

Official communique of 18 April 2019 in Paris

Self-Employed, Entrepreneurs and Enterprise among European Democrats and Socialists - SE4DS

At the end of its meeting of 18 April 2019, held on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the Treaty that led to the birth of the ECSC, in Paris at the headquarters of the French Socialist Party, the European association SE4DS alert the whole community of Europeans on the essential nature of the next European elections next May.

Since its creation more than sixty years ago, the European Union has grown and its skills have expanded. It brought its citizens during these years the fundamental benefits - peace, democracy, respect for fundamental human values and prosperity.

But this European Union now stands at a historical crossroads. Free competition worldwide is trying to impose itself. The economic and social progress is more difficult and the planet is in great danger with the environmental consequences which will not fail to accompany this unbraked competition. This leads to understandable disillusion, but these should not continue to engender a strong resurgence of nationalisms, as we are already beginning to see, and even the choice of withdrawal; And also at the end, destructive and negative risks of retreat for everyone.

About peace, we all must not forget for example that some traces of the second war are still present. Peace is an unlimited challenge. It is up to us to mobilise and to advance.

At the same time, the need to intervene at the level of the company, that is to say at the very heart of what structures the economy and therefore the lives of our fellow citizens, is imposed.

Our association proclaims the urgency of a clear vote in favor of a powerful, protective, social, democratic and environmental Europe. At time of hesitation, it is advisable on the contrary to resume our walk forward.

Regarding the work of this day, our association sets two priorities:

1- A reflexion and an action on the defense of the worker's status in the company. This goes in particular by the fight against job insecurity:

The considerable and anarchic development of often fake self-entrepreneurship is a terrible danger. Self-entrepreneurship can be a shameful substitute for wage labor and can put the people concerned in a situation of poverty and exploitation.

Our association demands that self-entrepreneurship shall not be a way to sabotage paid employment. We also ask that a serious and dignified social protection accompany these self-entrepreneurs. Instead, all member states shall pursue policies that enable starts up and foster small entrepreneurs.

2 - Liberal Europe was built mainly around rules favoring free competition. It is up to us now to develop instruments to combat social dumping and demand corporate tax harmonization within the European Union:

Tax competition between European countries must be prohibited. It leads to a terrible weakening of our economic power and consequently to an unacceptable lower level of social benefits for all citizens.

Our association, which represents SME and the corporate sections of the various European socialist parties, is calling for urgent decisions leading to a strong harmonization of the tax system.

Conclusion of our work:

The European project is a collective project of unmatched historical size. It is urgent to defend it, to promote it but also to improve it to make it stronger, more protective and more social. *The challenges are deeply serious. If European countries are all together, then we will be strong. This is the only way to succeed. It's time to tell a new story, a social-democratic story where European Union is powerful from a politic, social and economic point of view.*

We urge all citizens of the European Union to vote in the upcoming elections for socialist and social-democratic parties in their countries to give them more weight in the new European Parliament.

See enclosed the appendix with the proposals.