



Statement of support for the European Citizens' Initiative for an Unconditional Basic Income

We, the undersigned, support the European Citizens' Initiative for an Unconditional Basic Income because we believe a new form of social security is urgently needed:

- 1) As a result of the economic crisis, an estimated 120 million people in the EU – one in four adults and over one in four children – are experiencing or are at risk of poverty, insecure job contracts are becoming more widespread and work conditions are worsening;
- 2) As social security systems in individual countries become increasingly conditional and punitive, they undermine individual dignity, form barriers to civic participation and deepen divisions in European society both across and within national borders;
- 3) As austerity policies curtail government services in countries across Europe, the burden of unpaid labour needed to keep families and communities together falls heaviest on women - all should be able to make a positive choice to care for friends and relatives without fear of poverty;
- 4) Unconditional Basic Income is a far simpler form of social security than those currently in place. **As required by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, a basic income** would maintain citizens' fundamental rights to personal dignity and privacy, while encouraging solidarity, civic participation **and creativity**;
- 5) **Everywhere in Europe**, the unconditional Basic Income would encourage further integration of people within and between nations, help balance income disparities and mitigate the social and racial tensions caused by economic migration;
- 6) Unconditional Basic Income could encourage ways of living which have less impact on the environment;
- 7) Unconditional Basic Income needs further study **and experiments** to prove its practicality and to explore different models for its implementation.

Therefore, we urge all citizens to join us in supporting this initiative as an important step towards the creation of a Europe in which all have an equal opportunity to fulfill their potential together.

Unconditional Basic Income would transform social security from a compensatory system into an emancipatory system, one that trusts people to make their own decisions, and does not stigmatise them for their circumstances. Unconditional Basic Income is universal, paid to each individual unconditionally and enough to ensure a dignified existence with full participation in society.