
French Vertigo: Against Macron and the Extreme Right

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When no one was counting on it, due to divisions and continuous electoral failures, the French left has been reborn from the dead to unite ahead of the legislative elections on June 30th and July 7th, after President Emmanuel Macron dissolved the National Assembly, following the resounding victory of the local extreme right in the recently held European Parliament elections.

Of course, Marine Le Pen's far-right entity is the favorite to win this referendum over the wavering right-wing Macronism, which has just received another strong blow with the abandonment of the Republican Party to join the forces of Le Pen's National Rally.

Perhaps as something I thought was not going to happen, but it did, the French left is trying to resurrect itself to oppose Macron and Le Pen, and although at the time of writing these lines it does not have a born leader, its groups created a new popular front, with a program so serious that, if there's no media boycott of the reaction, it can give more than one surprise with the growing popular support.

Although on the issue of NATO policy against Russia, using Ukraine, I do not see a clear and honest independent position, there's one in favor of a Palestinian State and against the Israeli genocide in Gaza, in addition to what it proposes at the national level of government can really pay off, taking into account that its leaders sacrifice personal interests for the collective good of the French people, who need it so much.

Thus, Mélenchon's Rebellious France, the socialists, the greens and the communists present a program of social and ecological ruptures to stand up to Macronism and, above all, the extreme right.

This unique candidacy, which must be officially presented on June 16, offers "a rupture program for the first 100 days of government of the new Popular Front", in reference to the left-wing coalition in France between 1936 and 1938.

This alliance debuted in the 2022 legislative elections, with results below expectations - far from the majority that

had been proposed - and integrated La France insoumise, the socialists, the greens and the communists, although it was quickly dissolved by domestic dissensions.

Now the left's program, especially against Le Pen, promised, if it wins, to raise the minimum wage to 1,600 euros per month net and restore the tax on large fortunes that President Emmanuel Macron abolished.

These measures appear on a list of 150 proposals that represent "a total break with Emmanuel Macron's policies," said the national coordinator of La France insoumise, Manuel Bompard, in a press conference with the leaders of the Socialist Party (PS), Olivier Faure; of the Ecologists, Marie Tondelier; and from the French Communist Party (PCF), Fabien Roussel.

"We are very proud to be with the entire left and with the environmentalists," said Faure, who added that "when the essential thing is at stake, we are there, always there."

One of the main messages of this new coalition of the four parties is that they are the only alternative to the coming to power of the extreme right, which is the favorite in the polls, after, I emphasize, the overwhelming victory it obtained in the European elections of last Sunday, in which he undermined what has been the majority of Macron's government.

The main axis of the program of this new Popular Front are measures in favor of purchasing power that include, in addition to rapidly increasing the minimum wage (now it's 1,400 euros per month net) and coordinating salaries with inflation, the "price block of food and energy".

Also the reestablishment of the Fortune Tax (ISF) that Macron abolished at the beginning of his first term in 2017 to attract investors and prevent the departure of rich people who settle abroad in order to pay less taxes.

Along the same lines, the left-wing coalition will abolish the so-called 'Flat Tax', which allows those who receive capital returns to apply a fixed and non-progressive rate.

The socialist leader assured that if he reaches the Government, the Popular Front will annul "in the first fifteen days" Macron's controversial pension reform, which delays the minimum retirement age from 62 to 64 years and also the unemployment insurance reform, which tightens the conditions to be able to collect the subsidy and which should come into force as of this summer.

Another of the star measures promised by the left would be "a truly free school", which would include the cafeteria, transportation and school supplies.

Hence, according to AP, the assessment of Marine Tondelier, national secretary of the Ecologists Party, stands out: "We are going to put out the flame of the National Rally," and she stated: "Either us or them."

Translated by Amilkal Labañino / CubaSí Translation Staff
