



*CHRONICLE OF THREE
YEARS OF STRUGGLE OF
THE SOCIALIST DEPUTIES*

IN THE FACE OF MACRONIAN BETRAYAL
IN ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION MATTERS

BY BORIS VALLAUD, 17 . 04 . 2018
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CHRONICLE OF THREE YEARS OF STRUGGLE OF THE SOCIALIST DEPUTIES: FACE TO MACRONIAN LATRAHISON IN THE FIELD OF ASYLUM AND IMMIGRATION

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After the election of Emmanuel Macron against the extreme right, how much we would have liked to say, paraphrasing the words spoken by Raymond Aron about Jean-Paul Sartre in June 1979, when they were both mobilized in favor of the boat people :

"If I found myself next to Gerard Collomb, it is not because we agree politically, but because we agree in a strictly human cause . »

Alas, despite the opinion of the Council of State and the protests of associations, despite the recriminations of the churches, despite the strikes of the OFPRA and the CNDA, despite the alerts of the Defender of Rights, of the National Consultative Commission of Human Rights - CNCDH -, despite the analyses of researchers, the excitement of intellectuals, the doubts of your own friends, of your own elected officials, the Government and its majority have embarked on the path of a useless, dangerous and cynical law.

Useless, first of all. Indeed, what did we do four years ago, when thousands of asylum seekers were surviving in unworthy conditions in Calais? Together with Bernard Cazeneuve, we organized their relocation all over France, and we improved procedures and strengthened the OFPRA's resources. So it is not a new law that our country needs, but additional time and resources.

- This is the opinion of the Council of State.

Dangerous, then, because this law on asylum and immigration is entirely based on a logic of suspicion, tending to give precedence to repressive considerations to the detriment of fundamental rights. It organizes an expeditious processing of asylum applications by increasing the use of accelerated procedures. It also engages refugees in a race against time by tightening the time limits for legal recourse, with the expected result of increasing the number of rejected asylum seekers. The same doctrine tends to legitimize an unprecedented strengthening of the coercive means of confinement and removal of rejected asylum seekers. In reality, it is the right to asylum itself that is affected here. And

what can we say about the confinement of children, except that it makes us ashamed?

This bill, finally, is cynical. At the French Bishops' Conference, the President of the Republic invited us not to see *"only the frightening part of the other*. This is, however, the essence of the Government's project and the essence of what he said when he spoke of *"submerged"* regions. Would France have taken its share of the world's misery, in the words of Michel Rocard? Tunisia, without a doubt; Lebanon, most certainly; Germany did, and it was for us the honor of all of Europe; but what about us?

It was François Héran, in his inaugural lesson at the Collège de France, who responded to the silence of the impact study of the Government's bill. When Sweden granted Germany 7,000 refugee status per million inhabitants in 2016, Germany 5,400, and Austria 3,600; while the European Union granted an average of 1,393 refugee status per million inhabitants, France granted only 527. This is the truth - the truth must always be told: this is a presidential commitment that should oblige more than any other.

However, the Minister of the Interior declared a few days before the presentation of this project: *"I am afraid that if we do not resolve the problem we are facing with humanism and efficiency, others, tomorrow, will take on the task of resolving it without humanism but with a great desire for efficiency*. Humanity and firmness," he claims. But principles cannot be piled one on top of the other, nor can fundamental rights be considered *"caricatural"* or *"relative,"* as the Defender of Rights reminded the deputies of the majority of the Law Commission. We must never give in to the air of the times when the weather looks funny.

Let us remember in this respect the lesson of the great Jean-Jacques Rousseau: *"Dominion itself is servile when it depends on opinion; for you depend on the prejudices of those whom you govern by prejudices*. ». This law is unbalanced, it is flawed in its foundations; because the Dublin agreements no longer work and must be renegotiated without delay; because the Government continues to bargain in Brussels on the notion of a "safe third country" outside the European Union, which it claims to have abandoned in Paris. This law will not solve anything; it will sow the disorder it claims to overcome.

If less than 5% of men and women live outside their country, let's nevertheless admit together that the situation has changed, that thirty years of migration policies have shown their limits. Let us not deny our values. Let us listen to researchers and NGOs. Let us find an answer adapted to the 21st century and its formidable challenges. The question is a global one, so it calls for a global response. We must defend the idea of a Paris agreement on migration and an unprecedented effort by all nations in favor of development. This is the ambition that France and Europe, our great Europe, should set for itself on the occasion of the global pact for migration announced by the United Nations.

The French people *"give asylum to foreigners banished from their homeland in the cause of freedom. They refuse it to tyrants.* This is the Constitution of the First Year. It is our heritage, it is our honor, it is our duty. Let us not become accomplices in the brutalization of humanity by itself.