

## EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY FOR VIVANT (2005)

For many years Europe has followed a common agricultural policy by subsidising agriculture. Why not introduce a social policy of the same kind?

It already exists in the objectives of the UNION\* but the effective concrete political decisions to implement it are lagging behind.

A common minimum salary for the whole of Europe is inconceivable while salary levels vary from 1 to 10.

It is at the level of the regions that Europe has implemented social policy, by subsidising them. This was the case with Spain and Portugal, and it allowed those countries to attain the standard of living of the founder members.

These regional subsidies represent a third of the European budget.

For VIVANT, **the common denominator** of European social policy should be **a structural one**. Today we have structural unemployment which is managed by each country separately.

What VIVANT proposes is **to subsidise the individual through a European basic income**, the level of which would vary in accordance with the purchasing power of each country's minimum salary, and constitute an unconditional income for life.

This measure should be accompanied **by freeing labour of taxation and replacing** it with a tax on consumption of products, which for the most part are made by machine, so as to finance social security at the European level.

In this way each country remains in charge of its own social policy, but uses **a common method** to manage it .

Euro money is attributed to each country according **to its size**, and in the same way the European common social policy should leave each country the right to manage it. Social policy will thus take the shape of a common structure enabling stabilisation of citizens' purchasing power through an unconditional basic income.

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(responsible for VIVANT-EUROPE)

### **\*European social policy**

Social policy objectives include creation of employment, improvement of living and working conditions, adequate social protection, social dialogue, development of human resources to allow a high and durable level of employment, and a fight against exclusion. (Community Charter of workers' basic rights, 1989)

**The Amsterdam Treaty** included among its community objectives “a high level of employment”, without weakening competition.

In order to achieve this objective, Member States' competence in the matter should be complemented by a community competence to draw up a “coordinated strategy” for employment through the creation of an Employment Committee.

**The Maastricht Treaty** adopted a “Protocol on social policy” signed by the twelve Member States of that time and annexed to the European Union Treaty, which stated the wish of eleven Member States (all save the United Kingdom) to make significant advances in the matter. This Protocol allowed them, by means of an Agreement on social policy, “to have recourse to the institutions, procedures and mechanisms of the Treaty, for the purpose of drawing up among themselves the acts and decisions required for the implementation of the agreement referred to, and of implementing them where they are concerned.”.

**The Amsterdam Treaty** recalls the background provision that social policy is a competence shared between the Community and the Member States.