

**RES-4**

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Concerning: 3) Policy Papers

**Motion for the Federation of Young European Greens policy and action on basic income**

1 With notion to Federation of Young European Green's values of green social  
2 economy and in light of our 2008 Resolution on Basic Income, we, the member  
3 organisations of FYEG, demand a European basic income to protect Euro-  
4 pean's social rights. Taking action for this matter is more important than  
5 ever, especially in the light of the economic crisis.

6 Poverty eradication & adapting to the new situation in working life

7 With technical development taking faster pace and work relationships being  
8 completely changed, there is no going back to traditional working life. Also in  
9 light of the economic crisis and austerity policy, Europe must provide economic  
10 guarantees for its nationals to live and support themselves.

11 European social policies must live in their time and change to suit better to  
12 the needs of the people and societies. Being an income that is unconditional  
13 and received by everyone, the basic income is the answer. The basic income  
14 would make it always useful to work but when the work ends, no one would  
15 be left without any support. In times of short-time employments this would  
16 make working always beneficial. The basic income would also make it easier  
17 to start own business by not having to worry how to support oneself in case of  
18 failing or not succeeding immediately. In this sense, the basic income would  
19 help poverty-eradication.

20 More work and less poverty would also help the European economy. By sup-  
21 porting its citizens, Europe could lift itself from the economic crisis. The basic

22 income is a great alternative for austerity. The amount of income must though  
23 be suited to national income level in each member state, this to make sure that  
24 member states could not use basic income to lower the level of social security.  
25 At present, a common European level could lead to too low level of social  
26 security in countries with high level of prices.

#### 27 Benefiting the youth

28 Basic income would also benefit the youth. It would provide income during  
29 the time of studying and after it, making sure that it is always advantageous  
30 to study without having to worry about working at the same time to support  
31 oneself. The basic income would also give the freedom to choose how one  
32 wants to live. The youth rarely have a clear image of what they want to do in  
33 life. The basic income would make sure that one can have a change of heart,  
34 change what one studies, where one lives and re-educate oneself later in life.  
35 The basic income would also provide youth more flexible job opportunities,  
36 would make part-time working easier and give youth better opportunities to  
37 get into working life.

38 Our policy paper on green social economy (2008) defines the basic income as  
39 following: ‘We conceive Basic Income as a powerful tool in order to promote  
40 a green concept of economy. We understand basic income as an unconditional  
41 and periodic social benefit paid to all members of the society, regardless of  
42 their citizenship, on an individual basis. The amount should be big enough  
43 to cover the average basic needs of an individual.’ The basic income should  
44 be one of our European core instruments in poverty eradication and enabling  
45 people to freely choose their way of life.

#### 46 Implementation

47 On these premises and our already accepted FYEG policies, we feel that our  
48 and the federation’s stand is clear. FYEG member organisations may have  
49 different positions concerning the question and should have a right to take a  
50 separate stance on the issue. Member organisations should be given a chance  
51 to participate in discussion concerning the matter, albeit they should not feel  
52 to be politically bound to policies they cannot accept.

53 We call upon the federation’s executive board and relevant working groups  
54 to

- 55 1. Facilitate and encourage on the matter within the federation and member  
56 organisations.

- <sup>57</sup> 2. Actively promote and campaign for basic income in European, member  
<sup>58</sup> states' , EU and international platforms.

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