

GREEN POLITIC into THE BLUE

A FRENCH EXPERIENCE
GRENELLE ENVIRONNEMENT
2007-2010

The « Grenelle environnement »

- « Grenelle » is a place where central negotiations were conducted (as Val Duchesse in Belgium)
- In 2007 the candidates to the presidential election are confronted with a strong demand coming from lobbying ecologists
- Eco-problems seem able to open a neutral position, attracting eco-activists who are gaining ground.

A GENERAL CONCERTATION

- The new (right wing) government invites the different environmental, political, economic, consumers associations to a general debate.
- More than 30 working groups are initiated and work for several months on very different items.
- Unions - scarcely accepted in the discussions - try to link crisis and some ecological/social solutions.

LARGE PROPOSITIONS

- Some different propositions are made (more than 250).
- Specially a new « carbon tax » to be implemented from june 2010.
- A first law unanimously is taken in Summer 2009. Its goal is to make official the consensus on this matter.

FROM DEBATE TO REALITY

- From this debate and with this law it is argued that France has at disposal « La fondation de la mutation écologique du pays » (Ministre Borloo)
- In between the financial crisis of Autumn 2008 surges.
- Some different measures are taken from which financial helps to buy less polluting cars

From a slowing processus...

- A second law has to be taken, in May 2010, to implement the projects evocated in the first law.

But

- In January the most implicated green organisation leaves the processus.
- In March the French president declares :
« L'environnement ça commence à bien faire »

...to a dead one ?

- And finally in May 2010 a title in a financial Newspaper reads

« ***Le Grenelle environnement est politiquement mort*** » (La Tribune 2/05/2010).

- In fact « the crisis » on one side and various/numerous lobbyists were able to dismantle most of the significant propositions

Some questions...

- Economical ones
 - Green transformations need to re-direct :
industrial investments
taxation
 - How it is possible in (European) economies :
which are very slowly growing
with high in debts States ?

Some questions

- Social and political ones
 - A « green » evolution needs some strong social transformations
 - political ones (alliances...)
 - new forms of social representation
 - Are the unions able to become central actors in these social transformations
 - Or are they more likely to lose ground ?