

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.

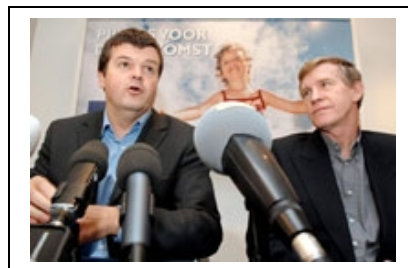
**The European social security system must be financed through the sale of products in Europe.
(Tax on consumption without price increase.)**

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:

NEW VLD-VIVANT CARTEL



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

OPEN VLD : new VLD VIVANT *cartel*

A. Ten resolutions for an open society

B. Statement of engagement of VLD and Vivant

NEW VLD-VIVANT CARTEL



The VLD (Flemish Liberal Party in Belgium) has been in *cartel* with VIVANT since 2004. The **fourth Citizen Manifest** of Premier Guy VERHOFSTADT has decided Roland DUCHATELET, VIVANT President, to strengthen the collaboration with the VLD. He has indeed found there many ideas shared by his 10-year-old movement.

Therefore the VLD and VIVANT partners will present to the Federal elections a **common program under a common name**. The name of **OPEN VLD** was chosen in a common congress on the 11 February 2007.

VLD President Bart SOMERS wanted a transparent name, avoiding the coexistence of two different programs. His party has selected a **cartel of ideas, not of interests**.

The VLD has therefore committed to support the following major points of the VIVANT program:

- **Tax transfer from labour to consumption;**
- **Introduction of the Basic income;**
- **Organisation of people-initiated referendums on every matter.**

You will find below:

- A. Ten resolutions for an open society**
- B. Statement of engagement of VLD and Vivant**

A. Ten resolutions for an open society

(from the « fourth Citizen Manifest » of Guy Verhofstadt)

10 February 2007 - About 400 members of VLD-VIVANT in a congress in Brussels (Heysel) have approved 10 resolutions which make up the core of their common program for the coming Federal elections. VLD-Vivant makes a clear choice for an open society based on a flexible labour market and a social security promoting initiative and self-development. This society shall also welcome everyone willing to work, protect elderly people and encourage environment protection.

The 10 resolutions have been extracted from the fourth Citizen Manifest of Premier Verhofstadt. Under direction of President Bart Somers, the 400 VLD-Vivant members worked out a draft. An amendment from Deputies Annemie Turtelboom and Hilde Vautmans was approved, stating that « *The 21st century will be the women century* ». Therefore the open society shall guarantee sex equality.

The resolutions state the open view of VLD-Vivant in front of current problems like people aging, immigration, violence, etc. A flexible labour market in a horizontal economy will allow to find and change job more easily. One step will be the merging of employee and craftsman statuses. The latter often take more responsibilities and need more technical skills than the former. The difference of statuses is artificial and hinders the labour market.

The congress members also approved the tax slipping from labour to environment-aggressive activities and the drastic simplification of the fiscal system in favour of a fair-tax with two rates (20 and 40%). These are expected to converge to a unique rate.

VLD-Vivant also wants to create the "continuing-career account". It should give more freedom to organise everybody's life times.

Today in Belgium, people in the thirties or forties are among the most pressurised working groups in terms of time or budget constraints. An open community rewards those who improve the common wealth. (...)

The 10 resolutions are:

- 1. An open community**
- 2. A flexible labour market in a horizontal economy ***
- 3. Decrease, slipping and simplification of taxes**
- 4. A human being able to face its future**

5. **An ecological heritage to be protected**
6. **A modern view of immigration**
7. **The fight against racism**
8. **The fight against crazy violence**
9. **The richness of people aging**
10. **The globalisation of welfare**

** A horizontal economy crosses the borders.*

B. Statement of engagement of VLD and Vivant

VLD and Vivant will jointly present to the Federal elections of 10 June 2007 under the name **OPEN VLD**. The VLD is thereby committed to support the Vivant political goals. This agreement is based on the fourth Citizen Manifest of Guy Verhofstadt. The main ideas of VIVANT are for the first time raised to the global Belgian political scene.

The common goals of the VLD and VIVANT are:

1. Tax reductions

The tax burden is a labour deterrent for employers as well as for workers. Bad taxes keep low employment, but good taxes can fight environment degradation. This is why VLD and VIVANT request the tax slipping from labour to environment threats and consumption.

2. Wealth distribution

The current system is unfair: unemployed workers lose social rights when starting a job. The VLD and VIVANT want to change the replacement allowances into a basic income where additional income is allowed without penalty.

3. The basic income

The VLD and VIVANT agree to promote and setup this system. They will work together on the financial and operational aspects.

4. The referendum

VLD and VIVANT ideological foundation is trust in man. The human focus is the best investment for the future. So both parties defend **people-initiated referendum on every matter**, and the replacement of the voting obligation by the voting right.

VLD and VIVANT merge their forces to raise an **Open Society** in Belgium in order to improve **(i)** the social justice, **(ii)** the environment protection and **(iii)** the individual freedom. This society should be a place where men have the best chances to be happy and make others happy.

Bart SOMERS
President of VLD

Roland DUCHATELET
President of VIVANT