

Thematic contribution submitted by the secretaries of the Caux-Maritime sections

(76) and Terre-de-Caux (76)

A modernization of the Socialist Party

This contribution aims primarily to discuss the theme of party modernization. Indeed, the life of a party is mainly based on democracy, and this democracy inevitably implies the use of votes. These votes most often take place within the sections and can sometimes be complex to organize, due to the lack of means, time or people to organize them.

1) Simplification of voting

In sections that are getting older and older, and often larger due to numerous mergers due to a lack of activists, it is therefore complicated for everyone (both members and section secretaries) to be able to vote. Some do not have the technical means or the possibility to go to the votes (no car, no transportation, family load, work), others do not have the means to vote.

simply lack enthusiasm due to the low stakes in some elections (e.g. single candidate voting). It is therefore understandable that some adherents are understandably unwilling/may not travel 10 kilometers in some cases to vote. This often leads to a strong abstention (example of our section in the senatorial elections: 4 voters out of 23 registered voters). Moreover it is not possible to make proxies, which is however inked on a national scale, and which would however prove to be very useful and simple to put into practice.

It is also difficult for section secretaries and treasurers to be available during the whole of the indicated schedule (often 17h00-22h00) and thus to ensure the vote entirely. Moreover, the transmission of the results to the federations can also be complicated.

It would therefore be interesting, in everyone's interest, to think about the development of electronic voting. This method of voting has already proved its worth in other elections, even in nationally. This vote would have a double interest: to facilitate access to voting for all members, but also to allow a regular update of the files of active members (for example on some lists are still registered inactive persons since 2017), and to directly take into account the contributions of those who want to pay on the same day.

This innovation would also help to attract young people, and for those who do not have the necessary equipment or sufficient internet connection, it would still be possible to make a proxy or to contact the section secretary, the treasurer or one of the section members. The federations would also find their account there, because the votes could be directly counted and traced back to them.

2) A simpler contribution

Always with the aim of modernizing the party, and with the aim of making life easier for everyone. It would be interesting to develop the possibility of paying the annual membership fee electronically. Obviously, this possibility would not prevent those who want to pay physically from doing so with the treasurer.

3) The word of the new members

Finally, new members should be able to vote without waiting 6 months. A delay of 3 months seems more logical because these people are often very invested and this delay of 3 months proves that their membership is real. On the contrary, a 6 month delay can create a feeling of frustration and exclusion of these people who consequently do not feel integrated in the democratic life of the party.

One can think that this possibility could help to keep some people who do not stay long in the party because of a feeling of forgetfulness.

All these ideas obviously need to be developed further, and we are sure that the chapters would be willing to join forces to contribute to this modernization. Above all, it is necessary to learn the lessons of the Covid-19 health crisis which prevented meetings from taking place for many weeks and which could have paralyzed the life of the chapters. Thus, it is important to put in place mechanisms to avoid the inactivity of the sections, by promoting electronic voting, but also meetings by videoconference.

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