



For a new Model of Development

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Humanity has now to face major ecological threats : global warming linked to CO₂ emissions, depletion of fossil resources (especially oil) and raw materials, water resources management, massive menaces to biodiversity, technological hazards (asbestos, GMOs,...) exacerbated by multinationals profit strategies, etc..

Today, the idea is growing that ambitious and coordinated policies are necessary to address those challenges. However the logic of capital is a key obstacle on this path. Indeed, it leads to economic conflict on behalf of the sacrosanct principle of "free and fair competition": the maximization of profit and the acceleration of the return on financial investment are the alpha and the omega objectives of private and public management.

The financial crisis, which is obviously a systemic crisis, is providing a dramatic picture of this reality. It exposed the terrible waste generated by the current development model based on productivity at any cost. It is why we can say that, structurally, capitalism cannot be "eco-compatible". In many ways, the failure of the Copenhagen Summit reflected this political fact.

Humanity needs to trace a new trail towards a new form of social, sustainable and responsible ecologic and citizen-oriented development. These three dimensions are inseparable: social issues include economics, which should not be a mere tool used to accomplish the needs and aspirations of each part and the whole.

This leads us to a significant point.

To say that humanity needs to build another development model is to emphasise that problems and solutions need ambitious responses.

We have to open a new era of human civilization. This should happen through a gradual process based on systemic reforms changing everyday behaviour, without losing sight of the main ambition and challenge. The radical civilization transformation is a revolution in the original sense of the term.

This approach constitutes the backbone of an ambitious project of social transformation and human emancipation



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Propositions for action and change

1. beyond Copenhagen, the fight for *energy sobriety* must be continued.

The goal of a fourfold reduction of greenhouse gas emissions requires a large citizen's mobilization. It must be founded on an innovative approach based on economic and efficient energy use.

- Development of « eco technology » to make construction more energy-efficient, renewable energy, agriculture, transport...
- Promotion of ecological technologies in all productive processes.
- Transformation of productive models for actual durable goods - repairable, compatible and recyclable, in contrast to marketing approaches which promote short-lived goods to stimulate sales.

Only in such a dynamic can the changes needed in production and consumption patterns be fully realised. It should also play an active role in the vigorous creation of stable and skilled jobs.

2. The development of public services in line with collective needs is an essential element of this civilization rupture.

Society needs revitalized public services via the convergence of efforts across Europe, a collaborative and cooperative management of global public goods and the development of a truly democratic social economy.

This includes:

- Stop the liberalization and privatization of public services. End job cuts. Only big capitalist groups benefit while users see only the degradation of service.
- Massive investment plans for preventive health care and better hospital conditions, seats in schools, and new green public transport to answer collective needs. This must be accompanied with the necessary human resources.



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3. These propositions must follow active quality job creation programs.

This matter is at the heart of the new productive model for which we fight for. Today, employment is only a variant of capitalist's profit-maximizing capital adjustment policies. Employment must become, conversely, fundamental base for human development and well-being. This supposes, naturally, that the content, working conditions and interest in work is up to workers' expectations.

In this perspective, the social and stable economy must be developed; education must play its role. A system of training courses must be created in an ambitious plan, in order to guarantee employment throughout life.

4. These transformations call for a new era of multi-level democracy and notably:

- New intervention powers for employees, from work organizations, teams or departments to the definition of strategies for employment and regions.
- In larger companies, powers for local elected representatives, to control allocated public funds, for example.
- The organisation of users of common goods and public services management.
- The development of solidarity in term of co- decision, benefits and wages.

5. These proposals require the mobilization of considerable financial resources.

To transform the idea of development it is necessary to tackle this important issue.

The point is to spend public funds in a different way to serve these objectives:

- Building a bonus system on taxes paid by companies according to whether they create (or not) policies for quality employment, wages, environmental standards;
- By removing tax breaks on capital that endanger welfare systems;



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- By using the generated money to invest in employment and sustainable development, by promoting the reorientation of credits granted by banks and conditioning public subventions to social and environmental criteria;
- Transforming the role and status of the ECB. It must be held responsible to the European Parliament and should act to promote a new form of development for employment and social and ecological progress. Thus, the Stability Pact should be abolished.