

NEW VLD-VIVANT CARTEL

Since the month of November, 2003, the VIVANT-EUROPE movement has been campaigning to reform the way our social security system is financed in the context of a European fiscal system.

Here follows a reminder of the programme:

We must stop levying taxes on European citizens' work in order to avoid encouraging companies to transfer their activities abroad.

Levying tax on work kills employment, empties Europe of its skills and puts the financing of our social security into jeopardy.

**The European social security system must be financed through the sale of products in Europe.
(Tax on consumption without price increase.)**

NB: Tax on consumption applies only to goods. For a fiscal system to function efficiently, in effect, the object of the tax must be **traceable**. While services are difficult to trace, goods on the other hand are visible and traceable. The option endorsed, thought up by the French economist Jacques Berthillier, makes for an efficient fiscal system.

A few days ago the liberal Belgian party VLD adopted this project, as well as the other main points of VIVANT's programme. See the VIVANT-EUROPE website for documents.

Here follows an outline:

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The VLD (Flemish liberal party) and Vivant have formed an election cartel since 2004. Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt's fourth citizens' manifesto, which has just been published, persuaded Vivant's president, Roland Duchâtelet, that the two parties should step up their cooperation.

Mr. Duchâtelet recognised that many of the ideas of the Vivant movement, which has been active for the last ten years, were present in the manifesto.

The VLD and Vivant will therefore go to the Belgian federal elections of 10th June as partners **under a common name and with a common programme**.

The name of the cartel, which is being kept secret for the moment, will be made public on Sunday, February 11th, on the occasion of a joint congress.

Bart Somers (the president of the VLD) said that the name must be transparent. He does not want the name to stand for two different programmes, for his party has chosen to form a cartel of ideas rather than a cartel of interests.

Thus, the VLD has undertaken to inscribe the main points of Vivant's programme on its political agenda and to keep them there. The points are the following:

- **To replace tax on work by tax on consumption;**
- **To introduce a basic income;**
- **To introduce a system of referenda on popular initiative on all administrative levels.**

Furthermore, Bart Somers and Roland Duchâtelet have both made it clear that Vivant will not cease to exist and that the cartel will not cause it to be absorbed by the VLD.

The Vivant Movement and Party will therefore continue to exist independently in Flanders, Brussels, Wallonia and the German-speaking cantons (which is a region that has two Vivant Members of Parliament for the region and a Vivant municipal councillor).

Let us hope that this new breakthrough on the political scene will see repercussions in favour of a **social Europe, developing humanly and sustainably.**

Jean-Paul BRASSEUR

Head of VIVANT-EUROPE