**Climate jobs: a key part of the economy's ecological and social transition**

The COVID crisis19 has surprised us in a context of climate crisis. The challenge is therefore twofold. The crisis we are suffering affects many areas: ecological, social, care, political, democratic... But all are united. The future of society, of the planet, and therefore of the working class as we know it, is at stake. Trade unionism must be a key subject in order to get out of these crises. This challenge will be a priority in the agendas of the unions that want a radical change of the system. When we talk about radical change we are talking about social, ecological, feminist and democratic transformation.

There is a fundamental conflict between capital and life, and at this moment it is more evident than ever. This situation calls for a trade unionism that puts the sustainability of life and the planet at the centre. This being the reality and having social and climate justice as its objective, the ecological and social transition of the economy is an alternative that "attacks" the basis of the problem. We need to focus on people and life, we need a model that is socially just and respectful of the limits of the planet. In this pandemic it has become clear what the essential sectors for life are, and also how little they are valued, since most of them are precarious feminized sectors.

We live in a consumer society, we have moved from production to satisfy needs to consumption to maintain industries. It is the society of growth. The indicator of wealth is the Gross Domestic Product and does not take into account the physical limitations of the planet, the ecological and social effects of production, the unequal distribution of wealth or jobs outside the market. Employment is understood to be full-time productive work and does not take into account reproductive work (care). Any employment is good in this system, regardless of ethics, its impact on the environment, its influence on subsequent generations, or elsewhere.

**1. What is the right model for the future?**

We have to fight for a model that redistributes wealth equally and respects the limits of the planet. We must seek welfare without growth, stability that does not depend on growth. We will need higher quality products and services, with lower energy consumption and less environmental impact. We will have a better quality of life in a sustainable way, satisfying basic needs outside the logic of the market and with a solid public system.

Productive and reproductive work, paid and unpaid, must be balanced between women and men. We must recognize the value of reproductive work; in this pandemic we have seen that these jobs are really necessary.

This change is possible by relocating power. Citizen participation is fundamental to decision making.

**2. Transformation of economic sectors**

The transformation of economic sectors in this ecological and social transition is essential and must be well planned: which sectors will disappear or must be reduced? And which ones are necessary and must grow?

**2.1 Undesirable sectors**

To determine what is desirable and what is not, ecological and ethical criteria should be used.

As regards the ecological criteria, sectors with a disproportionate use of energy and matter should be reduced or transformed. Transformation means reducing the energy and material used by all productive sectors until it is in line with the limits of the planet. Automotive, aeronautics, non-renewable energy, intensive agriculture, mass tourism or construction are some of them.

The application of ethical criteria is basic to the defence of human rights. A clear example is the arms sector.

**2.2. Desirable sectors**

The aim of this transformation is to create jobs by focusing on sustainable sectors. It will be necessary to move employment from sectors that are highly intensive in terms of energy and raw materials consumption to less intensive sectors. The ecological and social transformation will generate desirable employment in different sectors:

- Care: activities related to the care of people and their basic needs, as well as those activities that allow the exercise of universal rights.

- Public services: public transport, research, education, health

- Research and development activities.

- Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE): based on equality, employment, respect for the environment, cooperation and non-profit-making, commitment to the social environment, participation and internal democracy. It is the alternative to the capitalist enterprise.

**2.3. Climate jobs**

Climate jobs must respond to the loss of unsustainable employment. Climate jobs will be created in sectors that are not yet developed. They are key to changing the current production model in an orderly and progressive manner, and to achieving an appropriate model that respects the limits of the planet. And they are the most effective way to fight unemployment and social and economic exclusion. The jobs that correct the environmental damage, those that produce taking care of the environment, the services of prevention and control, or the investigation and development are part of the climatic jobs.

**3. Conditions for climate transition and job creation**

One of the main conditions for making this transition possible is to change our conceptions of production, consumption and work. We have to rethink the social project we want for the future, and what the collective needs of consumption are. This project must always be realistic and respectful of the limits of the planet. Requirements for it to become a reality:

- Participatory planning. The changes will cause tensions and conflicts, so it is necessary the collaboration between all the agents involved (social movements, consumers, unions, companies,...).

- An adequate legal framework through public policies. It will be essential to allocate public resources to finance the restructuring process, focusing on the development of strategic sectors for the creation of climate jobs.

- Social protection. Ensure support for the unemployed in unsustainable sectors, reorientation towards sustainable sectors, training schemes and lifelong learning.

- Gender-specific measures to increase the percentage of women workers in climate jobs

- Tax reform. Vigorous fight against tax fraud, corporate tax and high income and capital gains tax. Mobilisation of public and private capital will be necessary.

**4. Climate employment creation projections**

Looking to the future, thanks to this ecological and social transition of the economy, the creation of these jobs can reach 106,000 in the Basque Country. These figures are not valid for other countries, but the number of jobs that can be created in a territory of 2.8 million inhabitants is significant:

Building rehabilitation: 41,500 jobs.

Renewable energy: 26,300 jobs.

Mobility: 2500 jobs.

Sustainable waste management: 7,900 jobs

Agro-ecology, fisheries and sustainable forestry: 25,000 jobs.

Policies for rational water use: 1000 jobs.

Converted industry: 2,200 jobs

These data show that we have an important role to play in the recovery from the climate crisis and the COVID crisis19 . But all this is impossible without the political will of those in government. We must put people at the centre and get everyone out of this situation, leaving no one on the sidelines and tackling climate change.