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Outline

1. The French situation
2. The French appalled economist movement
3. *What to do about Europe? -> Changing Europe*

1. The French situation

- New president, new government since 2012. But very similar policy.
- Differences:
 - At the beginning, increasing taxes rather than only cuts. Over now.
 - The housing law currently under debate
- Hollande “a supply-side socialist” (13/11/2012)
 - “A banking reform delighting bankers” Dominique Plihon, le Monde Diplomatique, March 2013
 - The agenda of cost-competitiveness:
 - The “national interprofessional agreement” (ANI, May 2013)
 - 20 billions of subsidies allocated to the firms without any condition or counterpart -> 7 billions paid by consumers VAT
 - No increase of the minimum wage, except in June 2012 (2%): from 27,30 euros (gross wage) increase/month for a full-time worker. Finally 8 euros/month.

1. The French situation

- Reform of the pension system (end of August 2013) more years needed to get a full pension, fully paid by workers (increase in social security contributions for both workers and employers but both compensated).
- A small increase in the marginal tax rate of the income tax: from 42 to 45 % ... (50 % under Chirac).
- Very drastic austerity policy:
 - Tax increases: 30 billions in 2013-14.
 - Cuts in public spending: 72 billions expected over the 5 years, 15 billions for 2014.
- The path to be followed is Schröder's one (23rd May, 2013, Leipzig):
 - "The progress is also to make courageous choices in difficult times to protect jobs, to anticipate industrial change and this is what Gerhard Schröder made here in Germany and allows your home country be ahead of others "
 - "These decisions are not easy to take, they may raise up controversy, but nothing is built, nothing solid is built, ignoring reality"

2. The French appalled economist movement

- Officially created on the 1st of September 2010.
- About 8000 signatories of the *Manifesto*
- A board of about 25 economists of various traditions
- A monthly conference (since sept. 2013)
- Insistence on the debate: *there are alternatives!*
- 5 books:
 - Manifeste d'économistes atterrés, Les liens qui libèrent, 2010.
 - 20 ans d'aveuglement. L'Europe au bord du gouffre, Les liens qui libèrent,
 - Changer d'économie, Les liens qui libèrent, 2012.
 - L'Europe mal- traitée, Les liens qui libèrent, 2012.
 - Changing Europe, October 16th, 2013.

<http://www.atterres.org/>

3. Changing Europe

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