Political Future for Basic Income?
 Coordinator & Chair: Yannick Vanderborght (Université Catholique de Louvain)
 Joel F. Handler , UCLA Law School, USA
 "The False Promise of Workfare: Another Reason for Basic Income Guarantee"
 Jørn Loftager, Aarhus Universitet, Denmark
 "Three Third Ways"
 Erik Christensen, Aalborg University, Denmark

"Welfare Discourses in Denmark Seen in a Basic Income Perspective"
 Review, by Desmond King, Oxford University, UK
 17:30-19:00: Parallel session 3.2. Innovative and Sustainable Financing for Basic Income (II)
 Coordinator & Chair: Gianluca Busilacchi (Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy)
 Myron J. Frankman, McGill University, Canada
 "Ample room at the Top: Financing a Basic Income"
 Rodney Shakespeare, Global Justice Movement
 "A New Way of Achieving a Basic Income"
 Yoland Bresson, Université de Paris XII, France
 "A Plan for the Introduction of a Basic Income in France"
 Jean Pierre Mon, Groupe de Recherches sur l'Economie Distributive
 "Social Money for Financing Basic Income"
 Bruno Moser, Independent consultant, Hanoi, and former Assistant City Controller of Philadelphia
 "Using Smart Fiscal Tools to Finance Basic Income: the Case of Philadelphia"
 17:30-19:00: Parallel session 4.2. Basic Income as a Policy to Fight Child Poverty
 Coordinator: Eduardo Calderón (Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Spain)
 Chair: Xavier Bonal (Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Spain)
 Eduardo Calderon & Óscar Valiente, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, Spain
 Background paper: "Basic Income as a Policy to Fight Child Poverty"
 Maria Núbia Alves Cruz, Secretaria Municipal de Educação de Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 & Ada Ávila Assunção, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil
 "When Income Transfer Guarantees the Presence of Children in School However Followed by the Practice of Child Labour. The Case of Belo Horizonte, Brazil"
 Horacio Levy (& others), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
 "Child Poverty and Family Assistance in Southern Europe"
 Eliane Quaresma Caldeira de Araújo, Minas Gerais, Brazil
 "Boys and Girls Exploited in Work"
 Eva Harman, Point Sud Center, Bamako, Mali
 "Care-Giving and the Child Support Grant in South Africa"

Monday, September 20th:

9:30-11:00: Parallel session 1.3. New Issues, New Exclusions
 Chair: Guy Standing (International Labour Office, Geneva)
 Michael Howard, University of Maine, USA
 "Basic Income and Migration Policy: A Moral Dilemma?"
 Luis Bellvis, Universidad de Valencia
 "Basic Income, Information Society and the Info-Poors"
 Nicoli Nattrass, University of Cape Town
 "The Challenge for Basic Income Posed by AIDS: Why an Incremental Approach Is Inadequate in South Africa"
 Jose Luis Pérez Rey, Universidad P. Comillas, Madrid.
 "A New Gender Perspective for Basic Income?"
 Manfred Fuellsack, Universität Wien
 "BI as a 'Medium'? An "Un-ethical" Approach to the BI Debate"
 9:30-11:00: Parallel session 2.3. Basic Income and Work Incentives
 Chair: Francisco Ramos (UOC University and Red Renta Básica, Spain)
 Yeheskel Hasenfeld, UCLA School of Public Policy, Los Angeles, USA
 "The Hidden Costs of Workfare: Use of Sanctions to Achieve Compliance"
 François Blais, Laval University, Canada
 "Labor Incentive for the Disabled. Can Basic Income Be an Alternative?"
 Ilkka Virjo & Simo Aho, University of Tampere, Finland
 "Does Minimum Income Have Negative Incentive Effects on the Young?"
 Christian Brüttsch, Universität Zürich, Switzerland
 "From 'Decent Work' to Decent Lives? "

9:30-11:00: Parallel session 3.3. From Aspiration to Policy Implementation: Introducing a Basic Income System Category by Category

Coordinator: Sean J. Healy (Director of CORI Justice Commission, Ireland)

Chair: John Baker (Chair of BIEN-Ireland)

Charles M.A. Clark, St. John's University, New York

"How to Support the Family Farm Without Impoverishing Third World farmers"

Brigid Reynolds and Sean Healy, Directors of CORI Justice Commission, Dublin

"Introducing a Basic Income System Category by Category in Ireland"

Annie Miller, Chair of the Citizens Income Trust, UK

"Introducing a Basic Income System Category by Category in the UK"

Rafael Pinilla, 1st Vicepresident of Basic Income Spanish Network

& Luis Sanzo, Department of Justice, Basque Government, Spain

"Introducing a Basic Income System in Spain - Feasibility and Cost "

9:30-11:00: Parallel session 4.3. The Prospects for Basic Income in Latin America

Chair: Rubén Lo Vuolo (CIEPP, Buenos Aires)

Lena Lavinás, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

"Exceptionality and Paradox: Basic Income and Minimum Income Schemes in Brazil"

Claudio da Rocha Roquete, Ministerio do Desenvolvimento Social e Combate Fome, Secretaria de Renda de Cidadania, Brazil

"Perspectives for Basic Income in Brazil"

Jorge Iván Bula & Diego F. Hernández, Universidad Nacional de Colombia

"Moving Away from Conditioned Subsidy Towards Universal Basic Income"

Reinaldo Nobre Pontes, Universidade da Amazônia, Brazil

"The Brazilian Antipoverty Policies: An Analysis on the Concepts of Inequality, Poverty and Citizenship; Changes in the 1990s"

Rolf Kühnemann, Foodfirst Information Action Network, Germany

"The Basic Food Income Grant: A Pivotal Programme to Fulfill Access to Food for All"

11:00-11:30: Coffee-break

11:30-13:00: Parallel session 1.4. Impacts of Basic Income: Simulations and Experiments

Chair: Rafael Pinilla (1st Vicepresident of Red Renta Básica, Spain)

Loek Groot, Netherlands' Institute for the Social Sciences

Robert J. Van der Veen, University of Amsterdam

"Why to Launch a Basic Income Experiment"

Jordi Arcarons, Samuel Calonge, Daniel Raventós, Universidad de Barcelona José A. Noguera, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona

"The Financial Feasibility and Redistributive Impact of a Basic Income in Catalonia"

Magda Mercader Prats, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

"Redistributive Impact of a Partial Basic Income in Spain: A Microsimulation Assessment with EspaSim"

Andreas Bergh, Lund University, Sweden

"Can Basic Income be Combined with Positively Income Related Social Insurance?"

Axel Marx & Hans Peeters, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

"Win for Life. What, If Anything, Happens After the Introduction of a Basic Income?"

11:30-13:00: Parallel session 2.4. The Political Feasibility of Basic Income in Different Countries

Chair: Guy Standing (Co-chair of BIEN and International Labour Office, Geneva)

Jürgen de Wispelaere, University College, Dublin

Lindsay Stirton, University of East Anglia, UK

"The Administration of Universal Welfare"

Jeremy Seekings, University of Cape Town

"Prospects for Basic Income in Developing Countries: A Comparative Analysis of Welfare Regimes in the South"

Ayşe Bugra & Caglar Keyder, Bogazici University, Turkey

"Arguing for Basic Income in Turkey: Main Challenges"

Leland Neuberg, Boston University
"The Earned Income Tax Credit Becomes Law Under Carter"
Jens-Eberhard Jahn, Freiberg/Leipzig
"Problems of a Programmatic UBI Debate Within the German Party of Democratic Socialism "

11:30-13:00: Parallel session 3.4. Normative Questions About Basic Income
Chair: Philippe Van Parijs (Secretary of BIEN and Université Catholique of Louvain)
Jose Luis Pérez Rey, Universidad P. Comillas, Madrid
"A Juridical View on Basic Income"
Richard K. Caputo, Yeshiva University, New York
"Equalization of Meeting Needs vs. Equalization of Income Distribution: Reconsiderations of Basic Income & Economic Justice in Light of Van Parijs and Zucker"
Toru Yamamori, Tokio Metropolitan University
"Basic Income and Capability Approach: on Recognition and Deconstruction for Difference"
Cristian Pérez Muñoz, Universidad de la República, Uruguay
"Basic Income vs Market"

11:30-13:00: Parallel session 4.4. Basic Income as an Instrument of Trade Union Policy: North and South Perspectives.
Coordinators & Chairs: Àlex Boso (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) and Sergi Raventós (Universitat de Barcelona, Spain)
Yannick Vanderborght, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium
Background paper: "Do Trade Unions Represent an Obstacle to the Introduction of a Basic Income? Lessons from the Belgian, Canadian and Dutch debates"
Commentary by Eduardo Manajovsky, Central de Trabajadores de Argentina
Commentary by Iñaki Uribarri, ILP promoter - Member of ESK, Spain
Commentary by Joan Coscubiela, General Secretary of Comisiones Obreras (CCOO) in Catalonia, Spain

Out of programme (virtual paper)
Patrick Danahey, Universal Income Trust, New Zealand
"Education and the Democratic Sovereignty of the People: a Human Rights Approach Towards Universal Basic Income"

13:00-14:30: Lunch

14:30-17:30: Closing plenary session: "Basic Income in Response to Systemic Crisis"
14:30-16:00: Exchange 1: "Facing the New Crisis of Social Security and the Welfare State"
Chair: Claus Offe, Institut für Sozialwissenschaften, Humboldt University of Berlin, and BIEN
Christine Boutin, member of the French National Assembly, leader of the Forum des Républicains Sociaux

Ricard Gomà, Department of Political Science, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Katja Kipping, chairperson, Party for Democratic Socialism, Germany
16:00-17:30: Exchange 2: "The Prospects of Basic Income in Developing Countries"
Chair: Guy Standing, co-chair of BIEN and ILO, Geneva
Eduardo Suplicy, Federal Senator of Brazil
Ingrid Van Niekerk, Economic Policy Research Institute, Cape Town
Rubén Lo Vuolo, Centre for the Interdisciplinary Study of Public Policies, Buenos Aires

17:30-17:45: Closing speeches
President of Brazil Lula da Silva (video-recorded)
Antoni Castells, Minister of Economic Affairs, Catalan Government (tbc)
Philippe Van Parijs, secretary of BIEN and Chaire Hoover, Université Catholique de Louvain
José A. Noguera, vicepresident of Red Renta Básica, and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

18:00-20:00 BIEN General Assembly

21:00: Reception: Celebration of the Anniversary of BIEN (10th Congress, 18 years of BIEN)
Tuesday, September 21th:

Closing common events of the general Dialogue:

Public presentation of Dialogue's conclusions

Public Presentation of the Universal Declaration of Emerging Human Rights

Closing speeches of the Dialogue

3. OTHER EVENTS

BERLIN (DE), 15 May 2004: Workshop "Mindesteinkommen für alle"

Workshop organized at Berlin's Technical University by Katja Kipping, acting chair of the PDS, the mainly East German ex-communist party. The aim is "to make a guaranteed, sufficient and unconditional minimum income mehrheitsfähig , i.e. capable of being supported by a majority. Speakers include Dr. Harald Rein (BAG unabhängiger Erwerbslosengruppen/FALZ e.V.), Dr. Sascha Liebermann (Universität Dortmund), Prof. Dr. Roland Roth (Fachhochschule Magdeburg), Erika Biehn (acting spokesperson of the National Conference on Poverty), Wolfram Otto (Arbeitsloseninitiative Kiel), Angela Klein (European March against Unemployment).

For further information: "Kipping, Katja" <Katja.Kipping@slt.sachsen.de>

Links: www.existenzgeld.de, www.freiheitstattvollbeschaeftigung.de, www.grundeinkommen.de.

ISTANBUL (TR), 21-22 May 2004: Basic Income: Overcoming Insecurity in a Globalizing World
The workshop is being organized by the "Social Policy Forum", a research and policy center recently established at Bogazici University in Istanbul. Promoting the idea of Basic Income, almost unknown in Turkey, is among the objectives of the Forum and the workshop is designed to this end.

Speakers include Guy Standing (ILO and BIEN), Enzo Mingione (Milano-Bicocca), Bea Cantillon (University of Antwerp), Maria Ozanira da Silva e Silva (Universidade Federal do Maranhão, Brazil), Dirk Haarmann (ELCRN, Namibia), Myron Frankman (McGill University, Montreal), Daniel Raventos (Universitat de Barcelona), Ayse Bugra, Çaslar Keyder and Tolga Şznmazdemir (Bogaziçi University).

For further information: Ayse Bugra <bugray@boun.edu.tr>

PARIS (FR), 24 June 2004: LE DIVIDENDE UNIVERSEL

A one-day conference on the "universal dividend", organised at the Assemblée nationale by Christine Boutin, the French deputy and chair of the Forum des Républicains sociaux (a component of Jacques Chirac's right-of-centre presidential majority) who authored in 2003 a report advocating the introduction of a universal basic income. A background paper for this conference is available (Le Dividende Universel: conjuguer le respect des personnes et la croissance économique. Paris, Forum des Républicains sociaux, 2004, 30p.). It advocates the introduction of a monthly basic income of Euro 300 in France. It refers to several normative and pragmatic arguments, and deals with key objections (work ethic, reciprocity...). The document also includes a short scenario for the concrete implementation of the "universal dividend".

Speakers include Jean-François Chossy (member of the Assemblée nationale, UMP), Maurice Druon (Académie française), Didier Livio (Iteo), Michel Zarka (Mercedelta), Jean-Frédéric Poisson (vice-mayor of Rambouillet), Alain Etchegoyen (head of the National Planning Bureau), Jean Le Garrec (member of the Assemblée nationale, PS), Yoland Bresson (University of Paris XII), Jacques Bichot (University of Lyon), Pierre Méhaignerie (member of the Assemblée nationale, UMP), Alain Grandjean (ENSAE), Jacques Berthillier (AIRE), Philippe Manière (Institut Montaigne), Eduardo Suplicy (Member of Brazil's federal senate) and Roland Duchatelet (founder of Vivant).

For further information and registration: boutinchri@aol.com

FREIBERG (DE), 25 June 2004: PROSPECTS FOR BASIC INCOME IN GERMANY

An expert meeting, followed by a public panel, on basic income in the context of Germany's present social policy debate is being planned in the mining town of Freiberg in former East Germany, with a view to developing a German basic income network.

For further information: Ronald Blaschke and Jens-Eberhard Jahn <jahnjpw@freenet.de>

4. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

GERMANY: POSTERS FROM FRANKFURT TO BERLIN

After having posted large posters advocating an unconditional basic income in the Frankfurt underground in November 2003, the association "Freiheit statt Vollbeschäftigung" (Freedom instead of Full Employment) has organized a similar campaign in Berlin in the second half of May 2004. In this connection, they were also invited to take part in a live discussion on German TV (Westdeutsche Rundfunk) on 2 May 2004 and published an article (by Thomas Loer) in the national daily newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and an interview in the Kölner Stadtanzeiger on 26 May 2004. These publications triggered many reactions. On 2 June 2004, a first meeting of the association was also organized in the city of Dortmund. And the web site now includes a document with in-depth answers to "frequently asked questions".

For further information: www.freiheitstattvollbeschaeftigung.de
and "Sascha Liebermann" <S.Liebermann@freiheitstattvollbeschaeftigung.de>

SOUTH AFRICA: Unexpected financial support for the Basic Income Grant Campaign
Professor George Ellis, of University of Cape Town's Applied Mathematics Department, has been awarded the 2004 Templeton Prize for Progress toward Research and Discoveries of Spiritual Realities, the world's largest annual monetary award given to an individual (10 million Rand or about 1 million EURO). He has committed to give half this amount to several non-profit organisations in South Africa. Of this 5 million Rand, 1 million will go to the work of the Basic Income Grant Coalition Campaign in South Africa (BIG Coalition). Pumi Yeni, the National Co-ordinator of the BIG coalition was invited to speak at the Templeton Prize Ceremony in London on 5 May 2004.

For further information: Ingrid van Niekerk <ivanniekerk@epri.org.za>

5. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ENGLISH

FRANKMAN, Myron J. World Democratic Federalism. Peace and Justice Indivisible, London: Palgrave, March 2004, 232 p., ISBN 1403934924, £45.00. (Author's address: Myron Frankman <myron.frankman@staff.mcgill.ca>.)

<http://www.palgrave.com/products/catalogue.aspx?is=1403934924>

Myron Frankman is professor of development economics at McGill University (Montreal). In this bold book, he sets out a package of institutions that would serve sustainability, democracy, equal opportunity, diversity and peace in a context of unprecedented globalisation. The package includes global public finance, a single world currency and a planet-wide citizen's income, all within the context of democratic federalism extending from the local to the global.

GLENN, David. "Lending a Lasting Hand: Economists of Many Stripes Argue that Poor People and the Unemployed Need More Help from the Government", in Chronicle of Higher Education (Washington, DC), January 16, 2004. (Author's address: david.glenn@chronicle.com.)

This in-depth feature article discusses three different strategies for social reform: the basic income guarantee as proposed by Philippe Van Parijs, the employer of last resort as proposed by Mat Forstater and L. Randall Wray, and wage subsidies as proposed by Edmund Phelps. It includes quotes taken from interviews with the researchers who proposed them and other experts including skeptics of all three plans.

An extended comment on this article by Yan Liang ("Unemployment and Poverty - need for action: economic proposals to help people at the bottom") can be found in The Kansas City Aurora, 19 January 2004. And an interview with the author of the article can be heard on <http://www.changesurfer.com/eventhorizon/>.

SENNETT, Richard. *Respect in a World of Inequality*. New York & London: Norton, 2003, paperback 2004, 288p., \$14.95.

In order to respect its beneficiaries, a modern welfare state must achieve "caregiving without compassion". This position is ascribed by American sociologist Richard Sennett to Hannah Arendt, in her critique of St Augustine's conception of *caritas*, but also to "a vigorous if varied band of welfare reformers who subscribe to various versions of 'basic incomes policy'" The simplest version proposes "to provide young people with a sum of money to be used for education or the purchase of a house, or simply to be saved for later use. This is the proposition put forward by the American jurist Bruce Ackerman and now enacted into law in Great Britain. More radical proposals envision true income support. The Dutch social reformer Van Parijs and the German sociologist Claus Offe argue that the state should provide an income to all citizens sufficient to let them purchase education and health care if they wish to do so; the basic income continues throughout a person's life, and so replaces state pensions. In the most radical version, everyone receives a basic income grant, regardless of whether he or she needs it; 'means testing' disappears." (pp. 140-141). Thus, "some strategists of welfare reform have tried to imagine the provision of care divorced from sentiments of compassion. They do not want the provision of care to succumb when compassion burns out." But Sennett is not quite convinced: "most people cannot accept the provision of care as a neutral function" (p. 150).

SMITH, Jim. "Separating Survival from Work: The Quest for a Guaranteed Income", in The Los Angeles Labor News <<http://www.lalabor.org/GAI.html>>.

This is a left-leaning history of the guaranteed income movement in the United States. It discusses the 1960s movement, when a guaranteed income was promoted on the left by thinkers such as Robert Theobald and on the right by economists such as Milton Friedman. And it describes the revival of the idea in the United States in the mid-90s with Aronowitz and DiFazio's book, *The Jobless Future*.

ZAKARIA, Fareed. *The Future of Freedom. Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad*. New York: Norton, 2004, 295p., \$14.95.

In 2003, the editor of *Newsweek International* (and Harvard-trained political scientist) published a controversial best seller arguing that "what we need in politics today is not more democracy but less". This second edition contains an afterword on Iraq ("The 51st state"). Oil wealth, Zakaria argues (against the Bush administration's repeated declaration) is not an asset for democratic stabilisation, but a handicap. To reduce this handicap "perhaps the best approach is to create a national trust into which all oil revenues flow". One version of it is Alaska's dividend scheme, which "distributes its oil revenues directly to its residents, bypassing the corruption usually created by leaving it in the hands of governments or oligarchs. This is a variation of land reform, redistributing wealth broadly, which was crucial in spurring democracy in Japan and almost all other feudal societies. I would prefer to create pension accounts with the money so that it boosts Iraqi savings rather than goes towards immediate consumption." (p.260) Not a particularly original contribution to the debate, but a nice illustration of how the idea of a universal basic income becomes popularised.

GERMAN

LOER, Thomas. "Freiheit statt Vollbeschäftigung", in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* 121, 26 May 2004, p.9.

A vigorous plea for an unconditional basic income as an expression of trust in freedom in an era in which technology has rendered the conventional aim of full employment obsolete. The author is a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Dortmund and one of the leading members of the

association "Freiheit statt Vollbeschäftigung" (Freedom instead of Full Employment), which has been promoting basic income through poster campaigns in Frankfurt and in Berlin.

OPIELKA, Michael. "Bürgerversicherung als politisches Projekt", in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 8 March 2004. (Author's address: "Michael Opielka" <michael.opielka@isoe.org>) "Citizen's insurance", as advocated by the German Greens in their 2002 fundamental programme, provides an alternative to the traditional liberal, conservative and social-democratic conceptions of the welfare state. Every citizen's right to be included in society is the basic underlying principle. According to Michel Opielka, who was one of the first to foster a debate on basic income in Germany in the 1980s and now teaches at the Universities of Jena and Bonn, this principle should be given priority over those that underlie the other three models, rather than turned into a residual category in the name of "subsidiarity": a person is a human being before being an entrepreneur, a family member or a worker, and the welfare state should be structured accordingly.

6. ABOUT BIEN

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