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“Liberate work by removing its tax burden and financesocial security by taxing the consumption of goodswhich most often are produced by machine.”

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Summary : 1. Globalisation is a Fact

2. What VIVANT Contributes to Globalisation Management

(* VIVANT-CONGO programme)

1. GLOBALISATION IS A FACT

Globalisation is a fact.

It constitutes an **opportunity** for poor countries in so far as it introduces **new types of trade**.

It is an **opportunity** for everybody because trade between peoples, in a context of **reciprocity**, promotes peace.

Well-managed globalisation must in the long term replace military power with the judicial power of a State of Law.

The envisagement of a **global parliament** and global legislation respecting regional particularities is not utopian but necessary in the face of present-day problems.

Good globalisation demands intelligent and realistic management that fights warmongers and aims for the common good.

Thus, the type of globalisation that is a problem today can be replaced by the structural socio-economic integration of individuals and particular groups into a planetary whole.

VIVANT, for its part, contributes to the endeavour by proposing, no more and no less, a better redistribution of wealth and the techniques for doing so.

In the face of the problem of the closing down and relocation of Volkswagen in Forest (Brussels),

SHOULD WE NOT :

1. Enable all those to work who want to work
2. By making the cost of work cheaper for those who want to provide work,
3. Not by lowering salaries but by eliminating tax on work?
4. Strengthen universal State-guaranteed social security?
5. Replace tax on work by social VAT?

Prices of goods would not thereby change.

Products manufactured in China, for example, would contribute to financing our pensions as much as products manufactured locally.

At present, the system of "replacement" income forces its beneficiaries into inactivity. Let us supplant it with a "basic" income, which allows complementary activity.

If work continues to be made artificially more expensive than elsewhere through taxes, our workers will remain powerless.

*« When will enough decision-makers in the big unions, in the industries, in the press and in politics realise that **a solution exists**? It is of course necessary for the European countries to work in consort for the implementation of a solution, but other European countries suffer from the same problems as does Belgium. Let us not accept this European excuse for doing nothing. **How many more social catastrophes do we have to go through before a political majority demands of Europe that it replace tax on work by a tax on the consumption of products without increasing the cost of life?**»*

(Roland Duchâtelet, president of VIVANT)

2. WHAT VIVANT CONTRIBUTES TO GLOBALISATION MANAGEMENT

a) Economic regulations:

- the introduction of a Basic Income, injecting into consumption and therefore into the real economy a monetary mass that corresponds to the sum granted by this "universal allowance" (55 billion Euros for Belgium alone), and the introduction of the Tobin tax, which, by levying 0.1% on all financial transactions (speculative or non-speculative), discourages short-term speculation and contributes to financing the Basic Income (2.5 billion Euros per year for Belgium).

- giving up all fiscal advantages that encourage production to take place in countries with weak social security, by severely reducing tax on work and replacing this with tax on the buying of industrially produced products.

- fighting against the existence of fiscal paradises. VIVANT is of the conviction that a tax that is easy to fraud is unjust, and that therefore national and international fiscal controls have to be tightened in the name of justice and economic efficacy for the greatest number.

- the progressive elimination of Third World debt and the restoration of local economies by regional groupings into common markets (economic cooperation zones).

- increasing consumption in those Third World countries that desire to do so, through the introduction of a Basic Income on the level of local subsistence, paid out in cash or (in the future) in electronic money, in order to encourage local exchange

and local economies through increased spending power. In this way, dependence on external loans will be lessened as a greater freedom to do business locally will strengthen poor nations' economies. (* VIVANT-CONGO Programme)

- using new parameters in order better to manage the world-wide economy. One of these new parameters, apt to contribute to the management of the equilibrium between supply and demand of work, is the Basic Income. In effect, when there is too little demand for work, the amount of the Basic Income is not increased; when there are too many people looking for work, the amount of the Basic Income is increased (which obviously implies that there be sufficient financial reserves to do so).

b) Ecological regulations:

a targeted consumption tax that encourages durable and non-polluting energy sources and environment-friendly activity on the part of citizens.

c) Economic and social regulations:

* VIVANT, by the introduction of a Basic Income *in as many countries as possible*, favours freedom of enterprise and the development of legislation that combines the universal allowance with the principle of a nationally and internationally guaranteed minimum wage according to the real needs of the countries or regions of the planet. The Basic Income would therefore not necessarily be same in Africa and in Europe, for example.

* VIVANT rejects company subsidies, either for moribund or for non-moribund businesses, and favours the legal regulation of regional initiatives apt to maintain or increase common wealth.

* VIVANT is in favour of a public service necessary for the activities of society but stripped of all bureaucratic impediments. Without railway and road networks, for example, or without hospitals, a country cannot meet its fundamental needs for mobility and medical treatment. For VIVANT, the maintenance of such networks in a healthy economy is a basic requirement that has to be safeguarded.

d) Political regulations :

Through the introduction of its macro-economic system, VIVANT aims to put in place a policy making it possible to realise the good of the greatest number.

Introducing a Basic Income and taxing consumption is foremost a political decision and a democratic move, rendering these two pillars essential.

Economists have the task of polishing up things in order to regulate both regional economies and the global exchange on the principle of respect for culture and for our ecological heritage.

e) Cultural regulations :

VIVANT favours the development of culture with the aim of enhancing each individual's self-development. VIVANT's programme envisages the possibility of continuous education and describes a system of yearly school cheques for young people and for adults on benefit.

* VIVANT-CONGO programme

Measure I: Introduction of a Basic Income Paid Out by the Congolese State

Every woman of at least 20 years of age with secondary education will be entitled to a basic income. To begin with, the basic income will amount to 100,000 Congolese Francs (€ 200) per year.

Measure II: Proscription of Tax on Work

Measure III: Introduction of Consumption Tax on Goods

Measure IV: Development of the State's Resources

Measure V: Introduction of Electronic Payment Systems

Electronic payment is perfectly possible by means of **mobile phones and the Internet**. In the case of mobile phones, the user's account with the service provider can function as a sort of bank account. Payments can be made according to instructions given by phone, e.g. using SMS.

The user can look at his/her "bank account" via the mobile phone. It is also possible to do this via computer, using a password and an Internet connection.

For payments using a computer and an Internet connection, it is important that programs adapted to this type of transaction are used. Such programs exist and are already in use elsewhere in the world.

With electronic payment, tax fraud can be uncovered years after the fact. In this way, **the traceability of transactions is an advantage enabling corruption of all kinds to be combated**. Paper money and coins will continue to circulate for small payments, and the State will discontinue issuing large notes.

The investment required for the introduction of electronic payment systems is small compared to the advantages such systems bring with them. The greatest advantage is that the efficiency of the payments made by the State or by companies to suppliers or employees is increased, as the risk of their landing in the wrong hands is eliminated.

The only obstacle is therefore the investment. Greater efficiency of economic exchange demands greater efficiency of communication, and a mobile telephone communications network is indispensable for the development of Congo's national economy. This fact reduces the investment obstacle.

To put the plan into practice, the Congolese State should organise a call for tender to international banks and operators for the introduction and management of electronic payment systems. **This can be made to happen within two years** of the government's approving the plan.

If Congo proposes a viable economic plan of this kind, it is highly probable that the international community will take an interest in the initiative.

If Congo's economy develops, the Congolese subjects with a "bank account" will become as valuable as the inhabitants of Bulgaria, Rumania or the Ukraine. This value is expressed when an existing bank buys out a local bank for a high price.

We think that four types of companies could be interested in the project: banks, telecommunications operators, big Internet companies (such as EBay, Google, Microsoft or Yahoo) and big retail companies (such as Carrefour or Wal-Mart). There is a large market share of account holders at stake. If, for example, the Congolese State proposes in its call for tender an operating licence of, say, five years to two or three different operators, this would allow each one of them to have a large market share in the future Congolese banking market, and banks wanting to start up in the Congo would later find it difficult to gain a share of the market.

Tenders should concern:

- a. land **coverage** (by investing in reception and transmission systems for mobile phones and the Internet);
- b. **price charged** per transaction (which must be very low);
- c. any fixed **subscription charges**;
- d. **price** of equipment (mobile phones, computers).

Measure VI: Introduction of "Certificates of Payment" and "Certificates of Receipt"

(This measure precedes the introduction of electronic payments, which render it redundant in the form described below.)

Measure VII: Encouragement of Development Immigration

Like the USA, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries, Congo has the potential to receive immigrants who can contribute to the country's development through their talents, their skills and their financial investments.

Where to start implementing the VIVANT-CONGO Programme?

The aim of the PRPC – Vivant Programme is to introduce to the Congo a **consumption tax**, an **unconditional basic income** and participative democracy (referendum, popular consultation ...)

To achieve this aim a series of preparatory measures have first to be undertaken :

1. To set up a functioning and effective system of **taxation** ... pending the introduction of electronic money, which will be a better tool for tracing movements of money.

This implies making an inventory of wealth in the country (circulation of goods, imports and exports) and a reliable survey of citizens' incomes. The electoral roll consequent to the population census may serve as a basis.

To apply the taxes provided in the Programme to this wealth.

2. To organise an international **tender process** for progressively introducing **electronic money** – first in a limited area that will serve as a pilot.

3. To take in hand Federal payments to the provinces (Rule adopted in the Constitution : 60%) and State public sector salaries (civil servants, teachers, armed forces ...)

4. The **democratic organisation of village resources** in communal cooperatives, where each adult is a “shareholder” in the communal resources and participates in decision-making (participative democracy) plus the development of micro-credit systems (financed by the Province among others?).

Such participative democracy will bring together people from different ethnic groups to work on shared projects and support **social cohesion**.

5. To set up without delay a **financial authority** (an independent commission for financial and budgetary control).

The commission should report regularly to the legislature with the aim of improving legislation and to the judiciary to take any necessary steps.