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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>

E-mail: [bien@etes.ucl.ac.be](mailto:bien@etes.ucl.ac.be)

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## **NewsFlash N°8**

**MARCH 2001**

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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. The *NewsFlash* 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@etes.ucl.ac.be](mailto:bien@etes.ucl.ac.be).

This *NewsFlash* has been prepared with the help of Pascal Couillard, Stuart Duffin, Dirk Jacobi, Yann Moulier-Boutang, José Noguera, Dani Raventos, Yannick Vanderborght, Walter Van Trier, Karl Widerquist.

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### **1. EDITORIAL**

As you will see from the following pages, a lot is happening on many fronts. Allow us to draw your attention to just five items:

- BIEN's next Congress will be held in Geneva on 19-21 September 2002.
- BIEN's web site can now be reached more easily through <http://www.basicincome.org>
- A dynamic, nonpartisan network is getting off the ground in the Western hemisphere's main language. Its incipient web site is <http://www.redrentabasica.org>.
- What is so far the most didactic and comprehensive introduction to basic income in French has just been published by Laval University's political scientist François Blais.
- BIEN now has over eighty members from over twenty countries. List and instructions at the end. Do keep joining us.

*The Executive Committee*

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## 2. EVENTS

*Pittsburgh (US), 9 February 2001: DEATH OF A PROMINENT BI SUPPORTER*

An economist at Carnegie Mellon University for over fifty years, Herbert A. Simon won the 1978 Nobel Prize in economic sciences for his pioneering work on "bounded rationality". Perhaps the last publication before his death was his powerful ethical-economic plea for a radical version of basic income in the special issue of the Boston Review (October-November 2000, <http://bostonreview.mit.edu>, scheduled to reappear in book form in the Spring of 2001: What's Wrong with a Free Lunch?, Boston: Beacon Press.) "When we compare the poorest with the richest nations", Herb Simon wants us to remember, "it is hard to conclude that social capital [knowledge, and participation in kinship and other privileged social relations] can produce less than about 90 percent of income in wealthy societies like those of the US or Northwestern Europe. On moral grounds, then, we could argue for a flat income tax of 90 percent to return that wealth to its real owners. In the US, even a flat tax of 70 percent would support all governmental programs (about half the total tax) and allow payment, with the remainder, of a patrimony of about \$8,000 per annum per inhabitant, or \$25,000 for a family of three. This would generously leave with the original recipients of the income about three times what, according to my rough guess, they had earned."

*Porto Alegre (BR), 25-30 January 2001: BASIC INCOME AT THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM*

Brazil's federal senator Eduardo Suplicy took advantage of this major international gathering to plead for "the inalienable Right to a Basic Income in the 21st Century" in a much noticed speech ("Como promover a universalização dos direitos humanos e assegurar a distribuição de riquezas? O Direito Inalienável a Uma Renda Básica no Século XXI") Other contributions about basic income were made by Pablo Bergel (Iniciativa Arcoiris de ecologia y sociedad) and Dirk Barrez (journalist for the Flemish television channel).

*Paris (FR), 22 March 2001: CONFERENCE ON THE NEW DIVISION OF LABOUR AND GUARANTEED INCOME*

A one-day conference organised by the research centre ISYS-MATISSE of the Université de Paris-I under the title "Transformations de la division du travail et nouvelles régulations". The whole afternoon session was devoted to the theme of a guaranteed income, with the participation of Antonella Corsani, Yann Moulier-Boutang and Carlo Vercellone (MATISSE-ISYS), Marc Heim (GRESE, Université de Paris I) and Pascal Petit (CEPREMAP - CNRS). For further information: Carlo Vercellone, Tél : 01-44-07-81-75 et 81-73, [vercello@univ-paris1.fr](mailto:vercello@univ-paris1.fr).

*Madrid (ES), 29 March 2001: JORNADA SOBRE LA RENTA BASICA*

A one-day conference on basic income organised by the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of Spain's Open University (UNED), with the participation of both academics - Prof. Andrés de Blas Guerrero (UNED), Prof. Francisco José Martínez (UNED), Prof. Daniel Raventós (Universidad de Barcelona), Javier Alonso (Equipo de Investigación Sociológica), Prof. Luis Ayala (Universidad de Castilla - La Mancha), Profa. Magda Mercader (Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona) - and representatives of political parties - Jordi Sevilla (Socialist Party PSOE), Manuel Monereo (Left Alliance IU), Heribert Padrol (Catalan Nationalist Party CiU), Iñaki Txueka (Basque party PNV) and a representative of the Government party (PP). Further information: [mchulia@poli.uned.es](mailto:mchulia@poli.uned.es).

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## 3. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

*CATALONIA: TRADE UNION SUPPORTS BASIC INCOME*

On 28 February 2001, the CCOO (Comissions Obreres de Catalunya), the main trade union in Catalonia, organised a public debate in Barcelona ("Renda bàsica: Un debat pel segle

XXI"), with the participation of José Luis López Bulla, member of the Catalan Parliament (Iniciativa per Catalunya-Verds) and Daniel Raventós (Professor of economics at the Universitat de Barcelona). On 7 March 2001, an article by Anna Cristeto in the widely read right-of-centre Catalan magazine La Vanguardia announced that CCOO supported a universal basic income ("CC.OO. propone una renta basica universal de 70.000 pesetas"). A law project has been submitted to the Catalan Parliament by some left-green members, that calls for the introduction of a Basic Income almost equal to the poverty line for all adults (50 per cent for children under 18). The Trade Union confederation is giving it strong support, it is said, while pondering about how it could be financed. Further information: [ravento@eco.ub.es](mailto:ravento@eco.ub.es).

#### *IRELAND: PUBLICATION OF A LONG-AWAITED REPORT*

Commissioned by the Irish government in the aftermath of the January 1997 National Agreement ("Partnership 2000"), the Final Report of the Working Group on Basic Income has just become available. It concludes that the Basic Income scenario it investigates would, relative to the present tax and welfare systems, greatly contribute to the reduction of poverty. In particular, the study performed for the Working Group by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) found that it would improve the incomes of 70% of households in the four tenths of the population with the lowest incomes, without any resources additional to those available to conventional' options. The Working Group also found that the tax rate (including PRSI replacement) required to fund the Basic Income scheme, based on January 1999 estimates, would be 47%. Since then the economy has grown significantly and the revised rate, based on Revenue Commissioners estimates of the tax base, is 42.7%. On the other hand, the Report identifies a number of "losers", both in the upper and the lower deciles. In response to the Report, the Justice Commission of the Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI), which has been the driving force behind basic income in the Irish debate, pointed out that, by the end of the proposed three-year gradual implementation period, the rich "losers" would still be better off than they are at present: they would simply not gain as much under Basic Income as they would under the present system. As to the "losers" in the bottom four deciles identified in the Report, they can be easily targeted and compensated through the "Social Solidarity Fund" that forms part of the Basic Income structure. On the basis of this report, CORI reckons, the Government should be able to publish soon its long-promised Green Paper.

The full text of the three Government-funded studies on basic income on which the Working Group's Report is based can be found on the Irish Government's web site: <http://www.irlgov.ie/taoiseach/publication/default.htm>

CORI Justice Commission's own summary of the three studies can be found on: [http://www.cori.ie/justice/basic\\_inc/exsum\\_igfs\\_bi.htm](http://www.cori.ie/justice/basic_inc/exsum_igfs_bi.htm)

Coverage by The Irish Times, The Irish Independent and The Irish Examiner on: <http://www.ireland.com/newspaper/ireland/2001/0326/hom17.htm>  
[http://www.unison.ie/irish\\_independent/stories.php3?ti=41&ca=9&si=390577&iss](http://www.unison.ie/irish_independent/stories.php3?ti=41&ca=9&si=390577&iss)  
[http://www.examiner.ie/current/ipage\\_7.htm](http://www.examiner.ie/current/ipage_7.htm)

For further information, contact Sean Healy at [shealy@iol.ie](mailto:shealy@iol.ie).

#### *SCOTLAND: ONTO THE TV SCREEN*

The proposal of a citizen's income as a solution for problems of poverty and unemployment was mentioned repeatedly during a Scotland-focused programme in the BBC's national series "Question Time" on the 15th of March 2001. The occasion was the publications of a recent report from the Rowntree Trust on the negative effect of mothers' working on the school results of children. At one point, a woman asked from the floor what the panel thought of a citizen's income as one way (next to quality childcare) to enhance the possibility for lone mothers to choose between going to work and looking after their children at home. Two members of the panel reacted quite positively: a socialist member of the Scottish Parliament, Tommy Sherridan, who seemed to embrace the proposal fully, and the Chairman of the Scottish Liberal Party, Malcolm Bruce, who said that he liked the idea very much, but that funding it might be a problem. Next, a clergyman in the audience, Brian Fallon, stressed that a citizen's income was something Scotland needed urgently. Subsequently, the relevance of a citizen's income was emphasised in the context of a more

flexible labour market and the resulting insecurities. This sudden eruption of basic income on the TV screen should not be a surprise. There has been for some time, under the impulsion of the London-based Citizen's Income Study Centre, a Scottish Parliament Cross-party Group on "Citizenship Income, Economy and Society", which has not only raised the profile of basic income amongst non-academics, but has made it credible as a strategy for delivering an effective social and economic support system. Moreover, under the Convenership of the Bishop of Edinburgh, Prof Richard Holloway, the Lord Provost's Commission on Social Inclusion recommended a CI as a means of delivering social justice. For further information: [S.Duffin@lse.ac.uk](mailto:S.Duffin@lse.ac.uk)

#### *SPAIN: A NEW NATIONAL NETWORK ON BASIC INCOME*

On the 5th of February took place in Barcelona the first meeting of the provisional Executive Committee (Junta Directiva) of a newly founded Spanish basic income network. As suits a plurinational state, the latter has three names: Red Renta Básica (in Castilian), Xarxa Renda Bàsica (in Catalan) and Oinarrizko Errenta Sarea (in Basque). Its chairman is Daniel Raventós (Universitat de Barcelona), author of *El derecho a la existencia. La propuesta del Subsidio Universal Garantizado*, and its deputy chairman José Antonio Noguera (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). Its statutes have been officially registered and are available on the Red's web page (<http://www.rediris.es/list/info/rentabasica.html>). Its purpose is "to foster and spread scientific research on basic income in order to improve the knowledge of the latter and of its viability". "Basic income" is here understood as a universal and unconditional income (as it is by BIEN), but also "sufficient to cover life's basic needs" (which is not specified in BIEN's definition). "One of the great virtues of the basic income proposal is its ecumenism. In order for it to develop and reach political agendas, its advocates must start recognising that it is no one's exclusive property. This rules out any partisan attitude." On 8 June 2001, a one-day conference will be held at Barcelona's Centre de Cultura Contemporània, with the participation of members of Parliament from various parties, representatives of social movements and Unions, and various academics. For further information: [dcasassas@eresmas.com](mailto:dcasassas@eresmas.com).

#### UNITED STATES: BASIC INCOME AND THE RADICAL MIDDLE

"Maybe the election will shame the American people into thinking about how to appropriately share their wealth in the new world we're entering", writes Mark Satin in October 2000 on the "Radical Middle"'s home page ([http://www.radicalmiddle.com/x\\_wealthsharing.htm](http://www.radicalmiddle.com/x_wealthsharing.htm)), "... a world in which an "overclass" of 20% of the population threatens to essentially secede from the rest of society. For those of us with the fortitude to think about sharing America's wealth in new ways, a galaxy of imaginative proposals beckons..." The first one among them is basic income. "The guaranteed income was a hot new idea in the 1960s, assiduously promoted by Robert Theobald and other young turks. But it never went anywhere. Today's basic income proponents are more market-friendly than most of their Sixties counterparts. And they're using arguments that are more pragmatic." There is a link to the site of the US Green Party ([www.gp.org](http://www.gp.org)), whose platform calls for "a graduated supplemental income, or a negative income tax, that would maintain all individual adult incomes above the poverty level, regardless of employment or marital status".

#### *EUROPE: THE "EUROPEAN MARCHES AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT" ADVOCATE A BASIC INCOME AT 50% OF GDP PER CAPITA*

In a press conference held in Paris on 23 of March 2001, Patrice Spadoni, member of the leadership of the "Marches européennes contre le chômage, la précarité et les exclusions" has reasserted their demand for a guaranteed minimum income for all citizens, whether working or unemployed, at a level that should be no less than 50% of a country's GDP per capita, and should vary accordingly from country to country. In France, for example, this would amount to 900 Euros per person and per month. The association is planning to organise a demonstration in Göteborg on the occasion of the next European summit. For further information: AC! (Agir ensemble contre le Chômage !), 42, rue d'Avron 75020 Paris; Tel: +33 1 43 73 36 57 - Fax: +33 1 43 73 00 03 - e-mail: [ac@ras.eu.org](mailto:ac@ras.eu.org).

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## 4. PUBLICATIONS

### ENGLISH

FREEMAN, Richard & APPELBAUM, Eileen. "Instead of a Tax Cut, Send Out Dividends", *New York Times*, 1 February 2001.

Richard Freeman (Harvard University) and Eileen Appelbaum (Economic Policy Institute) propose sending a one-time "prosperity dividend" of US\$ 500 to every citizen of the United States. Of course, a one-time dividend at this level is far from a full basic income guarantee, but the authors cite the Alaska Permanent Fund as an inspiration, and the prosperity dividend is similar enough to the Basic Income Guarantee that it could open up people's minds to this sort of idea. Freeman and Appelbaum's logic is two-fold: First, the United States now has an enormous budget surplus and therefore it can afford to give back the roughly \$140 billion that the prosperity dividend would cost. Second, as worries of a recession increase president Bush has promoted his tax cut plan as a way to stimulate the economy. Tax cuts, however, are a rather slow method to stimulate the economy. If enacted, they probably wouldn't have much of an effect until next year, but which time the economy may already be recovering. The prosperity dividend could be enacted immediately; it would have a strong stimulative effect on the economy; it would mean most to those who have least; and it would not have long-lasting effects on the tax code.

McKAY, Ailsa. *Arguing for a Citizens Basic Income - A contribution from a Feminist Economics Perspective*. PhD dissertation (supervisor: Prof. Chris Pierson), University of Nottingham (UK), December 2000, 401 pages. [A.McKay@gcal.ac.uk](mailto:A.McKay@gcal.ac.uk)

Current debates concerning the future of social security provision in advanced capitalist states have given increasing silence to the idea of a citizen's basic income (CBI) as part of a possible reform package. The purpose of this thesis is to make a positive contribution to the CBI literature by examining the proposal from a feminist economics perspective. It is argued that a CBI has the potential to promote equal rights of freedom for men and women and provides the basis for the development and sustainability of new and liberating patterns of working and living. However, this particular aspect of the proposal will never be fully considered as long as the analytical framework employed is that of neo-classical economic theory. Embracing a feminist economics perspective allows for the identification of the androcentric bias inherent within the neo-classical construct and further provides an alternative methodological approach that serves to open up the debate and incorporate a more realistic vision of the nature of modern socio-economic relationships.

McKAY Ailsa. "Rethinking Work and Income Maintenance Policy : Promoting Gender Equality through a Citizens Basic Income", in *Feminist Economics* 7 (1), March 2001, 93-114.

A brief statement of some of the central points in the author's doctoral dissertation.

VANDENBROUCKE, Frank. *Social Justice and Individual Ethics in an Open Society. Equality, Responsibility and Incentives*. Berlin & New York: Springer ("Studies in Economic Ethics and Philosophy", [www.springer.de](http://www.springer.de)), 2001, 306p., ISBN 3 540 41636 6. [Ministerie voor Sociale Zaken en Pensioenen, Wetstraat 62, 1040 Brussel.]

The Minister of Social Affairs in Belgium's federal government (in place since July 1999) took a couple of years off to complete a doctorate in political theory at Oxford University under the supervision of G.A. Cohen. This book is an edited version of his thesis. Most of it is pitched at quite a high level of abstraction and hence remote from direct policy implications. But chapter III, the most technical chapter in the book, shows how a responsibility-concerned egalitarian is led, under plausible conditions, to recommend an appropriate combination of earnings subsidies and an unconditional basic income.

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### FRENCH

BLAIS, François. *Un Revenu garanti pour tous. Introduction aux principes de l'allocation universelle*. Montréal: Boréal (4447 rue Saint-Denis, Montreal H2J 2L2, [www.editionsboreal.qc.ca](http://www.editionsboreal.qc.ca); distributed in France by the Editions du Seuil), 2001, 212 p., ISBN 2-7646-0087-9, 17.55 Euros. (Author's address: Université Laval, Faculté des sciences sociales, Cité Universitaire, Québec P.Q. G1K 7P4, Canada [Francois.Blais@pol.ulaval.ca](mailto:Francois.Blais@pol.ulaval.ca))

This is so far the most didactic, well-informed and comprehensive French-language introduction to basic income. Written by a professor of political science at Laval University (Québec), it is written with special reference to both North America and Western Europe, whose debates he has been following

closely. The book consists of three chapters. Chapter 1 presents basic income as a polar alternative to workfare in a policy context in which all seem concerned to offer a cure for exclusion from employment which, at the very least, does not worsen the poverty level. Chapter 2 mobilises a large literature in an attempt to present basic income as an ideal combination, under present-day circumstances, of justice and efficiency. Finally, chapter 3 presents a critical overview of funding methods, as well as of a wide range of more modest measures, either already in place in some countries or under discussion, which might lead to the implementation of a genuine basic income. Devoid of economic and philosophical jargon, yet showing a full awareness of the intricacies of the financial and ethical issues involved, this is an extremely useful - and hopeful - book.

COHEN, Daniel. "Impôt négatif: le mot et la chose", *Le Monde* 06.02.01. [dcohen@elias.ens.fr](mailto:dcohen@elias.ens.fr)

According to Daniel Cohen, professor of economics at the Ecole normale supérieure and author of *Richesse du monde, pauvreté des nations* (Flammarion, 1997), the "negative income tax", despite its association with Milton Friedman, is not a right-wing idea, as witnessed by its being defended by James Tobin, André Gorz, Alain Caillé, René Passet, Michel Aglietta, Toni Negri and BIEN. He defines it, however, as equivalent to a universal basic income: it would form the bottom component of existing higher benefits and be paid in full to workers, while income tax would be raised as from the first franc. Why was this idea not adopted by the government at the end of the recent debate? One reason is the cost, which favours a proposal such as the "allocation compensatrice de revenu" put forward by Roger Godino and Jean Pisani-Ferry (a "negative income tax scheme" in the most common sense of the expression), in which the transfer is being phased out as income rises from the level of the guaranteed minimum income (RMI) to that of the guaranteed minimum wage (SMIC). To prevent the scheme from creating a "part-time-work-trap", Cohen sketchily argues, one should attempt to raise the point at which the benefits are entirely phased out from 100% to 140% of the SMIC. A second reason for the non-adoption of a negative tax (in Cohen's sense) is the fear that a right-wing government may argue from its existence to justify the reduction or abolition of the SMIC. But one need not worry, Cohen reckons: to kill this possibility, it should be enough to raise the issue in the campaign and to remember how effective massive protests have been in the past.

FERRY, Jean-Marc. *La Question de l'Etat européen*. Paris: Gallimard, 2000, 322p. [jferry@ulb.ac.be](mailto:jferry@ulb.ac.be)

There is no point in denying it: a European state is in the making, one which will need to combine in a novel way the rights of individuals and the rights of peoples, one whose "social constitution" must also urgently be reflected upon. As already argued in Ferry's earlier writings (*L'Allocation universelle*, Cerf, 1995), this constitution must include "an unconditional right to a basic income, which would secure the social foundation of democratic autonomy".

PIKETTY, Thomas. "L'impôt négatif est né", in *Libération* 29.01.01, p.8. [thomas.piketty@cepremap.cnrs.fr](mailto:thomas.piketty@cepremap.cnrs.fr)

In this short column, the respected young economist Thomas Piketty (author of *Economie des inégalités*, La Découverte, 1997, and close to the socialist party) stresses the historical importance of Lionel Jospin's government's January 2001 decision to introduce a refundable tax credit. It "can be viewed as the definitive shedding of Marxism and its simplistic conception of inequality". To the traditional method of fighting inequality through increasing wages (for the benefit of workers, assumed to be badly off and at the expense of capitalists, assumed to be well off), it substitutes a redistribution across income categories, on the assumption that fighting inequalities requires redistributing from high-wage-earners as well as from capitalists to the self-employed as well as to low-wage-earners.

VAN DER BORGHT, Yannick & VAN PARIJS, Philippe, "Assurance participation et revenu de participation. Deux manières d'élargir l'Etat social actif ", in *Reflets et perspectives de la vie économique* (Brussels) 1, 2001. (Authors' contact address: Chaire Hoover, 3 Place Montesquieu, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, [vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be](mailto:vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be))

This is an in-depth exploration and comparative discussion of two ways of broadening the project of an "active social state": a reshaping of involuntary unemployment insurance into a "participation insurance", which broadens the eligibility condition beyond active job search to cover activity in the household, in education and training, or in the voluntary sector (as suggested in an earlier report for Belgium's King Baudouin Foundation) and Anthony Atkinson's "participation income" (a basic income subjected to a broad condition of social contribution). Which is better in terms of recognition of unpaid work? Which is better as an anti-poverty measure? Which is better for human capital formation? The answer is not always the same.

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## GERMAN

VOBRUBA, Georg, "Income-Mixes - Die neue Normalität nach der Vollbeschäftigung", in Werner Fricke (ed.), *Jahrbuch und Technik 1999/2000*, Bonn: Dietz Verlag, 1999. (Authors address: Universität Leipzig, Institut für Soziologie, Burgstraße 21, 04109 Leipzig, [vobruba@sozio.uni-leipzig.de](mailto:vobruba@sozio.uni-leipzig.de))

According to the Leipzig-based Austrian social theorist Georg Vobruba, neither a return to full employment nor an adequate supplementation of wage income by self-production are feasible. In this situation, wage income is and has to be increasingly supplemented by capital income and benefits. Vobruba notes that people are currently forced to work in the low wage sector by coercive measures implemented by the social assistance administration. He rejects means-tested programs because of the stigma that is unavoidably attached to them. Moreover, a means test that takes into account the financial assets of potential recipients further deepens the existing gap in capital income between the poor and the rich and reduces poor people's capacity of self-help. As an alternative, Vobruba strongly favours a negative income tax. It enables an integration of wage income, benefits and capital income, and will replace the administrative pressure to work in the low-wage sector by economic incentives. As a result, the poor will be better off. (A more comprehensive account of the author's position can be found in Vobruba, Georg, *Alternativen zur Vollbeschäftigung*, Frankfurt a. M.: Suhkamp, 2000.)

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## SPANISH

ADELANTADO, José ed. *Cambios en el Estado del Bienestar. Políticas sociales y desigualdades en España*. Barcelona: Ed. Icaria-UAB, 2000.

This collective book discusses recent trends and future prospects for Spain's Social Policy, from a left-wing perspective. The chapters on income maintenance policies (by José Noguera) and the conclusions advocate basic income BI as a way of overcoming some of the limitations of existing social benefit schemes.

MORENO, Luis, *Ciudadanos precarios. La "ultima red" de proteccion social*, Barcelona: Editorial Ariel, 2000. [lmorfer@iesam.csic.es](mailto:lmorfer@iesam.csic.es)

On the background of a typology of welfare state regimes - corporatist-continental, residual-anglo-saxon, statist-northern and family-oriented-mediterranean - and of an analysis of recent social developments - especially the changing role of the family and the political processes involved in the establishment of safety nets -, the Madrid-based social policy expert Luis Moreno discusses various possibilities for creating a safety net of last resort. An unconditional basic income is briefly mentioned as one option. More sustained attention is given to the proposal of a Eurostipend (or general European-wide means-tested guaranteed minimum income) by Philippe Schmitter (European University Institute, Florence). Such a proposal, the author argues, is neither desirable nor feasible. It neglects the subsidiarity principle which should instruct the European Union to leave minimum income schemes at a lower level. And it also overlooks the institutional differences between national welfare state regimes. He advocates instead "cosmopolitan localism". Strengthened regional governments would be "closer" to people in need and enjoy more legitimacy in the countering of poverty with welfare programs. As it happened in Spain with the spreading of welfare programs, regions could learn from each other and a competition of innovations could take place.

NOGUERA, José A. "Renta Básica y Estado de Bienestar en España", *Revista Internacional de Sociología* 26, mayo-agosto 2000. (Author's address: Dept. Sociologia, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, [jose.noguera@uab.es](mailto:jose.noguera@uab.es).)

In this article, Barcelona sociologist José Noguera analyses two distinct approaches to the financial requirements of a basic income scheme for Spain and discusses the problem of the transition from present social protection programs to a basic income in the context of the Spanish Welfare State.

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## 5. NATIONAL NETWORKS

### OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY BIEN

- *Citizen's Income Study Centre*  
Director: Stuart Duffin  
St Philips Building, Sheffield Street, London WC2A 2EX, United Kingdom  
Tel.: 44-171-9557453  
Fax: 44-171-9557534

E-mail: [citizens-income@lse.ac.uk](mailto:citizens-income@lse.ac.uk)  
Website: [www.citizensincome.org](http://www.citizensincome.org)

- *Vereniging Basinkomen*  
Coordinator: Emiel Schäfer  
Elisabeth Wolffstraat 96-B 1053 TX Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
Telephone : 020-6799940 or 6167029  
Fax: 020-6799940  
E-mail: [basic.income@wxs.nl](mailto:basic.income@wxs.nl)  
Website : [www.basisinkomen.nl](http://www.basisinkomen.nl)
- *BIEN Ireland*  
Coordinator: John Baker  
Equality Studies Centre, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland  
Tel +353-1-706 8365  
Fax +353-1-706 1171  
E-mail: [John.Baker@ucd.ie](mailto:John.Baker@ucd.ie)

#### OTHER EUROPEAN GROUPS

- *Asociación Renda Basica (AREBA)*  
Coordinator: José Iglesias Fernández  
Salvador Espriu 89, 2º, 2a, E - 08005 Barcelona, Spain  
Fax: 34-3-225.48.20
- *Association pour l'instauration d'un revenu d'existence (AIRE)*  
Chairman: Yoland Bresson  
33 Avenue des Fauvettes, F-91440 Bures sur Yvette, France  
E-mail: [Yoland.Bresson@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Yoland.Bresson@wanadoo.fr)
- *Folkrorelsen for medborgarlon*  
Coordinator: Kicki Bobacka  
Väpplingvägen 10, 227 38 LUND, Sweden  
Tel.: 046-140667 or 046-144545  
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- *Organisation advocating support income in Australia (OASIS)*  
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- *Basic Income/Canada (BI/Canada)*  
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Provisional website: <http://www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/Research/FW>

#### OTHER RELEVANT WEBSITES

- <http://www3.sympatico.ca/tim.rourke/bi.html>: "A quick seminar on what Basic Income is all about, so that people can then get up from the computer screen and go and do something about it." Contact: Tim Rourke at [tim.rourke@sympatico.ca](mailto:tim.rourke@sympatico.ca)
- [www.petitiononline.com/qd4e/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/qd4e/petition.html): All those who support the idea of some kind of (partial) basic income, or participation income, at the European level are invited by the Swedish basic income supporter Mats Hoglund to sign this petition and send comments. Contact: Mats Hoglund at [vivantinternational@hotmail.com](mailto:vivantinternational@hotmail.com)
- <http://www.jaspersbox.com>: The site includes several essays on various aspects of money, a basic income plan funded by a non-confiscatory method (Excalibrator) and a novel ("Daily Bread: The Story of Jasper's Box.") about a group of ATM machines that mysteriously appear and begin to distribute an equal daily dose of money to any and all. Contact: Stephen C. Clark at [stephen.c.clark@worldnet.att.net](mailto:stephen.c.clark@worldnet.att.net)

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## 6. MORE ABOUT BIEN

### BIEN's EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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- Alexander de Roo MEP ([aderoo@europarl.eu.int](mailto:aderoo@europarl.eu.int)), treasurer;
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- Prof. Philippe Van Parijs ([vanparijs@etes.ucl.ac.be](mailto:vanparijs@etes.ucl.ac.be)), secretary, with support from Yannick Vanderborght ([vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be](mailto:vanderborght@etes.ucl.ac.be))
- Dr Stuart Duffin ([Stuart.Duffin@SINE.org.uk](mailto:Stuart.Duffin@SINE.org.uk)), communication co-ordinator, with support from Jurgen De Wispelaere ([J.De-Wispelaere@lse.ac.uk](mailto:J.De-Wispelaere@lse.ac.uk)).

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- 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))
- Dr Steven Quilley ([steve.quilley@ucd.ie](mailto:steve.quilley@ucd.ie)).

## HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF BIEN

Membership of BIEN is open to anyone who shares its objectives. The individual membership fee is 25 Euros for 1999-2000 or 100 Euros for life membership. BIEN Members receive hard copies of the Newsletter, are kept informed of relevant meetings, seminars and research projects and have voting rights at BIEN's General Assembly held every second year in conjunction with the Congress. A broad membership strengthens BIEN in its efforts to put basic income on academic and political agendas. It also provides much appreciated support to the unpaid activity of the Executive Committee and gives BIEN a firm basis for the funding of its modest running costs. A full statement of accounts is submitted to the General Assembly. To become a BIEN member, please fill out the *Membership Subscription Form* or download the *Individual Membership Form* which are both on the BIEN web site (<http://www.etes.ucl.ac.be/BIEN/JoinBien.htm>). An acknowledgment will be sent upon receipt. For further questions, e-mail BIEN at [bien@etes.ucl.ac.be](mailto:bien@etes.ucl.ac.be).

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