

SOCIALIST PARTY / CITY CONGRESS

THEMATIC CONTRIBUTION of the Collectif ProjÉchanger.

HEALTH PREVENTION and ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: ACT FINE!

Life expectancy at birth is beginning to stagnate in France. It is decreasing in some regions of developed countries.

Environmental, social and behavioural factors are key in this process.

evolution: unemployment, sedentary lifestyle, degraded environment, junk food...

The focus must therefore be on reducing unemployment, job quality, education, and the efficiency of health services.

The causes of premature death are increasingly linked to human activity: tobacco, alcohol, carcinogenic products, road accidents, etc.

The key word is **prevention**, so of course priority is given to education, school medicine, occupational medicine, but also to the **preservation of the environment**.

On the subject of pesticides and endocrine disruptors, the question is to understand, when we have clearly known their harmful nature for a long time, **why we cannot get rid of them**.

All the tools are on the table: constitutionalized precautionary principle, indisputable conclusive studies, observed damage, very unfavorable benefit/risk balances... And yet, decisions are not taken and/or not applied.

Among the explanations mentioned :

- the resistance of **lobbies** (agricultural, industrial...)
- the weight of the pharmaceutical industry
- the orientations of the Common Agricultural Policy (**CAP**)
- the content of medical studies, which are more oriented towards "curative" rather than preventive medicine
- Lack of awareness of the links between human health and **biodiversity loss**.
(whose reality itself is not yet perceived by all).
- the cult of short-termism, ignoring the **delayed effect of** environmental damage and postponing the necessary measures until the following day (glyphosate...)
- the effects of the **economic liberalism** which privileges the immediate profitability of capital to
the long-term collective interest.

Among the necessary policies :

- **popular education** to accelerate awareness of the risks, reality and temporality of the chemical processes at work, and to radically change consumption patterns.
- **citizen mobilization of consumers**: using applications such as Yuka to scan products, identify their composition, highlight their harmfulness and, ultimately, put pressure on manufacturers.
- the fight against programmed obsolescence and the development of the **circular economy**.
- the cessation of **human activities that are the** main cause of biodiversity loss: **deforestation**, artificialization of land, use of polluting pesticides.
- **changing agricultural** (and fishing) **practices**: the CAP should, for example, have as a priority to support farmers in the transition to alternatives to glyphosate.
- Encouraging **good local practices** (organic school canteens, etc.).
- and, of course, the outright ban, without delay, of dangerous products.

There are at least two necessities for that:

- act through **social justice** measures to "embark" the working classes in the process, to ensure that they are not excluded from it and that they are not its victims.
- develop **strong** (and independent) **public expertise, and** thus strengthened public services, to deal with short-term private interests.

And of course - this is not the case today - it requires **a strong and constant political will** based on **a social movement** mobilized in all its components.
