

Beat: Local

## French Senator Jean Desessard welcomes merging the social minima for youth

by Christophe Sirugue

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**USPA NEWS** - Last week, Christophe Sirugue Socialist MP, handed to Prime Minister Manuel Valls a report entitled "Rethinking social minima: towards a common base coverage." In it, he advocated a merger of 10 social minima (RSA, AAH, ASS ...) and their openness to youth 18 to 25 years.

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**WELCOMES INITIATIVE TO BE A FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE BASIC INCOME**-----

Monday, April 18, the deputy Christophe Sirugue handed to Prime Minister Manuel Valls a report entitled "Rethinking social minima: towards a common base coverage." In it, he advocated a merger of 10 social minima (RSA, AAH, ASS ...) and their openness to youth 18 to 25 years. Following the submission of the report, the Prime Minister said "we open this site, this is the one universal income".-----

While 23% of 16-25 year olds are poor, against 14% for the rest of the population, Jean Desessard welcomes the extension of welfare benefits to young people. He recalled that in 2009 already, while participating in the common mission of senatorial information on youth development policy, he advocated the extension of the RSA from 18-25 years to fight more effectively against the youth poverty.-----

Regarding the merger of the social minimum, it would be a desirable simplification provided it is not an opportunity to reduce the amounts paid for savings. The measure may indeed be perverted if it is implemented for purely budgetary reasons.

Finally, if the targeted benefits are available to meet specific needs, they also proved insufficient to meet the challenges posed by the end of the growth in Western societies and the impending disappearance of a large number of jobs with the digital revolution. We must instead that the measures proposed by the Government eschewed this logic to be part of a broader political project: the introduction of basic income.-----

Jean Desessard campaigning for many years for the introduction of a basic income, universal, paid to the entire population without means testing. This reform by decoupling the income from employment, allows both to give everyone an adequate amount to live and enrich citizenship by including not only political rights but also social and economic. This is a major democratic challenge which political authorities have a duty to respond.-----

**CHRISTOPHE SIRUGUE MP OF SAONE ET LOIRE DELIVERED A PREVIOUS REPORT ON 2013 ABOUT LABOUR**

The Socialist MP for the 5th constituency of Saône-et-Loire is also the author of a report that was proposed in 2013 to merge two assistive devices to modest workers (RSA "activity" and Prime for employment) and replace them with an activity Prime. This came into force on 1 January 2016. The first scenario is a complete overhaul of the system would imply a reorganization around a social minimum base (kind of basic income), had said MP in December 2015.-----

At this income "base" would add two benefits: one for people who can not return to work (severe disabilities, the elderly) to the other beneficiaries can expect to reintegrate.-----

**A SECOND METHOD COULD ADJUST SOME WELFARE BENEFITS AND SPECIFIC ALLOWANCE FOR UNEMPLOYED TO EXHAUST THEIR BENEFITS**-----

The third method would be a simple connection between the RSA (minimum income for persons without resources) and the specific solidarity allowance (ASS) for unemployed exhausted their benefits. Among the nine minimum social benefits also include widowhood allowance, disabled adult and old age minimum. **MORE THAN 4 MILLION PEOPLE RECEIVED WELFARE BENEFITS**-----

According to the Court of Auditors, 4.21 million people were receiving welfare benefits in 2013 (+ 17.6% since 2008, with + 35% for the RSA), and value (excluding costs of management and support expenditure) grew 30% in constant euros between 2008 and 2014, to 24.8 billion euros. Alongside the work of the Saône-et-Loire MP, the government started negotiations with the Assembly of France (ADF), to a recovery by the State of 100% financing the RSA (against the two thirds currently) because this allowance weighs heavily on departmental budgets.

**Article online:**

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