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SESSION 2012

UE6 – ÉPREUVE ORALE D'ÉCONOMIE SE DÉROULANT PARTIELLEMENT EN ANGLAIS

Document autorisé : aucun sauf ceux qui sont fournis avec le sujet.

Préparation de l'épreuve : 2 heures.

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Coefficient : 1

SUJET

Capitalisme et économie sociale et solidaire.

Annexe : *Euclides Andre Mance*

<http://turbulence.org.uk> - Translated from Portuguese by Rodrigo Nunes

DOCUMENT**Solidarity economics**

A daring hypothesis: there is a global revolution underway. It is not led by any political party or vanguard. It has no military bases and its strategy is anti-belligerent. It mobilises millions of people all over the world. We know little about it. What we do know is that at the grassroots level of its mobilisations, organisation and popular education, there are thousands of movements and millions of people who have begun weaving collaborative networks of economic solidarity, creating channels and connections with the potential to bring together and strengthen local and global struggles. They are working collectively, from the bottom up, and democratically, building consensus while respecting reasoned dissent. We see these movements and their achievements everywhere, yet we know little about the power of this phenomenon, for at first they seem insufficient in number and size to change the world. And yet, I maintain: there is a global revolution underway.

Solidarity economy as the material base of post-capitalist societies

Millions of people across the world practise solidarity economy. They work and consume in order to produce for their own and other people's welfare, rather than for profit. In solidarity economy what matters is creating satisfactory economic conditions for all people. This means assuring individual and collective freedoms, generating work and income, abolishing all forms of exploitation, domination and exclusion, and protecting ecosystems as well as promoting sustainable development.

As new ways of producing, consuming and living in solidarity progress in the economic and cultural terrains of this revolution, solidarity networks will also advance in the political sphere – transforming the State, creating and reinforcing mechanisms of popular participation. There is no linearity in this revolution; each reality changes in its own way. But by virtue of their being-in-network, collaborative processes can communicate and learn from each historical experience, successful or not. The information technologies that facilitate their interconnection tend to become increasingly central to the State and the public sphere. This opens up the possibility of new processes and mechanisms of governance and shared management that can result from the combined effects of democratic revolutions in the cultural sphere with collaborative solidarity economic processes as its material base.

In Brazil 1.2 million workers are, integrally or partially, involved in solidarity economy and 1,250 enterprises have appeared in the last five years. This may not seem much, but this is a phenomenon that has grown over the last decade – reflected in a growing awareness of participants themselves, as shown by the proliferation of solidarity economy forums all over Brazil and the world, and the parallel intensification of transactions within the sector and the advance in its political expression.

If for many it is only a utopia, an ever-receding horizon of hope, for millions of others solidarity economy is a way of working, producing, commercialising, consuming and exchanging values. It is a way of satisfying individual and personal needs in the interest of the welfare of all. It is the material base of the network revolution.

Solidarity economy is the base of a new mode of production that propagates itself through the network revolution. In this sense, 'we are winning', because solidarity economy is in expansion, networks proliferate everywhere and their capacity for political action increases – one can see this in the wave of popular governments that have been victorious in elections all over Latin America. But this revolution depends on our ability to keep connecting and expanding into 'networks of networks', 'movements of movements', bringing local and global together. Our everyday practices must be guided by principles of solidarity, and our choices must be in agreement with the world we want to build. For that, we must strengthen the circuits of solidarity economy.

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**Une adaptation plus rapide du marché du travail
serait-elle la solution au chômage actuel ?**

Annexe : *Easy Useless Economics* By PAUL KRUGMAN Published: May 10, 2012
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/11/opinion/krugman-easy-useless-economics.html?_r=1&ref=paulkrugman

DOCUMENT

A few days ago, I read an authoritative-sounding paper in *The American Economic Review*, one of the leading journals in the field, arguing at length that the nation's high unemployment rate had deep structural roots and wasn't amenable to any quick solution. The author's diagnosis was that the U.S. economy just wasn't flexible enough to cope with rapid technological change. The paper was especially critical of programs like unemployment insurance, which it argued actually hurt workers because they reduced the incentive to adjust.

O.K., there's something I didn't tell you: The paper in question was published in June 1939. Just a few months later, World War II broke out, and the United States — though not yet at war itself — began a large military buildup, finally providing fiscal stimulus on a scale commensurate with the depth of the slump. And, in the two years after that article about the impossibility of rapid job creation was published, U.S. nonfarm employment rose 20 percent — the equivalent of creating 26 million jobs today.

So now we're in another depression, not as bad as the last one, but bad enough. And, once again, authoritative-sounding figures insist that our problems are "structural," that they can't be fixed quickly. We must focus on the long run, such people say, believing that they are being responsible. But the reality is that they're being deeply irresponsible.

What does it mean to say that we have a structural unemployment problem? The usual version involves the claim that American workers are stuck in the wrong industries or with the wrong skills. A widely cited recent article by Raghuram Rajan of the University of Chicago asserts that the problem is the need to move workers out of the "bloated" housing, finance and government sectors.

Actually, government employment per capita has been more or less flat for decades, but never mind — the main point is that contrary to what such stories suggest, job losses since the crisis began haven't mainly been in industries that arguably got too big in the bubble years. Instead, the economy has bled jobs across the board, in just about every sector and every occupation, just as it did in the 1930s. Also, if the problem was that many workers have the wrong skills or are in the wrong place, you'd expect workers with the right skills in the right place to be getting big wage increases; in reality, there are very few winners in the work force.

All of this strongly suggests that we're suffering not from the teething pains of some kind of structural transition that must gradually run its course but rather from an overall lack of sufficient demand — the kind of lack that could and should be cured quickly with government programs designed to boost spending.

So what's with the obsessive push to declare our problems "structural"? And, yes, I mean obsessive. Economists have been debating this issue for several years, and the structuralistas won't take no for an answer, no matter how much contrary evidence is presented.

The answer, I'd suggest, lies in the way claims that our problems are deep and structural offer an excuse for not acting, for doing nothing to alleviate the plight of the unemployed.

Of course, structuralistas say they are not making excuses. They say that their real point is that we should focus not on quick fixes but on the long run — although it's usually far from clear what, exactly, the long-run policy is supposed to be, other than the fact that it involves inflicting pain on workers and the poor.

Anyway, John Maynard Keynes had these peoples' number more than 80 years ago. "But this *long run*," he wrote, "is a misleading guide to current affairs. *In the long run* we are all dead. Economists set themselves too easy, too useless a task if in tempestuous seasons they can only tell us that when the storm is long past the sea is flat again."

- 45 I would only add that inventing reasons not to do anything about current unemployment isn't just cruel and wasteful, it's bad long-run policy, too. For there is growing evidence that the corrosive effects of high unemployment will cast a shadow over the economy for many years to come. Every time some self-important politician or pundit starts going on about how deficits are a burden on the next generation, remember that the biggest problem facing young Americans today isn't the future burden of debt — a burden, by the way, that premature spending cuts probably make worse, not better. It is, rather, the lack of jobs, which is preventing many graduates from getting started on their working lives.
- 50

So all this talk about structural unemployment isn't about facing up to our real problems; it's about avoiding them, and taking the easy, useless way out. And it's time for it to stop.

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Les brevets vous semblent-ils encore utiles aujourd'hui ?

**Annexe : *Unitary patenting draws nearer*" By Clive Cookson
The Financial Times 14 juin 2012.**

DOCUMENT

The world of patents is growing, as companies intensify their efforts to protect the fruits of research and development. At the same time, it is becoming more uniform, as governments try to iron out the costly inconsistencies between the world's different systems.

5 The World Intellectual Property Organisation (Wipo) in Geneva recorded growth of 10.7 per cent in filings under the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the closest thing to a global system. Francis Gurry, Wipo director-general, says: "The recovery in international patent filings that we saw in 2010 gained strength in 2011. This underlines the important role played by [patenting] in a world where innovation is an increasingly important feature of economic strategy." The European Patent Office (EPO) in Munich received 244,437 applications in 2011, an increase of 3.7 per cent over 2010. "This suggests
10 that companies are reacting differently in this difficult economic climate from the way they did in similar conditions in the past," says Benoît Battistelli, EPO president.

"Whereas European patent filings dropped 7 per cent in 2009, following the credit crunch, this time companies appear to have decided to maintain or even increase their R&D and patent investments. And, so far, 2012 has mirrored 2011." While European and US patenting is growing at single-digit
15 percentage rates, Asian – and above all Chinese – activity is increasing much faster.

Analysis by Thomson Reuters shows that in 2011 China overtook the US and Japan to become the world leader in patent application volume. With Chinese patent applications increasing by about 17 per cent a year, Thomson Reuters projects that China will publish 493,000 patent applications in 2015, well ahead of the US (about 380,000) and Japan (290,000).

20 The big difference between China and the other patenting powerhouses is that Chinese organisations still focus mainly on protection in their domestic market. They are not filing patents globally at the same level as other innovation-minded countries. Thomson Reuters calculates that only 5.6 per cent of China's inventions are protected with global patent filings abroad, far fewer than the US (48.8 per cent) and Japan (38.7 per cent).

25 Meanwhile, the drive to harmonise patenting around the world has made significant progress over the past year.

A big advance came last September with the passage of the "America Invents Act", the first thorough reform of the US patent system for 50 years and arguably the most comprehensive since the system was set up in the early 19th century. From the international point of view, the most important feature
30 of the act is that the traditional US "first to invent" rule is replaced with the "first to file" priority used elsewhere in the world.
[...]

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« Sans croissance, il ne peut y avoir réduction de la dette publique. »

Annexe : *Going for growth, but how? - The Economist May 5th 2012*

DOCUMENT**« Sans croissance, il ne peut y avoir réduction de la dette publique. »***J.L. Gaffard - La Voix du Nord 4 mai 2012*

The words of Mario Draghi were just an aside, but they caused a stir. "We have had a fiscal compact. Right now what is in my mind is to have a growth compact," the president of the European Central Bank told the European Parliament. He did not elaborate. But from a man closely linked to the German desire for fiscal rectitude, his words led many to hope that the euro zone might move on from its self-defeating obsession with austerity.

Mr Draghi, it seems, has started being less German and more French as Europe awaits the likely election of François Hollande as the new French president. Mr Hollande, a Socialist, wants to renegotiate the fiscal compact, a treaty toughening fiscal rules, to include growth. In Brussels there is talk of a new Marshall Plan. Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council, is expected to summon European Union leaders to a dinner to discuss growth. With parts of the euro zone crushed by recession and mass unemployment, many now look to Mr Hollande for relief. Even Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, has changed tone. She now insists that Europe's policy rests not only on budgetary discipline, but also on measures to promote jobs and growth.

Yet nobody should get carried away by a hope that the euro zone is embarking on a radical new course. Calling for growth is like advocating world peace: everybody agrees that it is a good thing, but nobody agrees how to do it. Mr Draghi's ideas, as far as they can be divined, are to promote structural reforms to make labour markets more flexible and encourage entrepreneurship. Mrs Merkel echoes this, saying promoting growth need not cost billions. Liberals add that a key to higher growth is to remove barriers to the EU's single market, particularly in services.

Yet Mr Hollande is against such ideas. His programme for France, which has one of the biggest public sectors in the world, is mainly about more spending and more taxes. In the EU he wants common European project bonds to finance infrastructure, a capital injection for the European Investment Bank (EIB) and a redirection of EU regional funds towards jobs. Much of this can be done so long as Mr Hollande does not try to reopen the actual text of the fiscal compact. Indeed, many of these ideas have already been proposed by the European Commission (...).

Even so, Germany will find itself more isolated. It has pushed austerity too far and too fast. The myth of an expansionary fiscal contraction, the idea that deficit-cutting would boost growth, has been largely dispelled. The latest evidence is that in a downturn the multiplier effect of fiscal tightening can lead to deeper recession, making it even harder to cut the deficit. In the euro zone, moreover, countries cannot easily mitigate the impact through looser monetary policy or currency devaluation. Structural reforms may boost growth, but mostly in the medium term.

Yet if high deficits were the answer, Greece and Spain should be booming. Many countries in the euro zone had no choice but austerity to try to calm bond markets that were pushing them into bankruptcy. Others cut for fear of suffering the same fate. Debt in advanced economies has reached levels exceeded only during the Second World War, and the evidence is that high debt can stifle long-term growth. Sooner or later, most European countries have to start working off their debt. So the choice is not really between austerity and growth, but over the timing and speed of deficit-cutting and the right mix of structural reforms.

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Les enjeux de l'intégration économique européenne.

**Annexe : "Mr Hollande and Mrs Merkel are clashing over Eurobonds, and more",
The Economist, May 26 th 2012**

DOCUMENT

Les grandes avancées de la construction Européenne depuis le traité de Rome, peuvent-elles être remises en cause par les difficultés de gestion de la crise de la dette ?

Mr Hollande and Mrs Merkel are clashing over Eurobonds, and more



HOW quickly François Hollande is changing the terms of European politics. When he spoke about the need for more growth, others quickly echoed him. And now that the new French president is talking about the need for Eurobonds, even the IMF and the OECD have joined the chorus of those demanding joint euro-zone debt issuance. At his first European Union summit, over an informal dinner in Brussels on May 23rd, Mr Hollande found more allies. Predictably, though, he ran into firm opposition from Germany.

That did not seem to bother him. Finding agreement can wait for the next summit, in late June, if not later. For now Mr Hollande was demonstrating that he was different from his predecessor, who stood on the same podium in Brussels in March. Before every summit Nicolas Sarkozy would seek a common position with the German chancellor, Angela Merkel. By contrast Mr Hollande chose to meet the Spanish prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, before the pair took the train (not the presidential jet) to Brussels.

Mr Hollande was all too happy to highlight his differences with the chancellor. "For Mrs Merkel Eurobonds are the end point of a process of integration. For me they are the starting point," he declared. This is a striking change of tone from the election campaign, when Mr Hollande, though critical of Mrs Merkel's brand of austerity, seemed keen to find an accommodation. He flew to Berlin within hours of his inauguration. Most of his calls for growth-inducing European investment seemed modest, based on existing proposals by the European Commission. When he spoke of "Eurobonds", he had once suggested that he merely meant "project bonds", a scheme to sweeten debt issued by private firms to finance EU-backed infrastructure projects.

That pretence is over. Mr Hollande now wants countries to pool new public debt. Is it acceptable, he asks, that Spain must borrow at 6% while Germany can raise money almost for free? This week Germany sold two-year bonds with a 0% coupon.

For Germans, Eurobonds are the wrong prescription at the wrong time. Mrs Merkel says they are illegal under EU treaties and do not contribute to growth. *Financial Times Deutschland*, a German daily, calls the dispute "The German-French Ice Age."

Yet it is too soon to conclude that Franco-German relations have gone into the deep freeze. Any new French president is

bound to cause some realignment in Europe. Perhaps Mr Hollande, boosted by a successful trip to America, is setting out a tough opening position ahead of the June summit. Perhaps he is playing up his differences with Germany for the sake of domestic politics, as he seeks to secure a clear majority for his Socialist Party in elections to the National Assembly next month.

There is certainly a need to reappraise policy as the euro zone's debt crisis enters a perilous new phase. Investors are fleeing both the banks and the sovereign bonds of Mediterranean countries. Without a restoration of confidence in the ability of the euro zone to survive, it is hard to see how growth can return. Spain, sucked into a worsening recession, is pleading for the European Central Bank (ECB) to inject more liquidity into its banks and buy its government bonds.

More ominously, the exhausted Greeks may soon vote themselves out of the euro zone. Although the politicians said they wanted Greece to stay in, the Bundesbank seemed ready to boot it out. It declared that the turmoil caused by a Greek exit would be "considerable, but manageable given prudent crisis management." A bigger danger, it suggested, is that agreeing to a substantial renegotiation of Greece's bail-out conditions "would damage confidence in all euro-area agreements and treaties".

Others are not so sanguine. Few have any real confidence in the firewalls erected so far. Thus the call for the ECB to do more with its vast arsenal. Two sets of longer-term reforms make sense.

One is to create a form of "banking union", with a Europe-wide system of deposit guarantees, recapitalisation and regulation. This would help break the link between weak banks and weak sovereigns. The other is to move towards greater "fiscal union", including the creation of Eurobonds. This would reduce borrowing costs for troubled countries and create a safe asset for banks to hold.

The euro's future

So Mr Hollande is right to reopen the debate on the euro's future. He is also right in thinking that an exclusive Franco-German duopoly cannot pretend to run the euro zone. But there are limits to how far he should push the confrontation with Mrs Merkel. The chancellor is hardly without friends in Europe. She is backed by, among others, the remaining AAA-rated countries, such as Finland and the Netherlands. And everybody knows that the crisis has, for the moment, shifted financial power to creditor states.

A prolonged Franco-German dispute will lead to a debilitating stalemate that will help nobody, least of all France. The harsh truth is that France is more vulnerable than Germany. It is forecast to miss its budget-deficit target next year, and French banks are dangerously exposed to troubled Mediterranean countries.

So Mr Hollande will need to practise the art of persuasion. Above all Germany must be reassured that greater risk-sharing will not amount to handing its credit card to profligate governments. Mr Hollande might tell Mrs Merkel that creating a more solid euro zone, far from creating moral hazard, will make it easier to threaten Greece or others with expulsion. And setting out clear conditions for the introduction of Eurobonds could create incentives for countries to keep to the path of reform. Mr Hollande wants all issues to be put on the table. He, too, should be asked what France is offering by way of domestic reforms and concessions to Germany's wish for deeper political union. ■

Economist.com/blogs/charlemagne

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Quel modèle de développement pour demain ?

Annexe : "Human development report 2010"

Summary - The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development

Source : <http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2010/summary/>

DOCUMENT

“People are the real wealth of a nation.” With these words the 1990 Human Development Report began a forceful case for a new approach to thinking about development. That the objective of development should be to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives may appear self-evident today. But that has not always been the case. A central objective of the Report for the past 20 years has been to emphasize that development is primarily and fundamentally about people.

This year’s Report celebrates the contributions of the human development approach, which is as relevant as ever to making sense of our changing world and finding ways to improve people’s well-being. Indeed, human development is an evolving idea—not a fixed, static set of precepts—and as the world changes, analytical tools and concepts evolve. So this Report is also about how the human development approach can adjust to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

The past 20 years have seen substantial progress in many aspects of human development. Most people today are healthier, live longer, are more educated and have more access to goods and services. Even in countries facing adverse economic conditions, people’s health and education have greatly improved. And there has been progress not only in improving health and education and raising income, but also in expanding people’s power to select leaders, influence public decisions and share knowledge.

Yet not all sides of the story are positive. These years have also seen increasing inequality— both within and across countries— as well as production and consumption patterns that have increasingly been revealed as unsustainable. Progress has varied, and people in some regions—such as Southern Africa and the former Soviet Union—have experienced periods of regress, especially in health. New vulnerabilities require innovative public policies to confront risk and inequalities while harnessing dynamic market forces for the benefit of all.

(...) Some key definitions

Human development is the expansion of people’s freedoms and capabilities to lead lives that they value and have reason to value. It is about expanding choices. Freedoms and capabilities are a more expansive notion than basic needs. Many ends are necessary for a “good life,” ends that can be intrinsically as well as instrumentally valuable—we may value biodiversity, for example, or natural beauty, independently of its contribution to our living standards