R6 Concrete social policies for a real social and fair Europe

Proposer:	Les Jeunes Ecologistes, Joves Ecosocialistes, écolo j
Agenda item:	1. Resolutions

Motion text

Concrete social policies for a real social and fair Europe

Context : The Europe of the economy is falling apart

Since 1950 and the CECA, the European construction was made through reinforcing economic cooperation and the market. However, this has shown its limits.

Indeed, there has been a clear increase in inequality in Europe since the 1980s, with an alarming rise in poverty rates. It is in this more general context of inflation, of difficulty for Europeans to have access to essential goods, aggravating these heavy trends, and when the far right is trying to stripe of the social progress made so far, that Europe must implement social mechanisms and must adopt directives that improve our living conditions in a very concrete way.

What is at stake : the need to build a more social Europe

All of this makes us believe that there is a crucial need to build a concrete European project, in which people can believe in, which addresses planetary and social crises. We must strongly defend a justice project: tax justice (See title 4, subtitled “Fiscal Policy” of the political platform) that gives us the means to achieve social and environmental justice.

A more social Europe to build a concrete Europe for its citizens…

We urgently need concrete mechanisms to create a feeling of belonging to the EU. People must be aware that what is decided at European level impacts on them daily. They must understand that the impacts can be particularly positive if they mobilise themselves with us for a real project for a Social Europe that breaks away from the neo-liberal vision that has been the norm until now. One example is the Social Imbalance Procedure (SIP), a mechanism to enhance social rights in the EU and assess EU members social policies.

… includes a transformation of its institutions…

It is therefore a project for the transformation of the EU, a concrete project, clear, legible in the measures we must propose. A project that contrasts with the commonly shared vision of a technocratic Europe that does not care about the general interest and the interests of all EU citizens. In this way, it is crucial to extend and deepen the social pillar of the EU.

This project of a concrete social and federal Europe is the only serious project able to receive the assent of a majority of Europeans, particularly those from the working and middle classes who today abstain from voting or oppose the current European project.

We must strongly advocate for a Europe of reduced inequality: a Europe where all citizens are winners. We also defend a Europe which prioritises action towards planetary crisis, since the increasing pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss, among other issues, are affecting ecosystems and human health. The COVID-19 pandemic is a clear example of disease of the anthropocene. The right to the protection of human health is included in the EU Social Charter as a main principle, and needs to be boarded up. Indeed, the green Europe we want to build needs to be just and pursue across-cutting equity, making sure that existing inequalities, as well as structural obstacles for marginalised groups are being diminished.

Moreover, in this context of inflation, and in particular of energy price inflation, which impacts the whole supply chain, which therefore strongly affects the purchasing power of citizens, we, as Greens, must strongly defend the access to carbon neutral energy as a right, and we must be in this way, a force of proposal for reforming the European energy market. We can only note the major failure of energy liberalisation. Competition has not led to lower prices, quite the opposite. We urgently need to revise European energy policy. We need to act structurally to better control energy prices to guarantee fair and affordable prices, in quantities compatible with the necessary sobriety of a carbon neutral society, to every European citizen, public organisation, and company.

Implementation: involve every level of governance and multi-stakeholders in constructing a social Europe

We call upon the European Parliament, the Member States and the European Commission to:

- Set up a European legislation for a European minimum income from the age of 18 years old : For it to be pertinent, this minimum income needs to be at least equal to the poverty line of the country. This income has to be indexed to inflation.

- We call on the European Union to put in place the most coercive mechanism possible to ensure that Member States implement correctly the Minimum Wage Directive (EU) 2022/2041

- Extend and deepen the already existing social pillar through the regions of the EU by funding them at a satisfactory level, focusing on education, health, housing, employment, social security and migration. It is an important way to build a federal Europe and to make the UE more tangible for EU citizens and to ensure the EU Green deal enhances a green transition that is just and leaves none behind (following what it is stated in the "Green Principles for a Just Transition"). We therefore call to increase ERDF resources and increase the percentage allocated to social, job creation and local development components. We also call to increase the resources of the European Social Fund (ESF+).

We call upon the FYEG's executive board to :

- Be proactive on social issues during the building of the campaign with partner organisations, and on the fact that having a solid discourse for a real social and federal Europe is the only way that the Europe we all want can finally come into reality.

We propose the FYEG's executive board to :

- Implement a back-to-school campaign for a European minimum income from the age of 18. It may be a significant marker to launch the dynamic for the European campaign and to increase the capacity and number of members of our Member Organisations thanks to a campaign that is appealing to young people because it is significant for their quality of life.

We suggest Member organisations of the FYEG :

- To implement FYEG's Campaign for a social Europe in their local context.

- Spread the voices of young ecologists sharing their stories on social and economic rights.

- To advocate towards their local, regional and national governments to implement and enhance the exposure of EU wide social projects.