

2017, the threefold disintegration of ecology in politics

Final publication – April 2019

Note 30

However, the translation of this issue into the politics remains notoriously inadequate in our country, as has been the case for several decades. This leads to a particular difficulty as regards political decision-making on ecology.

The 2017 elections highlighted three breaks in this area, in the political, media and electoral spheres: the absence of a green party candidate, the lack of dialogue on ecology during the campaign, and the fact that ecology was not a determinant of the vote. We are therefore, in one sense, at year zero with regard to ecology in politics. Nearly everything must be built from the ground up. But that leaves the door wide open for action to be taken.

This note aims to make a comprehensive diagnosis of the way in which ecology was addressed in the 2017 elections, using all the available data (surveys, polls, platform analysis, televised debates, results) and enquiries with the key stakeholders or their representatives.

It concludes by refusing the apparent fatality and provides guidelines to remain on the right track in the future: discussing the substance, priorities and proposals, before examining the political landscape and leadership; clearly anchoring ecology to humanist values; bringing identified, simple and unifying causes to the fore; admitting that ecology should be “co-constructed” and not decided by a limited group or away from public opinion.

All in all, the objective should be to construct a French ecological narrative, taking advantage of new thinking on key questions, for instance, to create a new political project seeking to “manufacture” the ecological future of our country.

SUMMARY

The question of ecology has become a major concern for contemporary society, whether it is climate change, the protection of biodiversity or the link between the environment and health. It influences our economy, our social equilibrium, our way of life.