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Globalize the struggles to unite the left and make real progress win!

Thematic contribution for the 79th PS congress in Villeurbanne on December 12 and 13, 2020

The Villeurbanne congress must be that of a new start for the Socialist Party, the demand for its own identity. If local socialism is still very much present in our cities, our departments, our regions and in the Senate, these are the last bastions of a Party which is struggling to make itself heard at the national level. "A lethargic left is in itself nonsense", said François Mitterrand. We must once again stand up proudly and firmly against the oppression and injustice that savage, anti-regulatory neoliberalism relentlessly generates on the planet and its citizens.

We must be a concrete and credible political alternative. To reconnect with citizens, we need to show tangible results, move away from unsuccessful announcements and above all, adopt exemplarity as a basic condition, renovating ambition as motivation and empathy as a driving force.

What we want to propose to the Socialist Party is a new political pact which is based on two pillars: Universalism and Internationalism.

Socialism calls for a better society, beyond the determinisms of birth. The fate of the lower classes has always been and remains at the heart of his project. The revolt of the yellow vests, but also the vast majority of the problems in the suburbs, are first of all a revolt in the face of the living conditions of certain social classes. The middle classes are not spared, the Covid crisis is not helping.

We want to extricate ourselves from a purely national debate which often ignores the European and international dimension.

The urgency is to once again exercise control over our destiny and to bring social democracy to life.

Universalism and internationalism - our fundamentals

Universalism as a method of building equality

We believe in republican universalism: everyone should have the same rights, to life and dignity, to equality because there is no stable society where the strong crush the weak.

Universalism is uncompromising and makes no exception to human dignity which must be the same for everyone, whoever they are and wherever they come from. Any de jure or de facto discrimination must be fought. These notions, along with security, are the basis of the social contract that binds the and the citizen to the state. They are transmitted through education and publicly defended by us socialists.

Universalism is the keystone of the political system we want to support. If diversity is a fact, inclusion is a choice, and that choice is the choice of the socialists. The same goes for equality between women and men and every effort must be made to turn this principle into a tangible reality and felt by all women (especially through remuneration).

Internationalism as a vehicle for eco-socialist struggles

On subjects such as respect for fundamental human rights, secularism, the fight against inequalities, ecological transformation based on cooperation, responsibility and innovation, internationalism is not only an asset, it is the first condition for the success of our struggles. Globalization and interconnection call for going beyond national borders because few of the problems encountered by citizens are totally devoid of international roots. We value mobility, but unlike the current government, it is not a mantra. It must be regulated when it promotes intolerable activities, excessive capital mobility or seriously challenges local social or ecological balances, such as the cost of housing or mass tourism.

Being an internationalist, whether you live in France or abroad, leads us to compare what works and what does not in the world. The Covid-19 crisis has shown the weakness of international institutions. States to some extent have shown some form of resilience. But this resilience is fragile and staged by governments distraught by the situation. Let us listen to citizens who expect public authorities to defend their freedoms and their security in the broad sense, that is to say economic, social, physical and legal. We socialists, who have always been in favor of a social, solidarity and environmental economy, make the European Union the lever of our fight for the world. Its economic and commercial weight and its values are an opportunity to influence international developments. This does not exclude the development of capacities for action and defense.

The European approach is also fundamental for immigration policy. The exemplary nature of the EU requires a new approach to the migration issue. The Salvini-Orban approach dominates the latest proposals from the European Commission on the migration pact. This policy does not solve anything and does not respect any dignity. Let us bet, like certain provisions of the Asylum Law of 2015, on the principle that the development of rights, properly organized, promotes efficiency. This development of rights must also be understood in the countries of emigration, it is up to the EU to promote it through appropriate actions, to contribute to their policies rather than keeping them in an inferior state only through aid.

Finally, we must recognize that Europe was first built with the idea of strengthening and extending market mechanisms. The dogma is still too well established according to which action at the European level was justified by the increased economic efficiency that a "unified" market gives, while for the most part the source of solidarity should remain national. Let us have the courage to be innovative and daring when we speak of Europe, in search of a common sovereignty assumed over China and the United States.

For that, we need to rebalance the economic and social governance of the EU. Let us not be afraid to move forward with our socialist partners in Europe, between parties and between countries, through the enhanced cooperation provided for by the treaties and by extricating ourselves from them when the institutional blockage is too strong.

Seize the chance of the globalization of struggles

In the face of world destruction, affirm the need for systemic and individual change

Since the end of the post-war boom and the rise of liberalism, we have followed ever more intense crises: the oil crisis, interest rates, subprimes, sovereign debts and the euro, and finally the Coronavirus pandemic. This century is also marked by an aggravation of the effects of climate change.

The dominant logic is still that of rescue and catching up, then austerity. It is this deadly cycle that must

be changed, recognizing the permanent failure of (social-) liberalism and favoring a circular and sustainable system, for people, the planet and the economy. This new software will also guarantee the union of the left and our anchoring in it, without being the monopoly of environmentalists.

As humanists, we are not in favor of an ecology that makes the individual feel guilty in order to better exonerate the system of production, exchange and consumption from its crushing responsibilities. The ecological transition must be carried out with strong democratic support and be a creator of jobs.

Passing in force is the guarantee of failure. The theme of ecological transition must become transversal to all government action.

Without independence, especially industrial independence, there is no real democracy either.

Innovation and progress go hand in hand. A controlled ecology coexists the increase in the share of short circuits in the production and maintenance of international trade. The EU and its Green Deal are huge assets and they must promote long-term employment in a Keynesian moment.

In the face of global risks, a new global governance is necessary and it must be based on renewed and strengthened multilateralism. COP21 was the outline, but the global context since 2016 and the arrival of D. Trump has not allowed this evolution to be confirmed.

Faced with the uberization of the world: putting work back at the heart of society and daring to modernize socialist software with the anticipatory state

The post-Covid-19 economic environment will make it necessary to make further changes to labor regulations, especially teleworking. But this will not solve the increasingly pressing question of the insufficient number of paid jobs in line with the needs of individuals [1]. Access to a decent job or to a rewarding activity, in both paid cases, must be a priority.

The consequences of the digital revolution bring certain progress, but also major risks, in particular for our freedoms, for example the grabbing of cyberspace by private companies or the development of research without ethical limits allowed by certain countries, threatening sometimes the very notion of humanity if we do not react very quickly.

Do we want an essentially democratic world order or a new feudal order ruled by private companies, or even by large trafficking and / or terrorism networks?

From an economic standpoint, both France and Europe must use the means at their disposal to support their fabric of medium-sized businesses, particularly technological ones. They could make a lot of use of public procurement, which was one of the bases in the United States for the take-off of the current digital giants and also keep under their control medium-sized companies with advanced technologies and sources of future jobs, instead of them. often let buy out by foreign investors.

Already, part of the funds devoted to economic recovery should be allocated to a sovereign reserve fund to protect strategic companies from predation in the long term (ecological transition, food self-sufficiency, data protection, production of goods to a sensitive step in the logistics chain).

Finally, the State should be able to anticipate before being faced with an emergency or being reduced to a role of cash drawer, like the bipartisan desire of the United States to rebuild a State. federal government endowed with sufficient means of action (programming and research) to respond to China's long-term programming.

All this means a fine industrial policy and more broadly a reorganization of the state. The hitherto free trade European Commission must change its doctrine more strongly.

Faced with the communitarization of the world, dare to affirm the principle of equality
Is it possible to be a leftist and a patriot while living far from your bases? To defend the French and European people against deregulated globalized capitalism? We are not afraid to believe it. Without aggressive nationalism, shared sovereignty and a sense of belonging excludes no one. The nation provides (and we hope one day the EU) a legitimate framework for democracy and can then found policies of solidarity.

The nation protects all those who live on its territory and also cares about those who, even while residing outside its borders, belong by right to the national community.

In globalization, some citizens feel the need to look for their identity in a context where everything seems to become uniform. So, faced with the inadequacy of social policies to respond to the problems, the defenders of communitarianism offer to recompose the social model on the inter-community relationship. All too often, they end up getting lost in ambiguous discourses, which erase pluriculturalism and lead to discrimination.

More than ever, the France of today and tomorrow will be multicultural. Therefore, the state must remain the sole guarantor of citizen equality. To become real and no longer fictitious, this equality must undeniably go through the materialization of rights, which only effective public action is able to enforce. It would be quite useless to reform our legislative millefeuille, it is still necessary to apply it. Reaffirm our commitment to the law of 1905!

The tradition of the left is to say that we are free and equal when we have rights. The right sees freedom first as an individual sanctuary. Liberal projects believe that on individual responsibility alone, on individual desire of the individual, one can build a harmonious society. The State that we advocate takes care of the most vulnerable, all around a common general interest legitimized by the election, which allows the laws, rights and duties to be the same for all, whatever the community, religion, origin and gender. It integrates market mechanisms but controls them. It is based on the awareness of collective values. It is these that must be transmitted in a common narrative, which, when solid, is enriched by contributions from other cultures. Pluriculturalism is an incredible wealth to which we can testify!

- Our proposals

- Listening to citizens

- Universalism makes no exception to human dignity which must be the same for everyone, whoever they are and wherever they come from. This principle, allied to the defense of freedoms and security taken in the broad sense that is to say economic, social, physical and legal, is the basis of the republican social contract which binds the citizen to the State.

- Only the public authorities, the States, the EU in its competences, and not the private sector alone, are able to face in the general interest the immense challenges of the planet, by building a new type of international cooperation and governance.

- The economy at the service of long-term employment, at all scales

- Policies must allow everyone access to a sustainable and dignified job or to a rewarding activity, in both paid cases, and to resources allowing them to live in dignity.

- France and Europe must use the means at their disposal to support their fabric of medium-sized businesses, particularly technological ones.

- Assign now part of the funds devoted to economic recovery to a sovereign reserve fund and public orders to protect strategic companies for general interest purposes.

- Rebalance the economic and social governance of the EU with European rules putting an end to the scandal of tax avoidance by companies and tax competition between states, increasing minimum social standards, a European minimum wage, a employee participation in company decision-making.

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For a political Europe

- In Europe, we must unify our struggles with our socialist partners, and between countries, through enhanced cooperation provided for by treaties or multilateral agreements such as Schengen.
- Europe, the largest market in the world, allows us to engage in eco-socialist diplomacy in our trade relations. Let us unite our European doctrine on the left to influence the policies of the Union.
- In the area of immigration, let us finally have the courage to propose a concrete approach based on the individual rights of all applicants, the dignity of the individual and cooperation with and in the countries of emigration.

In favor of a controlled ecology and an ecological transition that creates jobs

- A controlled ecology coexists the increase in the share of short circuits in the production and maintenance of international trade.
- The European Green Deal will only be decisive if it is accompanied by determined national policies promoting sustainable jobs in a Keynesian moment.
- Public policies related to ecological transition must become transversal to all government action.

Recommendations for the Party

- Stop the logic of communication for mandates to promote politics for ideas; on the basis of our doctrine, first to negotiate the programmatic aspect with our partners to achieve a government contract and to strive to create a culture of political credibility.
- We want the Party to see its refoundation taking place on the principles of Universalism and Internationalism, because they are the best tools to tackle the challenges of the 21st century.

[1] According to the International Labor Office (ILO), 480 million people would like to work but cannot.