



CONGRESS OF VILLEURBANNE

# AND IF WE RETHINK OUR IDEAS FOR FRANCE ?

Rethinking :

- work and the (re)distribution of resources,
- democracy and our Constitution,
- justice and the protection of individuals,
- education and culture,
- social-ecology.

THE FIRST AND FIRST SIGNATORIES

BOTELLA Laure, JAUNEAU Elodie, MALAUSSENA François, MOREAU Augustin

# INTRODUCTION

For several months now, a plethora of articles have been published on a single application on the left. Various personalities are tested, analyses on who would be best placed are published. Regardless of who is being tested, one thing in common: a lack of introspection and ideas to carry.

We are from the left, we do not want a new Macron / Le Pen and that should be enough for our union. But what battles, what program to defend? Why do we want to win the presidential election in 2022? Is defeating Macron and Le Pen really a sufficient objective to win?

In 2017, abstention exceeded 25% in the first round of the presidential election, reaching the highest rate we have ever seen. Worse, in the municipal elections, it exceeded 55% in the first round and approached 60% in the second round. Is the health crisis to blame? Not really, since the abstention rate was mainly due to young people, and not to the elderly, who are more at risk. It reached 72% among 18-34 year olds, perpetuating the trend of their lack of interest in our elections.

Our compatriots are demanding more democracy and decision-making power, but are turning away from our political system or, worse, turning to populist responses. Voters should adapt? Or is it up to politicians to come up with strong new ideas to engage them?

Through this thematic contribution, we, activists of the Socialist Party, wish to initiate the debate on strong ideas starting from 5 of the topics that make up the DNA of our commitment.

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Without doubt, the 5 axes proposed for each one will not meet with unanimous approval. No doubt they will create disagreements among socialists. So much the better! At least let's finally debate ideas!

Socialism and humanism have always been about ideals and hope. These are the utopias towards which we wish to move. Isn't that, after all, the purpose of a congress?

# RETHINKING WORK AND THE (RE)DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

1

Reduce working hours to 4 days a week, accompanied by an increase in the minimum wage and the number of RTTs. This reduction will make it possible to promote and encourage associative, political or union involvement. Same objective for young people: the SNU will be abolished and replaced by a participation in the associative life during one year.

2

Reforming our pension system, with an improvement of the pensionable earnings account and a great revaluation of the pensions of spouses-collaborators. Our priorities will focus on women, farmers and precarious workers.

3

To set up a basic income from the age of 18, without job search conditions and with automaticity putting an end to the rate of non-use (30% for the RSA). Projects have been put forward by several people from the SP, such as the Basic Income for Socialist Members of Parliament or Romain Pigenel's REAL. Let's also think about a negative tax system, as part of a global tax reform.

4

To rethink income tax, by reducing the taxes of the most modest and increasing those of the richest. Expatriates must pay their taxes in France or be liable for a flat-rate tax. Put an end to the marital quotient and revise the brackets so that single people do not pay more taxes than couples already sharing the burden.

# RETHINKING WORK AND (RE)DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES (CONTINUED)

**5**

Reforming succession, as proposed by C. Pires-Beaune, B. Vallaud and H. Saulignac (socialist parliamentarians). Succession should be based on the individual who inherits, with the inheritance coming from grandparents, a brother, aunt or friend. A maximum exempt amount and a progressive tax above it would limit the transmission of large fortunes.

# RETHINKING DEMOCRACY AND OUR CONSTITUTION

1

Lowering the civic majority to 16 years of age, for the right to vote as well as for the driver's license, and making education compulsory until the age of 18, in order to fight against the social determinism that pushes young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to look for a job when those from more affluent backgrounds continue their studies.

2

To put an end to the current functioning of the presidential election, which allows to win the most important election with 18% of the registered voters. To get out of the "useful vote" by banning political polls three months before an election. Failing to adopt a parliamentary regime like most of the world, we want a rebalancing of power. With a single term for the President of the Republic (of 7, 8 or 9 years), we will put an end to the perpetual electoral campaign. Against the current trend of anti-parliamentary discourse, strengthen the control of the executive by Parliament by increasing their numbers, developing their powers (right of visit and referral, chairmanship of commissions assigned to the oppositions, etc.) and their operating budget (number of collaborators, etc.).

3

Reinforce the duties and rights of elected officials. Outside small communes, limit the mandates in time to 2 or 3. At any territorial level, a clean criminal record with regard to physical and moral harm to persons and financial malpractice must be required to stand for election. Finally, strengthen the role of substitutes so that parliamentarians can step aside during pregnancy, maternity/paternity leave, long illness, if she or he is under investigation, or for any reason deemed necessary.

# RETHINKING DEMOCRACY AND OUR CONSTITUTION (CONTINUED)

4

Promote the use of the shared initiative referendum (RIP), with lower thresholds to trigger it. Set up a reverse RIP, at the initiative of our compatriots, with identical criteria. This RIP would remain conditioned on Article 11 of the Constitution (topics relating to the organization of public authorities, economic, social or environmental reforms and public services) and may concern a reform that is currently underway. To avoid abuses, we propose that the same referendum can only be held once per term of office, and that it would be impossible for Parliament or the Government to legislate in the opposite direction of a referendum that has been adopted.

5

Reviewing departmental competences, with a simplification of the administrative mille-feuille, and a better organization of living areas, cities and regions. Encourage and facilitate mergers of municipalities.

# RETHINKING THE JUSTICE OF PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS

1

One billion against violence against women, if not nothing. During the health crisis, €1 billion a day was found to support the economy. We are asking for a single day. This budget, estimated by the associations, is intended to implement an interministerial reform (education, training, job creation, etc.). We are talking here only about violence against women, and not about the budget allocated to the Ministry of Women's Rights, which would come in addition.

2

Put an end to the criminalization of crimes, provided for in the law of March 9, 2004. 80 percent of rape trials would be tried in a correctional court, rather than an assize court. Numerous facts show us that this is also the case for rapes of minors, judged as sexual assault (with victims aged 10, 11, or 12 considered to have consented to the report). If the age of consent threshold poses a constitutional problem, the end of the criminalization of crimes would allow victims to have the trial to which they are entitled.

3

Reduce the scope of pre-trial detention. In a rule of law, the presumption of innocence must prevail and persons presumed innocent have no business being held in prison. Rethink prison sentences in general. Is prison a punishment or a protection? Should it not be reserved only for individuals who are dangerous to others? Favor alternative sentences as soon as possible, with the deployment of electronic bracelets and judicial follow-up for offences. This will also free up resources to improve prison conditions, in terms of health and humane conditions.

# RETHINKING THE JUSTICE OF PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS (CONTINUED)

4

Rethink the legislation on cannabis consumption, even legalize it with state control. This would help to avoid parallel trade, and to shift the money we use today for repression towards prevention. Carry out real prevention campaigns on drugs and addictions, whatever they are: cannabis as alcohol. Carry out the same campaign of prevention and taxation on alcohol as on tobacco.

5

Rethinking the role of the Ministry of the Interior. It is no longer possible for the Minister of the Interior to become a police union when his role should be to protect citizens. Ban police unions, as is currently the case for the military, and constitutionalize the ban on unions for the armed forces. Demilitarize the police (LBD, grenades, marking liquids, etc.) and prohibit them from bringing their service weapons home.



# RETHINKING EDUCATION AND CULTURE

1

Ending the financing of private schools, provided for by the 1959 law, or even prohibiting the private non-contractual and the private for-profit sector. Why would taxpayers' money go to enrich the private sector at the expense of the public sector? To channel the savings made towards public education: job creation, public schools with alternative pedagogy, better integration of disabled students, provision (for all students) of school supplies, etc.

2

Adapt the school to children and not to adults. To return to a 4-day week, with financial support from the town halls. It is also advisable to adapt the timetable to the chronobiological cycles of young people, who need more sleep. The ban on homework in elementary school should also be enforced, and should be adapted to all children, regardless of their level.

3

Erase social and cultural inequalities at school. School should not only be used to learn to read, write and count, but also to make students citizens. Thus, we propose that children attend (non-generic!) courses in food education, recycling, cooking, budget management, crafts, etc., as well as a real civic education course. It is not normal that some young people do not know, at the end of the baccalaureate, how to pass a law, have a balanced diet or manage a budget, when others will have had this education thanks to their parents.

# RETHINKING EDUCATION AND CULTURE (CONTINUED)

4

Make culture accessible to all, with general assemblies. Create an income-based culture pass, similar to the activity bonus, and free access every Sunday to museums and public cultural places. The regime for intermittent workers in the entertainment industry will be perpetuated and extended to precarious artistic professions. Finally, set up a system of low rent for booksellers, art cinemas, record stores, etc., while supporting them in their efforts to bring them up to standard.

5

A true public audiovisual service, aimed at French men and women, including the re-establishment of a channel for the French-speaking world and Overseas France. The media chronology needs to be reviewed, and French streaming offers reinforced (films, series or press). We will also strengthen the rights of journalists in terms of protection of sources.

# RETHINKING SOCIAL-ECOLOGY

1

Include in the Constitution the notion of the common good and recognize in law the crime of ecocide. The State must guarantee the preservation of, but also access to, common goods for all, which implies a social and ecological policy.

2

To make our voice heard on the issue of animal welfare, notably with a ban on recreational hunting (hunt with runners, glue, underground venison, etc.) Considered as a "societal" issue, or at least an "ecological" one, the issue of animal welfare is nonetheless a social issue. The organization of the exit from intensive breeding and better slaughter conditions will be a social advance for many precarious workers. Moreover, access to a balanced and quality diet is a real class issue. It is not the richest people in our country who feed on chickens raised in factories with 40,000 hens (or their eggs). This is also why we are proposing a system of food vouchers marked "local good food", promoting access to a healthier diet, particularly fresh and seasonal fruit and vegetables for the most modest people, with the long-term objective, why not, of creating "food social security".

3

Put an end to energy sieves by 2030, with a refund of up to 100% of the cost of renovation work on F and G classified housing, and by obliging condominiums to carry out the necessary insulation work. In addition, we would like to see a national deployment of recycling resources in all regions and cities.

# RETHINKING SOCIAL-ECOLOGY (CONTINUED)

4

Tax individual vehicles according to a ratio that takes into account the carbon impact, the number of tax shares and a geographical indicator of access to public transportation. Indeed, we cannot forget that a non-negligible proportion of our compatriots have no means of transportation other than the car. For tense areas, accompany the transition to soft traffic, with assistance for the territories. For others, encourage the use of public transportation, with access all night long in large cities. Finally, it is imperative to think about people with disabilities, the elderly, or even parents with strollers in our public transportation policy. If we do not have transportation that is accessible to everyone, it is essential to strengthen those that can be (buses, coaches, etc.).

5

Establish a general principle of environmental and social conditionality for all aid to companies.

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## THE FIRST AND FIRST SIGNATORIES

**BOTELLA Laure**, Secretary of the section Magny Val de Seine (95),

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**SALMAT Ghislaine**, Socialist activist (95). **GAUTHIER Stéphane**, Federal Secretary, Section Secretary (06). **DESCAMPS Ninu  **, Federal Secretary, municipal councillor (83). **LUCAS Marc**, Socialist militant (91). **PNEDA Delphine**, Full member of the National Council (75). **BARREAU V  ronique**, Socialist Activist (84). **DEVIER Jacqueline**, Federal Secretary (06). **HADZADEH Ayda**, Titular Member of the National Bureau and the National Council (95), **VIGOT Thomas**, Socialist Militant (93).