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# **BIEN** The Basic Income European Network

*BIEN was founded in 1986 and aims to serve as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income, and to foster informed discussion on this topic throughout Europe.*

Link to BIEN Online at <http://www.basicincome.org>

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## **NewsFlash 20**

**MARCH 2003**

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BIEN's *NewsFlash* contains up-to-date information on recent events and publications related to BIEN or basic income more generally. It is mailed electronically every two months to over 800 subscribers throughout Europe and beyond, and simultaneously made available for consultation or download at [BIEN Online](#). Requests for free subscription or items for inclusion or review in future *NewsFlashes* are to be sent to BIEN's secretariat: Philippe Van Parijs, 17 rue de Pavie, 1000 Brussels, Belgium, E-mail: [bien@basicincome.org](mailto:bien@basicincome.org).

This *NewsFlash* has been prepared with the help of Jurgen De Wispelaere, Mathias Hungerbuehler, Camilo Saavedra Herrera , Yannick Vanderborght and Karl Widerquist.

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### **1. EDITORIAL**

The local organising committee of BIEN's tenth congress has just met in Barcelona with members of BIEN's executive committee in order to start fine-tuning our next big reunion . The integration of our congress into the broader and impressive framework of Barcelona's first world Forum of Cultures looks very promising indeed. The Catalonian Institute of Human Rights has been allocated a four-day slot which it will use to organise five events on "merginging rights", one of which will be our congress. Our next NewsFlash will explain all this in detail and give a first idea of the shape of our congress. But please note already that, in order to secure an optimal fit into the Forum, the time of the congress is moved forward slightly to **18-21 SEPTEMBER 2004**.

Meanwhile, our sister network, USBIG, held its second congress in New York in March and decided to hold annual congresses. At the suggestion of Eduardo Suplicy, we are also beginning to think about the possibility of setting up a worldwide federation of basic income networks to be launched the next time the World Social Forum meets in Porto Alegre, at the beginning of 2005. Realistic ideas about how this could be organised in a balanced and sustainable way are most welcome.

The content of this 20th NewsFlash reflects again the diversity of the thinking that makes up our network: from a new major academic collection of essays on the philosophical justification of an unconditional basic income (Reeve/Williams) to a report on a new universal benefit scheme for the elderly in the federal district of Mexico-City. Consistent and rigorous thinking about the conception of justice that ultimately justifies what we propose must go hand in hand with close and open-minded attention for modest but innovative steps that seem to lead in the right direction.

*The Executive Committee*

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## **2. EVENTS**

*Ottawa (CA), 31 January - 1 February 2003: Conference on strategies to ensure economic security for all Canadians*

Conference co-hosted by the Basic Income/Canada network and the Canadian Council on Social Development , with the participation of academics and economists, income security advocates, members of non-profit and social policy research organizations, as well as individuals with lived experiences of poverty. Among other speakers, Sally Lerner (University of Waterloo) noted that a major challenge lies in how a secure economic foundation can be created for the increasing numbers of "flexible" workers demanded by employers. Douglas House (Memorial University) presented insights on his extensive work trying to implement a new system of income security in Newfoundland; Derek Hum (University of Manitoba) talked about his work as Research Director of Mincome Manitoba (the Canadian Negative Income Tax Experiment); and Mike McCracken (Informetrica) detailed proposals for a basic income for each stage of the life cycle. There will be a book produced by the conference participants. Further information, contact Sally Lerner at [lerner@waterv1.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:lerner@waterv1.uwaterloo.ca) or visit Basic Income/Canada at <http://www.basicincomecanada.org>.

*Strasbourg (FR), 15 February 2003: Revenu citoyen, salaire universel ou allocation d'existence?*

Roundtable on different versions of basic income organised by Attac Strasbourg at the Centre social et culturel Victor Schoelcher, with the participation of Bernard Friot (Université de Paris X), Marie-Louise Duboin and Jean-Pierre Mon (La Grande Relevé) and Arnaud Caron (author of a thesis on basic income). Further information, contact [mgranderelevewanadoo.fr](mailto:mgranderelevewanadoo.fr).

*New York (US), 21-23 March 2003: Second USBIG congress.*

Seventy people attended the Second USBIG Congress, held in conjunction with the Eastern Economic Association's annual meeting. Thirty presentations touched on issues as diverse as the ethics of the basic income guarantee and empirical issues of introducing BIG in the US, Europe, and South Africa. Participants included scholars of many disciplines, students, activists, politicians, and others. Brazilian Senator Eduardo discussed Lula's Zero Hunger Program as a step toward a basic income guarantee in Brazil. Activists, such as Theresa Funicello and Steve Shafarman discussed how to build an effective movement for BIG in the United States. Joel Handler, Philip Harvey, and Amy Wax debated the relative merits of a guaranteed income versus a guaranteed job. The All-News Channel in the Bronx Channel 12) did a 2 1/2 minute segment on the USBIG Conference. They opened by interviewing two welfare mothers, and explained what BIG was. They showed 10-seconds of their interview with Al Sheahen (USBIG's new publicity chief), and quizzed Bronx Congressman Jose Serrano on what he thought of the idea. Serrano said Republicans would vote against it. Further information, contact Karl Widerquist at [Karl@Widerquist.com](mailto:Karl@Widerquist.com).

*Barcelona (ES), 25 April 2003: Conference on basic income and democracy in the era of globalisation*

A workshop organised by the research group in economic and social ethics of the Universitat de Barcelona and by the Spanish basic income network, chaired by Daniel Raventos (chairman of the Red Renta Basica) and introduced by Prof. Antoni Domnech (Universitat de Barcelona), Dr Guy Standing (ILO) and Prof. Philippe Van Parijs (Université catholique de Louvain). Further information, contact Daniel Raventos at [ravento@eco.ub.es](mailto:ravento@eco.ub.es).

*Brussels (BE), 10 May 2003: Belgian Social Forum*

The 2003 edition of the Belgian Social Forum will mainly consist in two parallel sessions, one of which will be devoted to "basic social rights" and consist in a sequence of four debates. One of these debates will entirely be devoted to basic income, briefly introduced by Philippe Van Parijs, of Louvain University (pro) and a group of trade unionists from Liège (contra). Further information, contact Roger Jacob at [roger.jacob@pandora.be](mailto:roger.jacob@pandora.be).

*Barcelona (ES), 30 June - 4 July 2004: ATTAC Catalunya Summer School*

This year's edition of the summer school of the "alter-globalization" movement ATTAC will include a session devoted to basic income and introduced by Daniel Raventos (Universitat de Barcelona), chairman of the Red Renta Basica.

*Washington (US), 20-22 February 2004: USBIG Third Congress*

The third congress of the US Basic Income Guarantee Network will again be held in conjunction with the Eastern Economics Association, this time in Washington, DC at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. Further information, contact Karl Widerquist at [Karl@Widerquist.com](mailto:Karl@Widerquist.com).

*Barcelona (ES), 18-21 September 2004: 10th BIEN Congress*

BIEN's 10th congress will take place on 18-21 September 2004 (not on 23-25 September, as previously announced) as part of a set of five events on "emerging rights" organised by the Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya ([www.idhc.net](http://www.idhc.net)) within the framework of the Universal Forum of Cultures ([www.barcelona2004.org](http://www.barcelona2004.org)), which will gather thousands of people between 7 May and 26 September 2004. The coordinator of the local organising committee is [David Casassas](#), researcher at the Universitat de Barcelona, and the coordinator of the scientific committee in charge of the final programme, in consultation with BIEN's executive committee, is [José Noguera](#). Members of BIEN's Executive committee met the enthusiastic team of local organisers and representatives of both the Forum and the Institute of Human Rights in Barcelona on 25 April 2003 and will meet them again in October 2003. More information about the congress and its context will appear in the next issue of this *NewsFlash*.

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### **3. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES**

*GERMANY: Prospects for a German Basic Income Network?*

A working group met in Frankfurt on 29 January 2003 in order to discuss the possibility of setting up a "Verein zur Foerderung der Idee eines bedingungslosen Grundeinkommen" (Association for the promotion of the idea of an unconditional basic income"). Further information, contact Manuel Franzmann at [manuelfranzmann@web.de](mailto:manuelfranzmann@web.de) or Axel Jansen at [a.jansen@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:a.jansen@em.uni-frankfurt.de).

*MEXICO: Step Towards a Universal Basic Pension?*

Since the middle of 2002, the Government of the Federal District of Mexico (Gobierno del Distrito Federal) implements a "Programa de Apoyo Alimentario y Medicamentos Gratuitos para Adultos Mayores" (Program of Food support and Free Medicines for the Elderly), in the form of a monthly payment of half a minimum wage (about EUR 60) delivered by means of an electronic card which can be used in almost all shops but not in the informal sector. All

Mexico City residents aged more than 70 are eligible for it, irrespective of gender and economic situation. Once the application is approved and entered in the register of the Health Ministry, the card is delivered at the address of the beneficiary. According to official documents, the scheme purports to be a first step towards a universal pension for all the elderly. In view of the resulting popularity of the governor of Mexico City, the Federal Government, announced in February 2003 the launching of a programme dedicated to the same category of the population. This Federal program is restricted to priority areas, however, and its benefits are conditioned on the elderly participating in meetings with young people. The programme has generated controversy because of its economic cost and because some people (politicians and academics) consider that it is driven exclusively by electoral objectives. Further information, contact Camilo Saavedra Herrera at [camilosaa@hotmail.com](mailto:camilosaa@hotmail.com).

#### *SOUTH AFRICA: Basic Income Grants not on ANC's Agenda*

In late February 2003, South Africa's Finance Minister Trevor Manuel unveiled a range of poverty relief measures in the country's budget for the next financial year. They include extending the child support grant, raising pensions and providing for a food relief fund. No mention was made of the Basic Income Grant proposal. Several groups, including the opposition party Democratic Alliance, criticized the ANC budget for failing to include measures, such as a Basic Income Grant, to aid the unemployed and the poor. The People's Budget Coalition, which consists of the Trade Union Confederation Cosatu, the South African Council of Churches and the South African NGO Coalition, had included a basic income in its alternative budget.

#### *SPAIN: Basic Income Network at Work*

The Red Renta basica (RRB) is actively promoting the discussion on basic income through its electronic newsletter (Nºf5 has just been sent, subscribe at [rrbflash@redrentabasica.org](mailto:rrbflash@redrentabasica.org) or visit [www.redrentabasica.org](http://www.redrentabasica.org)). It is planning to organise a third annual meeting in Santiago de Compostella in December 2003 (after Barcelona in 2001 and Vitoria in 2002). It offers discounts to its members for the purchase of various books (including the very substantial La Renta Basica en la Agenda, 2002, co-published by the network) and advertises various talks and activities around basic income, of which there seems to be quite a few at the moment. For example, [David Casassas](#), secretary of the RRB, introduced a discussion about the potential of Basic Income as a mechanism for promoting political participation of citizens at the Second International Meeting on Citizen Participation in Cities, organised by the Council of Cordoba and the "European-American Net URB-AL for Participatory Budgets" (Cordoba 21 March 2003), while lawyer [Jose Luis Rey Perez](#) gave a talk on "The right to work, a form of social exclusion? Minimum insertion income versus basic income" at a Conference on social exclusion organized by the Solidarity Service of the University Pontificia Comillas (Madrid, 2 April 2003).

#### *UNITED KINGDOM: Citizen's Income Goes Electronic*

Citizen's Income, the UK's basic income network, is henceforth replacing its printed newsletter by an electronic one. The latest and last printed newsletter (issue 3 of 2002) contains a substantial account of BIEN's 9th Congress by Anne Miller, Chair of Citizen's Income's Board of Trustees, a response by Citizen's Income's director Malcolm Torry to the Labour Party's National Policy Forum's Consultation Document "A Modern Welfare State", and a number of relevant book reviews. Further info, contact [info@citizensincome.org](mailto:info@citizensincome.org) or visit [www.citizensincome.org](http://www.citizensincome.org).

#### *UNITED KINGDOM: New Party For Basic Income*

A new party called the People's Alliance was launched in 2003 (see the article at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/politics/2848523.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/2848523.stm)). It endorses a basic income as one of its policies: "Eradicating poverty - a universal benefit or guaranteed minimum income payable to every citizen as of right without means-testing. All other benefits are to be abolished and one single rate of tax to be paid on all earnings thereafter." Further information, visit [www.peoples-alliance.org](http://www.peoples-alliance.org).

## *UNITED STATES: Second USBIG General Meeting*

When the United States Basic Income Guarantee Network was founded in December 1999, it took on only one goal: to increase discussion of the basic income guarantee in the United States. Since then, subscription to the USBIG Newsletter has grown from 25 to 360 people. The discussion paper series has released 62 discussion papers. USBIG has organized two conferences out of which will come a book, a journal symposium, a special issue of a journal, and numerous individual articles and book chapters. The conferences have been extremely interdisciplinary and have brought together diverse participants from inside and outside the academic community. Hence, USBIG has had substantial success in working toward its first goal. But much more work needs to be done, and USBIG resolved at its general meeting held in conjunction with its second congress (New York, 23 March 2003) not to take on any major new goals this year. The meeting decided to organise annual congresses (next in Washington, DC on February 20 - 22, 2004). It also created a new public relations committee headed by [Allan Sheahen](#), and including Almaz Zelleke and Stephan C. Clark. No changes in the make-up of the coordinating committee were discussed. Its members are Karl Widerquist, Michael Lewis, Eri Noguchi, Robert Harris, and Fred Block. The USBIG Network will continue with its informal structure for the next year, but will create a system for formal membership, which will be announced within the next six months. Further information, contact Karl Widerquist at [Karl@Widerquist.com](mailto:Karl@Widerquist.com).

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## **4. RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

### *ENGLISH*

BAZLINTON, Charles. *The Free Lunch*. Orchard: Four Books, 2002, 170p. ISBN 0-9544105-0-5 (author: [baz@chasp.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:baz@chasp.freeserve.co.uk); publisher: PO Box 103, Alresford S024 9XN, UK, [www.the-free-lunch.com](http://www.the-free-lunch.com)).

In this lively book, Charles Bazlinton argues for the introduction of a universal basic income ("The Citizen's Royalty") as a form of regular redistribution of society's wealth ("Moses' Big Idea"). Though placing himself in the tradition of Henry George, he wants to extend the mode of funding beyond a tax on land value, to include seigniorage (along the lines of Joseph Huber and James Robertson), the auctioning of wavelengths, royalties on the extraction of oil (on the Alaskan pattern) and funds arising from the privatisation of public companies.

CREEDY, John and Peter DAWKINS. "Comparing Tax and Transfer Systems: How Might Incentive Effects Make a Difference?", *The Economic Record* 78 (1), pp. 97-108.

Tax policy influences labour supply decisions in two ways. On the one hand, high marginal tax rates decrease incentives to supply additional hours of work. On the other hand, high tax rates at the bottom decrease incentives to participate in the labour market. Means-tested tax and transfer schemes are typically associated with high marginal tax rates at the bottom. A shift towards a flat tax rate might therefore increase efficiency through a higher participation rate. In their simulations, the authors show that the efficiency effect of a shift from a graduated tax system with high marginal tax rates at the bottom towards a system with a flat tax makes this shift desirable even for low-skilled workers - at least given their choice of parameters. This choice implies, for example, the (questionable) assumption that as soon as the marginal tax rate falls below 50% everyone participates in the labour market.

CUNLIFFE, John & ERREYGERS, Guido. "Basic Income? Basic Capital! Origins and Issues of a Debate", *Journal of Political Philosophy* 11 (1), March 2003, pp. 89-110.

Stylistically speaking, this is a most unusual piece. The two authors, both historians of political economy explored in depth the writings of the French political philosopher Fran<sup>ç</sup>ois Huet (1814-1869), the first academic advocate of a universal basic endowment, and of the Belgian Fourierist writer Joseph Charlier (1816-1896), the first known proponent of a universal basic income. These two contemporaries do not seem to have known each other, but the article sets up an imaginary dialogue between them closely based on their writings, with Huet and Charlier each presenting his preferred scheme, its rationale and the

reasons for preferring it to the other. At some stage, the panel is broadened, with Bruce Ackerman and Anne Astott (The Stakeholders Society) and Philippe Van Parijs (Real Freedom for All) joining the discussion and essentially replicating (with some occasional qualifications) their forerunners' agreements and disagreements. Entertaining and instructive. (See also, by the same authors but in a different style: "The liberal case for a socialist property regime: the contribution of François Huet", *History of Political Thought* 18 (4), 1997, 707-29; and "The enigmatic legacy of Fourier: Joseph Charlier and basic income", *History of Political Economy* 33 (3), 2001, 459-84.)

GROOT, Loek. "Compensatory Justice and Basic Income", *Journal of Social Philosophy* 33 (1), 2002, pp. 144-161. (author: [lgroot@bs20.bs.uva.nl](mailto:lgroot@bs20.bs.uva.nl))

"Compensatory justice" is a conception of justice that requires roughly that jobs of a given level of qualification be paid unequally, depending on how unattractive they are. Loek Groot refines this conception by adopting the economist's interpretation (equality between reward and disutility incurred by the marginal worker, with infra-marginal workers accordingly enjoying an economic rent, i.e. a positive difference between the welfare level they derive from their actual job-reward package and their next best option) and argues that any plausible implementation of this conception requires an unconditional and universal basic income, as a way of providing an acceptable fall back position to all.

MILLER, David. "What's Left of the Welfare State?", *Social Philosophy and Policy* 20 (1), Winter 2003, pp. 108-110 (author: [david.miller@nuffield.oxford.ac.uk](mailto:david.miller@nuffield.oxford.ac.uk))

Is there anything lively to the left of the social-democratic welfare state, that might better embody the social ideals of equality and community? Oxford political philosopher David Miller considers three options: (1) stakeholder grants, as proposed by Alstott and Ackerman, which he finds very unpromising as an inequality-reducer; basic income, as advocated by Samuel Brittan, Robert van der Veen or Philippe Van Parijs, which he finds defective with regard to the socialist standards of reciprocity and social responsibility; and ability taxes and subsidies, which he finds difficult to implement (even in the watered down version of earning-power-differentiated income taxation suggested by Stuart White) and in risk of being stigmatising (as a result of having to rely on a classification of people in terms of abilities). Not sure, therefore, in the author's eye, that there is anything (sensible) left of the welfare state.

REEVE, Andrew & WILLIAMS, Andrew. *Real Libertarianism Assessed. Political Theory After Van Parijs*. Basingstoke: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2003, 224p. ISBN 0-333-91267-5 (editor: [andrew.williams@onetel.net.uk](mailto:andrew.williams@onetel.net.uk); publisher: [www.palgrave.com](http://www.palgrave.com)).

A substantial collection of essays mainly devoted to a critical examination of Van Parijs's ethical justification of an unconditional basic income in *Real Freedom for All* (Oxford University Press, 1995). The introduction by Andrew Reeve (Warwick University) presents the central tenets of *Real Freedom for All* and explains why it had such an impact. Next, John Cunliffe (University of Central England), Guido Erreygers (University of Antwerp) and Walter Van Trier (University of Leuven) relate Van Parijs's arguments for basic income to those formulated by Joseph Charlier in the 19th century and by Dennis Milner in the early 20th ("Basic income: pedigree and problems"). Peter Vallentyne (Virginia Commonwealth University) criticizes the internal consistency and cogency of the "real libertarian" case for basic income from a rights-based libertarian perspective ("Self-Ownership and Equality: Brute Luck, Gifts, Universal Dominance and Leximin"). So does Brian Barry (Columbia University - and Van Parijs's first supervisor at Oxford in the mid-1970s) from a liberal-egalitarian perspective ("Real Freedom and Basic Income"). Barry's essay is followed by a response by Robert J. van der Veen (University of Amsterdam, and co-author with Van Parijs in the mid-1980s of two widely discussed essays on basic income, "A Capitalist Road to Communism" and "Universal Grants versus Socialism"). Next comes Richard Arneson (University of California), with a criticism of the specific way in which Real Freedom for All attempts to combine concerns for substantive equality, respect for pluralism and individual responsibility ("Should Surfers Be Fed"). Andrew Williams (University of Reading) provides a searching internal critique of the key roles Real Freedom for All ascribes to envy-freeness, equalisation of the value of endowments and undominated diversity ("Resource Egalitarianism and the Limits to Basic Income"). Stuart White (University of Oxford) reformulates and expands his earlier case against basic income on the basis of a conception of social justice that incorporates reciprocity ("Fair Reciprocity and Basic Income"). Finally,

Hillel Steiner (University of Manchester) and Thomas Christiano (University of Arizona) deal with two aspects of Real Freedom for All and Van Parijs's subsequent writings that do not concern specifically basic income but are a crucial part of the background of any discussion of distributive justice: patriotism as a way of increasing the sustainability of redistribution in a globalised economy (Steiner, "Compatriot Priority and Justice among Thieves"), and the designing of collective decision-making institutions aimed at securing the political sustainability of redistribution (Christiano, "Is Democracy Merely a Means to Social Justice?"). In the reply that closes the volume ("Hybrid Justice, Patriotism and Democracy"), Van Parijs restates the fundamental ideas that inspired *Real Freedom for All*, clarifies in this light some misunderstandings generated by his justification of an unconditional basic income (thus supplementing his extensive "real Freedom, the Market and the Family. A Reply", in *Analyse & Kritik* 23, 2001) and reasserts and defends both his rehabilitation of patriotism and his instrumental conception of democracy.

#### GERMAN

EISENHAUER, Andreas & SPIELKAMP, Matthias. "Die mobile Arbeitsgesellschaft und das Ende der Ausbeutung", in *Marke D - Das Projekt der nächsten Generation*, eds. Daniel Dettling and Max von Bismarck, Opladen: Leske & Budrich, 2003 (author: <mailto:spielkamp@autorenwerk.de>).

Mobility is one of the buzzwords in today's debate about reducing unemployment. In Germany, a top-level working group of political, union and industry leaders developed the so-called Hartz plan. The plan proposes to extend the duties of employment seekers to accept jobs they are either overqualified for or would force them to commute very far (or both). But mobility, the authors argue, is still very much a question of status. Whereas it is considered prestigious to work in Frankfurt, live in Munich, go to the movies in Hamburg and travel these routes by airplane, it is instead a painful duty to get up at 4.30 in the morning and commute two hours by public transport to be ready to clean the offices of the "highly mobile" before they get in. For most people, work migration is not a voluntary act but an imposition by a society not willing to provide for those unwilling to relocate (with their families) in order to find a job. Whereas the willingness of non-Germans to move across national borders to find jobs is deemed unethical ("economic refugee" is a very derogatory term), Germans are expected to show unlimited mobility in case the labour market demands it. What to do? Philippe van Parijs of Louvain University in Belgium suggests an unconditional basic income as a step towards a society that is not mainly founded on forced participation in the labour market. Contrary to the belief that a substantial basic income would result in mass withdrawal from the labour market it could instead lead to higher risk being taken in order to i.e. develop new business models - because the basic income would not be so high that many people would want to solely depend on it, but high enough not to let failure result in social exclusion. At the same time, it would be high enough to enable people to decline job offers that would force them to commute one hundred kilometers or more from home. This is a kind of flexibility that has not been envisioned by the champions of the so called "New Economy" - probably because it is grounded in free will, not coercion. And probably because they don't want to look at a challenge that will prove the biggest of all: to undermine the notion that recognition can only result from paid work, i.e. jobs which are out of reach for many and ever more a nightmare for those who have one.

#### ITALIAN

AMALTO Maria. Basic Income: Reddito di cittadinanza, Università degli Studi di Milano: Facoltà di Scienze Politiche, laurea thesis, March 2003 (author: [marina.ama@tiscali.it](mailto:marina.ama@tiscali.it))

An in-depth critical discussion of Van Parijs's attempt to provide an ethical justification of basic income.

#### SPANISH

BERNAL MEDINA Jorge Arturo et al. Ingreso de ciudadanía, special dossier in Cultura & Trabajo. Revista de la Escuela Nacional Sindical 56, March 2002, pp. 10-38 (publisher: [www.enes.org.co](http://www.enes.org.co)).

A set of articles on basic income published in the monthly magazine of Colombia's main educational institution for trade unionists, with contributions by Jorge Arturo Bernal Medina

(on the prospects for basic income in a globalised economy), Jorge Fernando Guttiérez (on the connection with the Tobin tax) and Juan Carlos Celis (from Toni Negri's perspective).

IGLESIAS FERNANDEZ Jose et al. *Cuadernos Renta basica* 4, February 2002, 36p. (author: [joseiglesias@wanadoo.es](mailto:joseiglesias@wanadoo.es); publisher: [ecoconcern@pangea.org](mailto:ecoconcern@pangea.org)).

Fourth issue of a publication by a Barcelona-based group promoting Jos^© Iglesias's "strong model" of basic income (a generous individual cash income supplemented by free access to various collective goods and services, in full substitution of the existing transfer system). Among other articles, it includes a piece by Javier Aguado Abad on basic income as a tool against patriarchy and one by Guadiotoca Blanco Rojas on basicincome as a tool against the feminisation of poverty.

URIBARRI Inaki et al. II Simposio de la Renta Basica, special issue of *Hika* 140, January 2003 (author: [uribarri@esk-sindikatua.org](mailto:uribarri@esk-sindikatua.org))

These are the proceedings of the second conference of Spain's basic income network (Red Renta Basica) that took place in Vitoria-Gasteiz in December 2002, published as a special issue of the left-wing Basque journal Hika. It includes contributions by several of the core members of the national network (David Casassas, José Antonio Noguera, Rafael Pinilla), as well as a number of more local contributions (by Inaki Uribarri, Inaki Carro, Alex Henares, Izaskun de la Fuente, the Sindicato ESK) more specifically focused on the prospects for a basic income in the basque countries, which has the most comprehensive guaranteed minimum income scheme in the whole of Spain.

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## 5. MORE ABOUT BIEN

### BIEN'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- ?? Prof. Ilona Ostner ([iostner@gwdg.de](mailto:iostner@gwdg.de)), co-chair;
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- ?? Alexander de Roo MEP ([aderoo@europarl.eu.int](mailto:aderoo@europarl.eu.int)), treasurer;
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with support from Jurgen De Wispelaere ([J.De-Wispelaere@lse.ac.uk](mailto:J.De-Wispelaere@lse.ac.uk)).

### HONORARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- ?? Prof. Edwin Morley-Fletcher ([m-fletcher@cnel.it](mailto:m-fletcher@cnel.it))
- ?? Prof. Robert J. van der Veen ([vanderveen@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:vanderveen@warwick.ac.uk))
- ?? Dr Walter Van Trier ([Walter.VanTrier@hiva.kuleuven.ac.be](mailto:Walter.VanTrier@hiva.kuleuven.ac.be))
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### RECOGNISED NATIONAL NETWORKS

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