

## For a fully-fledged social and ecological Europe

The Europe that we want is part of a world vision driven by universal humanist values. We are not satisfied with a conception of Europe as an inward-looking fortress. Nor are we satisfied with a Europe unfinished with neo-liberal ideology that tolerates within itself strong and growing social and territorial inequalities.

At the global level, the pandemic is creating massive inequalities between those who have access to care and those who do not, between those who benefit from social shields and those who do not. In Europe, most of the Member States have, for the moment, partially protected their people in terms of health and economic development. The Covid crisis has nevertheless highlighted the lack of a coordinated approach within the Union and revealed worrying weaknesses in the anticipation and control of the pandemic risk. And the harshest economic and social consequences are still to come.

The suspension of the stability pact, the importance of the European recovery plan currently being negotiated, the novelty of the mechanisms involved, are all signs of a Europe on the move. It is up to us to act to bring about a new political, social, feminist, ecological and economic contract within the European institutions. For a Europe that asserts itself on the international scene, that gives itself the means to achieve its ambitions, that builds a desirable, fairer future, where we can live well together.

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## A Europe that promotes its values on the international stage

For us socialists, Europe must be built on the values of peace, law, freedom, prosperity, social welfare and solidarity. We must be uncompromising in our respect for these values within the Union, but we must also promote them in order to influence the dynamics at work at the global level.

In the face of climate sceptics and the lobbies of multinationals, we must take up the global fight against global warming, support and then go beyond the Paris Treaty and advocate a new development model.

In the face of nationalist and identity-based discourse, we defend the primacy of human rights, the need for the rule of law, the guarantee of individual liberties, and respect for women's rights.

In the face of the selfishness of states, the glorification of the law of the strongest and the destruction of the international order, we affirm the indispensability of multilateral institutions. In the face of hegemonic behavior and military threats, we want to work for mutual respect and the resolution of conflicts through peaceful means.

In the face of the negation of the other, we promote cultural plurality and multilingualism as a source of welcome, understanding and enrichment,

In short, we want Europe to dare to influence the world more.

The Common Foreign and Security Policy is an essential lever to carry and defend these values. Accelerating European cooperation in defense matters is a crucial challenge for strengthening our strategic autonomy. A better-supported European defense fund will provide significant encouragement for research, the financing of common infrastructures and the improvement of technological protection tools in the face of new threats.

On the international scene, we want a Europe :

- Which defends, at the global level, a new model of development and growth based on respect for environmental and climate constraints. At a time when the progress made at COP21 is being called into question, Europe must plead for the defense, and then the overcoming, of these commitments,
- That promotes a policy of fair exchange that fully integrates the imperative of the sustainable development, and, for developing countries, replaces the logic of the balance of power with that of partnership.
- Who seeks an international approach to migration based on benevolence.  
At a time when climate change will permanently force tens of millions of people to leave their homes, the international community cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that this is a marginal and temporary problem,
- Which initiates an area of cooperation and development based on solidarity between Europe and Africa?  
Mediterranean
- Fighting to make available to all, the medical advances and vaccines that will make it possible to overcome the Covid,
- Who fights against tax havens and refuses the extraterritoriality of the law of the United States.

Finally, the indispensable introduction of a carbon correction at the borders of the EU will be both a measure to protect our area, a future important source of the Union's own funding and an active promotion of our model. By fighting against "imported" greenhouse gases, we are forcing our partners to become more aware and strongly encourage them to reduce their own carbon footprint.

## A Europe that gives itself the means to achieve its ambitions

The financing of the European Union today depends on the contributions of the member countries. In fact, many make it a top priority to reduce their financial contribution. The resulting paralysis renders the Union powerless in the face of crises. In the face of rising inequalities and climate change, in the face of the pandemic and its economic and social consequences, in the face of the challenges of solidarity and investment, Europe must adopt a set of action plans and objectives, accepted by the States as common challenges, and for which its own resources are indispensable. It is much less a question of touching the treaties or organizing transfers of competence than of creating an agenda for cooperation within the framework of the existing Community institutions.

The trust that is essential to engage in shared structuring projects presupposes putting an end to tax competition between Member States, a never-ending race, to say the least, which only benefits large groups, sometimes European, and more often than not foreign.

The creation between the 27 member countries of a fair and efficient tax snake, the end of the unanimity rule for tax subjects, the taxation of profits where they are really made, the establishment of a common tax on large digital companies, the abolition of mechanisms allowing "aggressive tax optimization", are all necessary.

The increase in own resources must be real. The plastic tax is a small step in the right direction, but it must be followed by an ambitious financial transaction tax, the base of which would be extended to all speculative products harmful to the economic stability, and the carbon contribution mechanism at the borders.

Europe must also have increased borrowing possibilities. The Next Generation program, which will lead to the borrowing of nearly 750 billion euros on the markets, represents a paradigm shift. But this first step calls for other steps to be taken to develop the scope of the program and make it sustainable.

Finally, the austerity cope cannot be the model for the next world. The rigid criteria of the Stability and Growth Pact are now obsolete. The European semester and Europe's economic governance must have new objectives and be based on indicators that are more global than GNP, which will take into account environmental sustainability, well-being, quality of life, use of resources, inequalities, quality of jobs, etc.

The coronavirus has also plunged European banks into the red. Faced with the prospect of a health and economic crisis that would turn into a financial crisis, many prudential rules have been relaxed, whereas, on the contrary, it is a strengthening of regulation that will make it possible to reverse the deadly logic of the crisis - rescue - austerity cycle.

Having the means to achieve its ambitions also means assuming the EU's duty to protect its workers and companies. The EU's naivety towards certain unfair commercial practices of our partners must end.

## A Europe that builds a desirable future

We want to combine an integrated and regulated market with a high level of social protection from which no European is excluded, and a resolute transition towards a production and consumption that respects the planet.

Public investment to prepare for the future must involve maintaining structural policies (cohesion policy and CAP) as well as the recovery plan, which together must be at the heart of the ecological, economic and social dynamics that we want for Europe.

By finally adopting an industrial policy, Europe must strengthen its support for future or strategic sectors, particularly in the areas of renewable energies, clean transport and digital technology. Our economic sovereignty and independence depend on it. Specific attention must be paid to the sea (sustainable fishing, development of bio-resources, renewable marine energies).

To be effective, these investments must be accompanied by increased support for our industries. Competition law must be adapted so as not to hinder the emergence of world-class European champions.

The pandemic has amply demonstrated the need for a European health policy and the need to relocate some key components of the pharmaceutical industry.

Important links in the activity, the social and solidarity economy and the circular economy must benefit from an adapted European legal framework and financial support.

Finally, agriculture must be put back at the heart of the societal debate, recognizing its fundamental role in the fight against climate change and the recovery of biodiversity, which requires profound changes to the CAP while refusing its renationalization.

These policies of investment and dynamization of a new industrial fabric must go hand in hand with the implementation of a real investment agenda in human development, articulated around :

- A minimum wage in each country of the Union, in order to allow, in the long term, a European convergence,
- A plan to fight against the exploitation of the working poor and a regulation of precarious forms of employment linked in particular to the appearance of work via digital platforms,
- An unemployment reinsurance mechanism, in line with the SURE program launched in April,
- A plan to eradicate child poverty and the generalization of the youth guarantee,
- New common objectives for investment in education, research and innovation,
- The creation of a European Council for Equality and Women's Rights, and the creation of a Commissioner's post with this title.
- The continuation of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention against violence against women by all member countries and the establishment of a European observatory of women's rights,
- A European program for the reception and integration of migrants that reinforces the indispensable solidarity with the countries on the front line (Greece, Spain, Italy).

Living well together

Our European project aims to build a society focused on the quality of life, emancipation and fulfillment of the human person. In order to build public policies based on issues of autonomy and human well-being, we must rely heavily on collective approaches and public services (well-being).

### The Europe of the citizens

In order to develop civil society initiatives and coherence, Europe needs to broaden access to lifelong learning, defend the rule of law and the checks and balances that are the essence of the rule of law, uphold and develop minority and LGBTI+ rights. Sanctions procedures against European states that do not respect these principles should be more easily initiated.

Europe must support culture and the use of art, which are essential in terms of integration because they promote an encounter with the host society while at the same time enhancing one's own cultural identity.

It must reinforce the independence of NGOs, academic freedom and support the role of associations, which are the indispensable ferment of civic life and essential counter-powers in democratic life.

In order to bring the citizen closer to a political Europe perceived as distant and abstract, we want to make the European Citizens' Initiative more widely known and used. This participatory instrument <sup>1</sup>, which enables subjects to be put on the agenda of the institutions, remains little known and rather complex to implement.

Finally, let us underline the role of cities and regions in animating European citizenship, developing links between citizens across Europe, and giving concrete expression to cross-border human solidarity.

### A concrete and attainable democratic transformation

The current approach, which is still too intergovernmental and based on the pre-eminence of the European Council, takes poorly advantage of the potential of European construction and too often transforms the European project into a marathon of haggling.

We call for an institutional strengthening of the Parliament. It must be endowed with real budgetary powers and not simply with the possibility of accepting or rejecting the multi-year budget en bloc. It must share the legislative initiative with the Commission. The coercive nature of its commissions of inquiry should be strengthened.

Here too, the role of cities and regions must be strengthened. At the forefront of the deployment of EU policies, they must be involved in their governance, implementation and evaluation. Through the European Committee of the Regions, they must be even more widely consulted upstream of the preparation of Commission initiatives and contribute more to the legislative process.

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<sup>1</sup> A European Citizens' Initiative enables one million citizens from at least a quarter of the Member States of the Union to invite the European Commission to submit proposals for legal acts in areas of its competence.

Often evoked, but never realized, and in France even less than in other countries, a more transparent functioning of the Council and the Eurogroup is a necessity.

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Promised by the new Commission, but delayed due to the pandemic, the future Conference on the Future of Europe must be an opportunity to address, without taboos, all the important issues with the broad involvement of European citizens. It is under these conditions that avenues for a European construction that strengthens democratic and human rights, develops a social economy and fights for the preservation of the planet can be elaborated.

**Signatories :**

Christophe Clergeau, National Secretary for Europe, Regional Councillor for Pays de la Loire, member of the European Committee of the Regions ;

Sylvie Guillaume, Member of the European Parliament, President of the Delegation of the Social and Ecological Left in the European Parliament ;

Éric Andrieu, Member of the

European Parliament; Nora

Mebarek, Member of the European

Parliament ;

Christophe Rouillon, President of the Socialist Group in the European Committee of the Regions, Mayor of Coulaines ;

Karine Gloanec Maurin, President of the Community of Communes of Perche, Federal Secretary for Europe and Rural Affairs (41) ;

Isabelle Boudineau, Vice-President of the New Aquitaine Region, member of the European Committee of the Regions ;

Rémi Féraud, Senator of Paris, First Federal Secretary ;

François Comet, Federal Secretary for Europe and International Affairs (75) ;

Cécilia Gondard, First Federal Secretary FFE, National Secretary for Equality between Women and Men ;

Alexandre Riou, Federal Secretary for European and International Issues (76);

Jean-Marie Biliato, Federal Secretary for Europe (84) ;

Arthur Moinet (44) ;

Thomas Vaughan (31) ;

Jean Blatz (FFE) ;

Dylan Laplace Mermoud (75) ;

Céline Hervieu, Paris counselor in charge of early childhood;

Michel Gelly-Perbellini (75) ;

Gabriel Richard-Molard (FFE) ;

Arthur Colin (75) ;

Antoine Varoquié (FFE) ;

Alain Nicolaidis (75) ;

Frédéric Orain, First Federal Secretary (41) ;

Anne Shérazade Boudjadi, Federal Secretary for Europe (30);

Antoine Deza (75) ;

Catherine Lavenir (75) ;

Sylvie Fuster, Federal Secretary for Europe and International Affairs (75)

; Leinka Benacin (75) ;

Nicolas Lete (75) ;

Michel Ottaway (75) ;

Vanessa Thomas (44) ;

Jean-Pierre Gausson (75) ;

Rita Julli, Federal Secretary for Women's Rights (84) ;



Philippe Berrée, Federal Secretary for Europe (92) ;

Fabrice de Comarmond, National Secretary for Digital Transition; Sacha

Baudet (FFE) ;

Yannick Trigance, National Secretary for Education and Higher Education; Maxime

Sauvage, 1st Deputy Mayor of the 20th arrondissement of Paris.