

ANNEX

Definition of Unconditional Basic Income

Unconditional Basic Income (UBI) shall not replace the welfare state but rather complete and transform the same from a compensatory into an emancipatory welfare state.

Emancipatory Unconditional Basic Income is defined by the following four criteria:

Universal: UBI is paid to all, without means test. It is not subject to income, savings or property limits. Every person, irrespective of age, descent, citizenship, place of residence, profession etc. will be entitled to receive this allocation. Thus, we claim a EU-wide, guaranteed, unconditional basic income.

Individual: Everyone – every woman, every man, every child – has the right to UBI on an individual basis as this is the only way to ensure privacy and to prevent control over other individuals. UBI will be independent of marital status, cohabitation or household configuration, or of the income or property of other household - or family members. This enables individuals to make their own decisions.

Unconditional: As a human and legal right UBI shall not depend on any preconditions, whether an obligation to take paid employment, to demonstrate willingness-to-work, to be involved in community service, or to behave according to any gender roles.

High enough: The amount should provide for a decent standard of living, which meets society's social and cultural standards in the country concerned. It should prevent material poverty and provide the opportunity to participate in society. This means that the net amount of UBI should be above the at-risk-of-poverty level according to EU standards, which corresponds to 60% of the so-called national median net equivalent income. Especially in countries where the majority has low incomes, and therefore median income is low, an alternative benchmark (e.g. a basket of goods) should be used to determine the amount of the basic income, to guarantee a life in dignity, material security and full participation in society.

We see further criteria that make basic income an emancipatory measure:

a) UBI should be a tool to redistribute from the upper to the lower classes, especially with the help of the taxation of capital, wealth, and high incomes.

b) There are certain groups of persons with additional or special needs who should therefore be eligible for special support, in addition to UBI – such as for example, sin-

gle parents, pregnant women, handicapped people with chronic illnesses.

c) UBI is embedded in the extension, improvement, and democratization of existing social security systems.

d) UBI goes along with the maintenance, extension, and democratization of public infrastructure and services.

e) UBI stands in the context of the perspective of gender equality that brings about a radical redistribution of socially necessary labour (paid and unpaid) between genders. Further measures for achieving gender equality are necessary.

f) UBI is linked to concepts and social developments towards ecological sustainability.

g) UBI is embedded in a perspective for the creation of a solidarity-oriented, participatory, and co-operative society that is based on the democratization of economy and society.

h) The demand for UBI is coupled with further demands that concern employment laws, especially the radical reduction of working hours (with neither pay nor staffing-levels reduced) and minimum wages.

i) UBI releases from uncertainty and stress, it improves health and helps avoid depression, burn out and cardiovascular diseases and, thus, reduces the cost of the health care system.

As a result of current employment patterns and inadequate income maintenance systems (conditional, means-tested, not high enough, not strictly individual), we regard the introduction of UBI as essential for guaranteeing fundamental rights, especially a life in dignity, as set forth in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

Above all, UBI will help to prevent poverty and grant freedom to each individual, to determine his or her own life, and strengthen the participation of all in society.

Since UBI is not means tested, it will eliminate costly, repressive bureaucracy. As a transfer payment free of discrimination and stigmatization it will reduce social division.

UBI prevents hidden poverty and different types of poverty related illnesses.

UBI brings about social freedom, helps citizens to identify with the EU and ensures their political rights. It supports the realisation of fundamental rights, in particular those described in Art. 1, 2, 5, 6, 15, 21, 34 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU (see also TEU: Art. 2, Art. 3 and TFEU: Art. 4, Art. 5, Art. 156). The

introduction of UBI and possible steps leading to it are within the respective areas of responsibility of the Member States of the EU. There exist many studies showing different ways of financing UBI. We do not suggest any specific one in this ECI.

UBIE argues that there is scope for further EU action in the field of minimum income protection and of ensuring the decent life for all if the EU acts as a complementary welfare layer which supports and complements the activities of its Member States. Different forms of overcoming the social disparities across Member States are discussed, for example the introduction of a European public health, public pension and unemployed insurance, an Eurodividend and a basic income for all children or pensioners in EU – in order to reduce poverty and income inequalities, and redress excessive economic and social imbalances.

The Eurodividend, defined as a strictly individual, universal and unconditional and complementary (non-replacing) income for all people in EU, would be an effective mechanism to support national welfare models by enforcing social rights in a non-intrusive fashion, leaving room for national arrangements of social solidarity according to historical, cultural and political traditions.

Zeichen ohne Leerzeichen: **4.986**