

MOVEMENT



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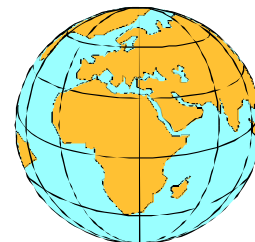
EUROPE

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“Liberate work by removing its tax burden and finance
social security by taxing the consumption of goods,
which most often are produced by machine.”

ELECTRONIC VIVANT- EUROPE

N° 29 (February 2006)

1. BASIC INCOME

For VIVANT the role of the State is precisely to create the conditions which will permit each one of us to develop fully, in total freedom.

To this end VIVANT has conceived a programme **both economic and social**, for the two aspects are interdependent.

All our politicians would like to implement social policies, but tell us, shamelessly, that they lack the means to do so.

Just as they all wish to make the economy flourish and provide jobs for everyone, but talk of unfavourable economic conditions, of other imperatives..., of FATE.

VIVANT certainly does not underestimate the vicissitudes of the economy -- and believes that this is precisely why it is high time to envisage a new organisation of society, founded on some solid ideas:

- A MINIMUM INCOME FOR EVERYONE THROUGHOUT LIFE
- ABOLITION OF TAXES ON LABOUR (**VIVANT-EUROPE**)
- REPLACEMENT OF TAXES ON LABOUR WITH A TAX ON CONSUMPTION.
(**VIVANT-EUROPE**)

A Basic Monthly Income for All (indexed):

From 0 to 17 years	135 euros
From 18 to 24 years	400 euros
From 25 to 64 years	540 euros
From 65 years	800 euros

Example

A family of four with two children aged 14 and 18

Basic monthly income: $540 + 540 + 135 + 400 = 1,615$ euros

This Basic Income replaces all other forms of allowances.
Except that sickness and invalidity benefits are maintained.
We explain below how this Basic Income is combined with other forms of income.
Any insurances directly contracted by individuals are not affected.

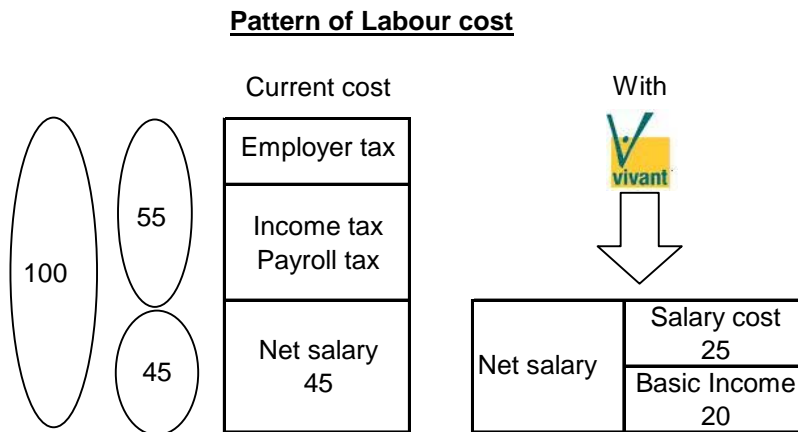
Advantages of the Basic Income

- Dignity for all. No more unemployment and dependence on hand-outs.
- Everyone is free to work or not to work. No more marginalisation.
- Simplified administration.
- Total transparency.

Where does the money come from?

- From savings on the costs of the numerous organisations which administer social welfare, unemployment benefits and taxes on labour.
- By introducing a modified VAT (1).
- From replacing the present system of benefits.
- From a financial transactions tax.
- From growth of the economy (everyone becomes a consumer, or at least has that possibility, and the number of jobs and overall purchasing power will go up).

(1) In Vivant, VAT becomes STC (social tax on consumption).



2. VIVANT : PROVIDING A STRUCTURAL ANSWER FOR EUROPE AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In 2002, the members of the CONVENTION chaired by V. Giscard d'Estaing aimed at developing a project for a European Constitution decided to lend an ear to members of civil society. Various groups and associations (NGOs) were able to vent their suggestions, which in the main were aimed at fighting various types of discrimination. Vivant, being a social movement, also presented its suggestions.

The following text recapitulates some of the suggestions put forward by these various associations, and provides short comments by VIVANT (*suggestions in italics*, **comments in bold type**), which show how VIVANT's socio-economic model can provide structural solutions to the problems of discrimination and poverty.

Extracts from the *Summary of Suggestions* compiled by Damien de FAILLY

(Member of the Permanent Forum of European Civil Society)

1) Contact Group for Development

In view of the fact that no policy is neutral from the gender point of view, and that it is essential that the equality between women and men be a defining element in EU foreign policy, a sex-specific analysis is necessary; the objectives of the equality of the sexes should be fully integrated in the definition, application and evaluation of EU foreign policy, including policies for development cooperation and programmes for the reduction of poverty. (The introduction of a Basic Income for all encourages equality between women and men and reduces poverty through the increased purchasing power it provides. Eduardo Suplicy is putting this project into practice in Brasil (see www.suplicy.br.)

2) European Liaison Committee for Services of General Interest – CELSIG

- *Recognise the role of services of general interest (Redistributing wealth by the Basic Income method amounts to a structural recognition of services of general interest, or public services.)*

- *Grant civil powers a right of initiative* (**Through tax on consumption, the civil society is in possession of a means of finely regulating the economy.**)
- *Establish a right of access in the general interest to resources and to reserves* (**By reducing the cost of administration and improving fiscal control, and as a corollary introducing a system of « fiscal accounts », this right is granted in practice.**)
- *Make the appropriate legislation establishing the forms of participation available to resident citizens* (**VIVANT is in favour of a participative budget, popular consultation and referenda.**)

3) Young European Labour Unionists – « CES Jeunes » (5 June 2002)

- *Respect fundamental rights* (**VIVANT argues in favour of the unconditional right to a Basic Income.**)
- *Create a social Europe (... and encourage employment by abolishing tax on work.)*
- *Uphold the right for all to a decent quality of life*
- *Establish true democratic participation* (**VIVANT's programme involves the introduction of a participative budget on the municipal level**)
- *Bring about institutional reforms (... in order to combat poverty structurally by bringing about by referendum the abolition of tax on work and the introduction of an unconditional Basic Income. These measures constitute VIVANT's two mainstays.)*

4) European Children's Network – EURONET

- *Promote and protect the rights and needs of children*
 - *Let the drafting of all legislative measures and political initiatives have as primary objective full compatibility with the higher principles and interests of children, as stipulated by the UN Convention on the rights of children*
 - *Make children a political priority*
 - *Coordinate policies and reinforce dialogue with the NGOs representing children*
- (**VIVANT, through its Basic Income system, would enable all parents to choose to stop working or to reduce the time spent working in order to devote themselves to the education of their children. In addition, VIVANT argues in favour of a less institutionalised education system, which would be less dependent on ministerial tutelage and have more room for manoeuvre both regarding curricula and financially, in the interests of children and the young (see VIVANT's 2003 Programme).**)

5) International Association for Mutual Assistance – AIM

- *Guarantee a policy of social protection in Europe* (**By introducing an unconditional Basic Income and financing social security through tax on goods produced, this ideal can be met.**)
- *Preserve the general interest in the social and health care domains* (**The measures proposed by VIVANT are: Basic Income; financing of social security through tax on consumption (TOC); preventive medicine; traceability of products for health- and fiscal reasons.**)

6) NGOs for Human Rights, Democracy and Conflict Prevention (26 European NGOs + 17 candidate NGOs + 5 others)

- *Reinforce the ethical basis of the EU* (**Develop education and give it more room for manoeuvre by liberating it from governmental tutelage (see VIVANT's 2003 Programme)**)

- *Reaffirm human rights in the EU (VIVANT's philosophy is that human beings and their environment should be at the centre of all undertakings. The organisation of society is at the service of its citizens and not the contrary; Citizens are responsible for their own lives and happiness; People are not objects: they are not limited to the sole functions of consumer or worker; Women and men are human beings, deserving respect under all circumstances; The economic system and financial institutions are not ends in themselves, nor do they represent « superior values »: they are at the service of individuals. (From VIVANT's 2003 Programme.)*
- *Pay particular attention to human rights and to conflict prevention (Recognising the right of all to an unconditional Basic Income may be one way among others of preventing individual and collective conflicts.)*
- *Promotion of a more equitable world order (... through guaranteeing a minimum spending power through a Basic Income.)*

7) Associations and Labour Unions of the Collective for Citizenship and Fundamental Rights – CCDF (29 associations)

- *Create a more democratic, transparent and efficient EU (VIVANT argues in favour of democracy constructed on the basis of citizen participation.)*
- *Define and distribute competences in the EU*
- *Simplify the instruments of the EU (VIVANT appeals for administrative simplification.)*

8) European Network Against Racism – ENAR

- *Respect the fundamental principles of the European Charter of fundamental rights*
- *Affirm dignity, freedom and equality (See “VIVANT'S PHILOSOPHY” below. *)*
- *Recognise the residents who live and work in the city and participate in the life of the city (VIVANT argues in favour of granting an unconditional Basic Income to foreigners residing legally, of accepting a quota of economic refugees and of enabling popular participation by referenda.)*

9) Eurocrats (105 towns in Europe and elsewhere)

- *Pursue economic and social cohesion (VIVANT's programme makes it possible to have both freedom of enterprise and greater social security.)*
- *Pursue durable development (VIVANT argues for a durable mode of human development made possible by abolishing tax on work, which measure will revive employment, and by providing a minimum purchasing power. The measures taken together will enable the economy to get rolling again. In addition, the tax on consumption (TOC) that VIVANT also proposes will discourage the consumption of fossil energy in favour of the use of renewable energy sources.)*
- *Guarantee access to services of general economic interest, in the interests both of individual citizens and of territorial and social cohesion (VIVANT is in favour of a “European label” for consumables and also for work, which will be rendered flexible through the liberty of choice introduced.)*

10) Council of the Municipalities and Regions of Europe – CCRE

- *Encourage the principle of local democracy, clearly expressed in the European Council's Charter on local autonomy, emphasised and accepted (VIVANT proposes a participative budget at the municipal level and argues in favour of the resurgence*

of local markets through the abolition of tax on work. Untaxed work would be a disincentive for businesses' migrating.)

- *Provide for consultations and partnerships (The principle of referenda answers this demand.)*

11) European Federation of Active Women in the Home – FEFAF

- *Recognise the value of work carried out in family care and education (For VIVANT, this right can be granted recognition by introducing an unconditional Basic Income for all, which allows the mother or father of the family to stay at home for the education of their (young) children. The Basic Income allows the couple to choose for itself. Further, VIVANT is in favour of introducing a yearly school cheque for each student and a Basic Income of €400 for students between 18 and 25 years of age to take effect immediately by reorganising, in Belgium, the study grant system.)*
- *Recognise non remunerated work carried out for the good of society, human dignity and the value of work done (VIVANT's system does not discourage voluntary work, as does the present system, since the Basic Income is unconditional.)*
- *Recognise the social and economic value of voluntary work (For VIVANT, mutual trust is the source of the social capital that lies at the foundation of the economy.)*
- *Reconcile family life and professional life (This is made possible thanks to the regained freedom of choice embodied in VIVANT's programme.)*
- *Ensure the financial security of divorcees, widows, victims of violence and pensioners (... by granting them unconditionally a Basic Income.)*

12) Episcopal Commission of the European Community – COMECE

- *Create a community of values (VIVANT's values are humanist values carrying with them the greatest respect for religious and individual philosophical values.)*
- *Invite citizens to participate at all levels (VIVANT proposes a participative budget and referendum system.)*
- *Stop the gaps in the Charter concerning cloning, marriage, family, religious freedom, education and social rights (VIVANT stands in favour of popular consultation concerning these big ethical issues.)*

13) Confederation of Family Organisations of the European Union - COFACE

- *The citizen's well-being must be the ultimate objective of the Convention*
- *Take into consideration citizens' daily preoccupations, in particular those concerning family life in all its aspects (education, health, etc.)*

(VIVANT's programme offers answers in the form of an unconditional Basic Income, freedom of choice and flexibility, referenda, and its programme for education.)

14) National Assembly for the European Union – Alain Barrau

- *Introduce a distributive system for funding pensions (With VIVANT this repartition system is guaranteed by tax on consumption (TOC): workers and non-workers pay in real time for the income of workers and non-workers.)*
- *Introduce a status for students (The right to an unconditional Basic Income can be quickly put into practice for students by reorganising the grant system.)*

15) European Churches - KEK

- *Recognise the essential role played by civil society (VIVANT proposes a participative budget and referenda.)*

16) Association of Women of Southern Europe - AFEM

- *Guarantee the Union's objectives concerning fundamental rights and freedoms*
(... including the freedom of enterprise and the freedom to build one's own life.)

THE EDITORS