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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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1. Premier Guy Verhofstadt 's talk on the "2006 Manager of the year" price reception, Brussels on 10 January 2007

(...) The Belgian National Bank, OCDE and FMI reports clearly show the main reasons of our superior economical growth, i.e a consistent policy carried on for eight years, based on four pillars: **(i)** charge reductions; **(ii)** increases of purchase power; and **(iii)** focused reforms; sustained by **(iv)** healthy public finances.

(...) Taxes are decreasing, especially on labour.

(...) The more taxes are reduced, the more jobs are created and the more public incomes increase.

(...) However we must all look beyond the years 2007 and 2008. The world is mutating. We are moving fast toward a "**horizontal economy**". We are currently living in a transition period which leads from a vertical industrial economy to a horizontal information economy. This evolution will collapse most subdivisions and hierarchies that we are used to know.

(...) The public power should eliminate the **vertical hurdles**, the first of them being the **labour taxes**. This burden in our country is one of the **heaviest in the world**. Although we have reduced it in the last years, these efforts look like droplets in the sea. This is because the public incomes

mostly arise from the labour, which is not fair. **Labour is indeed the main source of wealth.**
Therefore we are exporting jobs instead of goods.

This is why I am asking for a **radical slip of charges**, from the labour to **products or pollution**. This would make imported products efficiently contribute to our social security, and in the same time, improve our locally-produced goods competitiveness.

The slip of taxes from labour to pollution, economically justified, would preserve our ecological heritage to the future generations.

2. 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