

## Emergency Call for Unconditional Basic Income throughout the EU

to:

- the European Parliament and MEPs and the European Commission
- the ECB & National banks outside the eurozone
- National Governments and Members of Parliament \

### The Call

1. We call on the European Institutions and Member States for coordinated measures to support the immediate introduction of a Unconditional Basic Income throughout the European Union in response to the Covid-19. [1]

### Why are we calling for this?

2. Covid-19 has caused a world-wide crisis in health, society and the economy.
3. Whilst they are welcomed, current emergency measures leave many gaps and are complicated to administer. Many people in need are not being reached.
4. We need new and imaginative political measures to support society and the economy and to allow all individuals to survive and live in solidarity.
5. One of these measures is an Unconditional Basic Income (UBI): Unconditional Basic Income (UBI) is an amount of money, paid on a regular basis to each individual unconditionally and universally, high enough to ensure a material existence and participation in society. The amount in each country would be related to its own circumstances and would be set with reference to an agreed measure, such as the median income or poverty line. The concept of a Unconditional Basic Income is well established and has support from a wide range of experts.
6. Whilst the Covid-19 crisis is a catalyst to introduce a UBI, we see this as a permanent measure to allow our societies to cope with and recover from this crisis and to develop and thrive in the future, noting in particular the challenges posed by the climate crisis, care crisis and automation.
7. When the Covid-19 crisis is over, the operation of a UBI can be reviewed.
8. It is noted that the USA, the UK and many other countries are proposing to introduce UBI-like measures.

### How to finance this

9. In the current crisis, Central Banks can deploy emergency monetary policy measures to finance this, in particular the use of 'helicopter money'. In normal times, a Unconditional Basic Income can be financed through a combination of different taxation and monetary policy.

[1] More than 500 political figures and academics globally have called for universal basic income in the fight against coronavirus: <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/letters/coronavirus-universal-basic-income-ubi-poverty-economy-business-migrants-a9408846.html>. About 150.000 persons signed the petition for an emergency unconditional basic income for the EU up to now: <https://you.wemove.eu/campaigns/emergency-basic-income>