



Mr. Jean Bastin



# Microinsurance

An alternative for the 21st century  
In the South and the North

Conference

Brussels 20 June 2014



Access to insurance cover is more and more referred to as a fundamental right.

Insurance is a prerequisite for the exercise of an (economic) activity, when the insurance cover is compulsory.

Even when it is optional, insurance offers a tool for sustainable poverty alleviation where it supports the economic (re)activation of the poor, both in the third and in the fourth (western) world.

The public deficit triggered a general trend towards privatization, also of social security. Yet supply and demand are not matched on the private insurance market : on the one hand insurance cover is often not accessible to the poor, mainly due to its cost and on the other hand the insurance industry is always interested in untapped niches of potential demand.

“Microinsurance” may offer an affordable alternative for traditional insurance cover.

Microinsurance is far less renown than its more advanced sister concept of “microfinance” in development economics.

Microinsurance requires a suitable regulatory framework in various respects : product design, contract law, prudential and supervision regime, distribution techniques, etc.

The conference intends to expand on the concept of microinsurance, to illustrate its potential, and to examine the prerequisites for its operation.

**Programme :**

02.00 PM

**Introduction by the conference chairman**

Prof. Dr. Em. Herman COUSY  
Catholic University of Louvain

02.05 PM

**Opening address**

Mr. Alexander de CROO,  
Deputy prime minister  
Federal minister of pensions

02.15 PM

**Microinsurance : an alternative for the 21<sup>st</sup> century ?**

Prof. Dr. Kristiaan BERNAUW,  
Director Institute of Transport and Insurance Law  
Faculty of Law, University of Ghent

03.00 PM

**The South African Experience**

Prof. Dr. Daleen MILLARD  
Department of Private Law  
Faculty of Law, University of Johannesburg

03.45 PM

**Coffee Break**

04.15 PM

**Panel discussion :  
perspectives of different stakeholders**

**- The policy and law maker**

Prof. Karel VAN HULLE  
Catholic University of Louvain  
and International Center for Insurance Regulation (Frankfurt)  
Former Head of Unit Insurance and Pensions  
DG Internal Market and Services, European Commission (Brussels)

**- The regulator/supervisor**

Mrs. Marike KOMEN BRADY  
Executive Director  
Access 2 Insurance Initiative  
International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS)

**- The insurance industry**

Mr. Hans DE CUYPER  
Former CEO AGEAS in Malaysia

**- The development agency**

Mr. Craig CHURCHILL (by video-conference)  
ILO (International Labour Organisation)  
Microinsurance Innovation Facility

- **The NGO / non profit support organisation**  
Mr. Bert OPDEBEECK  
Microinsurance programme coordinator  
BRS (Belgian Raiffeisen Foundation)

05.00 PM

**Closing remarks by the conference chairman**

05.15 PM

**Reception**

**Venue :**

Palais des Academies  
Rue Ducale 1  
B-1000 BRUSSELS  
Belgium  
tel.: +32 (0)2 550.23.23  
fax: +32 (0)2 550.23.25  
e-mail: [info@kvab.be](mailto:info@kvab.be)

**Registration and further information :**

Please confirm your attendance to :

Institute for Transport and Insurance Law  
Department of Business Law  
Faculty of Law  
University of Ghent,  
Universiteitstraat nr. 4  
B-9000 GHENT  
Belgium  
Phone : +32-9-264 68 15  
Fax : +32-9-264 69 87  
e-mail : [kris.bernauw@ugent.be](mailto:kris.bernauw@ugent.be)

(Your ID data will be recorded in a data base, you are entitled to consult and correct).

**Registration fee**

Participation in the conference is free of charge

**Certification**

The conference is recognized as permanent education by

- Orde van Vlaamse Balies
- Ordre des Barreaux Francophones

## **Event**

The conference is the inaugural event of a longer term research project under a grant from the Fondation Européenne des Fondations (Grand Duchy of Luxembourg) and under the scientific supervision of the Universities of Ghent and Johannesburg.

## **Publication**

A salable publication containing the research project findings and the conference speakers' presentations will be issued later on by Kluwer.

## **Fondation**

The “Fondation Européenne des Fondations” is a non profit organisation founded by the late Mr. Jean BASTIN (1911-2005) promoting scientific legal research on non-performance of financial commitments and its remedies.