

On your next CSSS-E session: "Per un reddito di base incondizionato"

(Open letter)

Madam Council of States, Mr. Council of States,

We write as suggested by your President, the Council of States **Mrs. Liliane Maury Pasquier**, about the initiative for an unconditional basic income (RBI) placed on the agenda of your next meeting.

The National Council has previously swept the initiative by not based in substance that the incomplete message from the Federal Council, the latter having itself given exclusively in the opinion of [SECO](#), without requiring him a real technical study and discarding all the interest in consultation phase by the [FSIO](#). Before you make your decision and on behalf of people who signed the initiative, we ask you respectfully to read the following condensed information and our extensive information pack.

• **What is UBI?**

This is a monthly allowance paid individually and unconditionally to each person, which must be sufficient to lead a dignified life and to participate in public life. The amount, currently estimated at CHF 2'500, shall be determined by the implementing legislation. It replaces the share of income needed to cover basic needs. Compared to now, in most cases, there is thus no additional income.

• **Why UBI?**

Our system is based on the assumption of full employment. But today, the economy and the production are transformed dramatically, thanks to the advancement of robotics and exchanges enabled by the Internet. The production value is gradually decouples of human labor as the economy is heavily financialized. Therefore, the real unemployment (insurance + end of rights) is constantly increasing. A growing number of people whose only problem is that their activity is not sufficiently remunerated activity must apply for social assistance, with all the sacrifices that this implies in terms of dignity, social inclusion and fundamental rights having to put their bare life to justify the need for assistance.

• **Is UBI a good solution?**

By removing the trap effect of conventional social benefits, it supports the professional integration and approaches the tax credit system practiced in other countries. It allows to simplify and make more effective our social state, replacing many other benefits and removing its control function. It protects the middle class, the family, and encourages and supports domestic consumption.

• **Is UBI possible?**

Unlike the prejudice that the UBI could lead to the ruin of the country, it argues at contrary the gains in productivity as companies decouples their labor remuneration of their participation in the economic life of the population. They will be able to organize their need work more flexibly and rely on more sincerely motivated employees than by their unique need of survival. The UBI also brings economic conditions for entrepreneurship. Most people do not love to do nothing or to resign themselves to a minimal income. The only condition necessary to ensure employability desire is to choose a funding

model that allocate sufficient load gradually, unlike the nonsense model that the Federal Council is only one to offer and on which he based all his negative conclusions. **Sergio Rossi, Professor, Chair of Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics from the University of Freiburg**, said meanwhile that "If the amount of UBI is equivalent to the cost of a modest existence according to the standards currently in force, funding is possible today without the risk of inflation, as this economic basis is already provided for most in Switzerland".

About migratory pressure, the attractiveness of Switzerland is now already at the maximum, we can't logically fear further increases with the UBI. Immigration may therefore be regulated as now. It is nevertheless possible to provide a waiting period before new entrants will benefit from the unconditional aspect. And by that the UBI is concretely applied in Switzerland, it will probably already introduced in several European countries. Indeed, **the Council of Europe will consider a resolution in favor** and already some countries, like the **Netherlands** and **Finland**, have already passed the experimental phase.

- **What are the risks with the initiative?**

It is not, today to introduce the principle in our Constitution. The initiators and signatories give you confidence to you, the Parliament, to put into practice later in the most reasonable and profitable as possible for our country. There is therefore no way to sweep overnight our current institutions, but to study the possible implementations, performing tests, the phase in accordance with the schedule inspired by the changing economic conditions and social. It is even possible that in the absence of political consensus, the application of UBI could be delayed long term, as has already been the case with other constitutional principles introduced in the past. The risk is thus not to accept the principle but to prohibit the opportunity to study its implementation and deprive our country of resources to adapt to rapidly changing conditions in the global economy.

In conclusion, we propose you to vote in favor of the initiative or if your conviction is not yet done, for a warrant for the missing technical study.

Thank you for your reading and praying accept, Madam Council of States, Mr. Council of States, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Ralph Kundig

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Co-Chairman of the [Swiss campaign for UBI](#)
Chairman of [BIEN-Svizzera](#)
Coordinator of [Génération-RBI](#)

INFORMATION :

Information file [Detailed information dossier](#) (FR, available soon in English too)



[Press kit](#) (in French)