

For a new social contract

Towards what new social protection at the dawn of ecological and social transformation?

The health crisis of recent months shows to what extent the disengagement of the State has jeopardized the fundamentals of our social contract.

The obstacles and inequalities in access to health, education and employment have been caricatured by simple logistical issues: the number of beds available in the intensive care unit, the threshold for the number of students in the classroom, or inequalities in access to teleworking and technical unemployment in factories and offices.

Our social and democratic republic was built on values of freedom, equality and fraternity, which implies access to fundamental rights. Since the emergence of the welfare state, these fundamental rights include the right to vote, but also, and above all, the right to health care, education and work.

We socialists have been at the origin of the great reforms that have allowed the advent of a more egalitarian and protective society, but much remains to be done.

Our social protection system is today under strain, challenged not only in its functioning by the reforms of unemployment insurance and pensions, but also in its financing. As for the public service of education and higher education, its missions have been weakened by the reform of the high school and the multi-year research programming law.

In this tense political context, it is not only a question of rebuilding a social protection system inherited from the National Council of Resistance. It is a question of **weaving a new social contract that is being structure by integrating the new challenges of ecological and social transformation to restore a Common Good.**

Now, comrades, this transformation is multiple and complex. Among its multiple facets, that of ecological transformation, that of the power to live jeopardized by the digital transformation, and that of social democracy with the role of intermediary bodies.

➤ **For a social contract based on ecological transformation.**

For too long we have let people think that the ecological transition could be made by adjusting our consumer society without questioning the structures of the market model.

The Paris Accords signed in 2015 had strong ambitions (to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030 to limit global warming to 2° in 2100) but were not taken seriously by major companies because no coercive regulatory measures were put forward.

On the other hand, these same companies, aware of the image stakes, are making massive communication campaigns on the ecological transition, as shown by the examples of Danone, Renault, Total and Orange and other greenwashing enthusiasts.

So that their social and environmental responsibilities are no longer the subject of negotiation in Brussels and because it is only through taxation that the behavior of large groups will change profoundly, **we want our party to bring strong fiscal measures to tax energy-intensive companies to finance the ecological transition and the social pact.** This taxation will have to be measured according to the size of the companies so as not to penalize but on the contrary to support medium, small and very small companies already in difficulty.

➤ **For a social contract that supports the power to live**

A second facet of the problem is the technological transformation, which is increasingly more intensive in human capital as a result of the digital revolution. Hence a second paradox.

As the skill levels demanded of workers and employees by the labor market increase, equality of opportunity and access to education for all is regressing. On the one hand, the current education system, the legacy of an elitist vision of society, continues to compete with indebted grandes écoles and universities that lack resources every year. Secondly, the segmentation and evolution of the labour market excludes the less qualified workers.

Because we want an inclusive social model that guarantees equal opportunities, because young people have the right to the minimum subsistence level, because tomorrow's careers must adapt to an increasingly changing way of working and to fight against exclusion due to long-term unemployment, we propose :

- to guarantee a **basic income to young people from the age of 18 years old**
- to guarantee access to lifelong learning by establishing a **public vocational training service**
- to guarantee a job to everyone according to the **principle of the State as employer of last resort**, or more precisely by increasing the number of subsidized contracts and by the generalization of the law on territories with zero long-term unemployment.
- **promote the social and solidarity economy in the spirit of the 2014 law**

➤ **For a social contract that gives back their place to intermediary bodies**

The questioning of the role of trade unions and political parties leaves the State free to act alone, faced with individualized citizens, confined to the role of factors of production and consumption. The current government's desire to exterminate all the intermediate bodies capable of organizing citizen mobilization has greatly harmed the defense of our social system.

At a time when the need for Social Democracy is expressed more than ever, when social networks are relaying a number of demands, when the associative fabric has never been so active and when new systems of solidarity are emerging, it is necessary for the unions to regain their place.

We wish that in this new social contract is proposed :

- to promote **union involvement** by all means
- **to guarantee employees** sufficient **representation** to influence governance on the boards of directors of large companies
- to **limit wage differentials** within each company according to a scale that varies with the size of the company.

Restoring the Common Good is an ambitious task for the politics of the 21st century. The Common Good is neither rival nor exclusive, it is both a resource for one and a job for the other. It is not appropriated by an oligarchy, it is not exploited for the benefit of a privileged minority, it is not amortized to generate a rent. It is preserved for future generations, it is nourished by the work and know-how of all, it is shared according to the needs of each one, **and this is what we, together in the Socialist Party, aim to build.**

First signatories

Section PS20eme Commune de Paris

Abdelkader Slifi

Alexandra Jardin

Alexandre Martinez

Aude Lucet

Audrey Ruchet Bach

Carmen Rubia

Chantal Le Houerou

G rard Rispal

Lyes Bouhdida Lasserre

Martin Bussy

Maxime Sauvage

Noah Fl chelles

Olivier Marco

Samia Fadaoui

Sources

https://www.parti-socialiste.fr/contributions?utm_campaign=nl_08_10_2020_2&utm_medium=email&utm_source=laruchesocialist

https://www.parti-socialiste.fr/plan_de_relance_une_occasion_manqu_e

<https://www.strategie.gouv.fr/publications/evaluation-credit-dimpot-competitivite-emploi-synthesis-work-deepening>

La Mutualité Française: "Proposals of the French mutual society, Moving from saying to doing".

Bibliography

Algan and Cahuc (2007): *The Society of Mistrust*

Beaudet (2020): *Diary of a Crisis*

Duflo (2019): *Good Economics for Hard Times*

Tirole (2016): *The Economy of the Common*

Good Van Parijs (2019): *The Yunus Universal*

Allocation (2019): Towards a Three-Zero

Economy