



# A RIGHT-LEFT CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR 2027

— ✨ —  
*Four Structural Reforms for  
Democratic Stability*



EQUALITY  
BONUS



HOUSING  
STABILITY



INFLATION BUFFER  
SAVINGS ACCOUNT



DUAL-TIME  
CONTRACT

ATLANTIC UNION CONSTITUTIONAL PROJECT

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## Executive Summary

This paper proposes four institutional reforms designed to build a durable democratic consensus across traditional political divisions. The Equality Bonus recognizes the economic cost of motherhood; the Six Rules for Housing Stability reconnect housing prices with household incomes; the Inflation Buffer Savings Account strengthens resilience against inflation; and the Dual-Time Contract ensures that productivity gains from artificial intelligence reduce working time rather than income. Together, these reforms seek to improve institutional incentives instead of expanding permanent public spending.

# A RIGHT–LEFT CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR 2027

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# A RIGHT–LEFT CONSENSUS FRAMEWORK FOR 2027

## *Four Structural Reforms for Democratic Stability*

### I. A DEFINING POLITICAL CHALLENGE

France enters the 2027 electoral cycle facing a defining political challenge. The possibility of a far-right victory can no longer be dismissed as a remote scenario. Preventing that outcome will require more than campaign strategy or tactical alliances. It will require a governing agenda capable of attracting a durable majority across traditional political divides.

For decades, public debate has become increasingly polarized while structural problems have remained unresolved. As a result, many voters no longer distinguish between ideological promises and practical solutions. Restoring confidence in democratic institutions therefore begins with reforms that address widely recognized problems without demanding ideological conversion.

This paper proposes **four institutional reforms** designed to establish a practical consensus between the political Right and the Left. Their purpose is neither to expand the welfare state nor to dismantle market economics. Instead, they seek to improve the rules under which markets, employers, workers, and public institutions operate.

Each proposal follows the same philosophy:

- **reward responsibility rather than dependency;**
- **align private incentives with the public interest;**
- **strengthen long-term economic stability instead of relying on continuous public spending.**

These reforms are intended to appeal to citizens who value economic responsibility as well as to those who seek greater social fairness. Rather than asking either side to abandon its principles, they identify areas where both can advance their legitimate objectives through better institutional design.

Although these proposals were developed in the French context, their underlying principles are applicable to many democratic countries facing similar pressures: declining trust in institutions, rising political polarization, demographic change, housing affordability, technological disruption, and growing concerns about the future of work.

The objective is therefore broader than electoral success alone. It is to demonstrate that democratic governments remain capable of producing durable reforms through consensus rather than confrontation.

The four reforms presented in this framework are:

1. **The Equality Bonus** — recognizing and partially compensating for the documented economic cost of motherhood.
2. **The Six Rules for Housing Stability** — restoring the relationship between housing prices and household incomes by reforming the financial rules that fuel speculation.
3. **The Inflation Buffer Savings Account (IBSA)** — enabling households and businesses to build resilience against inflation through disciplined long-term savings and strategic reserves.

4. **The Dual-Time Contract** — ensuring that productivity gains generated by artificial intelligence and automation translate into shorter working hours devoted equally to productive work and lifelong learning, without reducing income.

Taken together, these reforms form a coherent institutional framework rather than a collection of isolated policy proposals. Their common objective is to strengthen democratic stability by addressing structural challenges before they become political crises.

## II. THE EQUALITY BONUS

### Recognizing the Economic Cost of Motherhood

#### The Challenge

Across every developed economy, women continue to experience a measurable lifetime earnings gap associated with motherhood. In France, studies by **INSEE** and **Eurostat** estimate that the cumulative difference in career earnings between men and women ranges from **€150,000 to €250,000**.

This disparity cannot be explained solely by differences in occupation or career choice. A substantial share results from what economists increasingly describe as the **motherhood penalty**: the lasting reduction in earnings that follows the birth of a first child.

For many women, childbirth temporarily interrupts career progression, reduces opportunities for promotion, and slows long-term salary growth. During the first five years after the birth of a child, income losses commonly reach **20 to 30 percent** compared with equivalent career trajectories.

Motherhood creates undeniable social value. Yet its economic costs continue to be borne primarily by individual women rather than being recognized as part of society's collective investment in future generations.

The Equality Bonus is intended to acknowledge this imbalance through a simple, transparent, market-compatible mechanism.

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#### The Proposal

The **Equality Bonus** is a statutory payment made by an employer to a female employee following the birth of a child.

It is **not** a welfare benefit.

It is **not** a family allowance.

It is **not** intended to replace existing maternity protections.

Instead, it recognizes and partially compensates for the documented economic costs that motherhood imposes over the course of a professional career.

Unlike traditional social programs financed through public expenditure, the Equality Bonus relies on a partnership between employers and the tax system. Companies remain free to exceed the statutory minimum, while government intervention is limited to creating an appropriate fiscal incentive.

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## Proposed Framework

Parameter	Framework
<b>Beneficiary</b>	Every female employee following each childbirth
<b>Minimum payment</b>	One month of the national median net salary (approximately <b>€2,300</b> in France in 2026)
<b>Frequency</b>	One payment for each childbirth, up to four payments per employee
<b>Employee tax treatment</b>	Exempt from income tax and payroll contributions
<b>Employer tax treatment</b>	Corporate tax deduction equal to <b>150 percent</b> of the statutory minimum payment
<b>Payment deadline</b>	Within three months after the employee returns from maternity leave

## Why It Works

### For Employees

The Equality Bonus provides immediate financial recognition of the economic impact of motherhood at the moment when many families face increased expenses and reduced income.

Because the payment is exempt from taxes and payroll contributions, every euro reaches the employee directly.

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### For Employers

The proposal creates a predictable and limited financial obligation while allowing companies complete flexibility to provide more generous benefits if they choose.

The enhanced corporate tax deduction transforms the statutory minimum into an incentive rather than a simple compliance requirement.

The policy also strengthens recruitment, retention, and employee loyalty by demonstrating a tangible commitment to supporting working parents.

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## For Public Finances

Unlike permanent entitlement programs, the Equality Bonus does not require the creation of a new government agency or a recurring public expenditure.

The government's role is limited to providing a targeted fiscal incentive that encourages private participation while keeping the long-term budgetary impact under control.

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## For Society

The proposal establishes an important principle: motherhood generates benefits that extend well beyond the individual family.

Future workers, taxpayers, entrepreneurs, researchers, and public servants all begin as children whose early years impose measurable economic costs on their parents.

Recognizing a portion of those costs is not simply a matter of social policy. It is an investment in demographic resilience, economic continuity, and intergenerational fairness.

The Equality Bonus therefore seeks to reconcile two objectives often presented as incompatible: **economic responsibility and social justice**. Rather than expanding redistribution, it aligns market incentives with a broader recognition of the economic value created by raising the next generation.

# III. THE SIX RULES FOR HOUSING STABILITY

## Restoring the Connection Between Housing Prices and Household Incomes

### The Challenge

Across much of the developed world, housing has gradually shifted from being a place to live into a highly leveraged financial asset.

In France, this transformation has produced a widening gap between real estate prices and household incomes. In Paris, the average price per square meter now approaches **€12,000**—roughly eight times the country's monthly median net income.

This disconnect is often presented as an unavoidable consequence of supply shortages or demographic pressures. While those factors play a role, they do not fully explain the phenomenon.

Housing bubbles are primarily fueled by **financial rules** that permit buyers to borrow increasing amounts over increasingly long periods at interest rates that fail to reflect the underlying risks. The result is a self-reinforcing cycle: easier credit raises prices, higher prices justify larger loans, and larger loans further inflate prices.

Over time, speculation replaces affordability as the principal driver of the market.

The objective of this proposal is **not** to regulate prices directly.

Instead, it seeks to reform the financial framework that allows speculative pricing to emerge in the first place.

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## The Proposal

The framework establishes **Six Rules for Housing Stability**.

Rather than imposing price controls or expanding public subsidies, these rules adjust the financial conditions under which housing is financed.

Whenever market prices exceed the **Real Price Ceiling (RPC)**—defined as **one month’s median net income per square meter**—the stability rules automatically apply.

The underlying principle is simple:

**If housing prices become disconnected from household incomes, the financing system—not the housing market itself—should adjust.**

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## The Six Rules

No.	Rule	Application	Primary Objective
1	Savings interest rate shall not fall below the inflation rate.	General	Protect long-term savings.
2	Mortgage interest rate = inflation + 2%, with a minimum rate of 4%.	Above the RPC	Preserve financial stability and discourage speculative borrowing.
3	Total housing debt may not exceed 30% of household net income.	Above the RPC	Protect borrowers from excessive indebtedness.
4	Maximum mortgage duration: 15 years.	Above the RPC	Prevent excessive leverage and speculative price inflation.
5	Separate usufruct from bare ownership in qualifying properties.	Above the RPC and in condominium ownership	Facilitate long-term investment and major building maintenance.
6	The Real Price Ceiling (RPC): one month’s median net income per square meter.	Reference indicator	Anchor housing prices to the real economy.

## Why It Works

### It Restores Market Discipline

The proposal does not interfere with voluntary transactions.

Buyers remain free to purchase any property, and sellers remain free to ask any price.

Instead, the framework modifies the financial conditions that enable speculative bubbles to develop.

Markets continue to determine prices—but under rules that encourage long-term stability rather than excessive leverage.

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### It Protects Households

Housing should represent a foundation for family life—not a source of permanent financial vulnerability.

By limiting debt burdens and loan durations whenever prices become disconnected from incomes, the framework reduces the likelihood of household over-indebtedness and financial distress.

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### It Protects Financial Institutions

Banking crises frequently originate in excessive exposure to inflated real estate markets.

Mortgage lending based on realistic repayment capacity strengthens financial resilience while reducing systemic risk.

The proposal therefore protects borrowers and lenders simultaneously.

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### It Encourages Productive Investment

When excessive credit no longer fuels speculative price appreciation, capital becomes available for more productive investments:

- business creation,
- industrial modernization,
- scientific research,
- technological innovation,
- and infrastructure development.

Economic growth increasingly depends on productive investment rather than appreciation of existing assets.

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### It Reconnects Housing With Its Social Purpose

Housing should first serve people—not speculation.

The Six Rules for Housing Stability seek to restore that principle without abolishing market economics.

Rather than subsidizing ever-higher prices, they encourage a housing market in which affordability, financial responsibility, and long-term stability reinforce one another.

The objective is not to make housing cheaper through government intervention.

The objective is to make **speculative housing inflation structurally more difficult to finance**, allowing market prices to converge naturally toward the purchasing power of ordinary households.

## IV. THE INFLATION BUFFER SAVINGS ACCOUNT (IBSA)

### Building Economic Resilience Before Inflation Strikes

#### The Challenge

Inflation is often treated as an unavoidable economic shock to which households, businesses, and governments must simply adapt.

In reality, inflation does not occur at a constant pace. Periods of moderate inflation are frequently followed by sudden increases that erode purchasing power, reduce investment capacity, and destabilize long-term financial planning.

Current monetary policy is largely reactive. Central banks intervene only after inflation has accelerated, using higher interest rates that often slow economic activity while addressing the symptoms rather than the underlying vulnerability.

The question, therefore, is not simply how to fight inflation once it appears.

It is how to prepare for it before it occurs.

The Inflation Buffer Savings Account (IBSA) applies the same principle used in engineering, insurance, and disaster preparedness: **build reserves during stable periods so they are available when conditions deteriorate.**

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#### The Proposal

The Inflation Buffer Savings Account allows households and businesses to accumulate reserves whenever inflation remains below the long-term policy target of **2 percent per year**.

The mechanism operates automatically.

- When annual inflation is **below 2 percent**, the difference is deposited into a dedicated reserve.
- When inflation **exceeds 2 percent**, those accumulated reserves are released to offset the resulting loss of purchasing power.

Rather than allowing purchasing power to fluctuate unpredictably, the system smooths inflation over time by transforming periods of monetary stability into opportunities for future protection.

In effect, citizens create their own inflation insurance while economic conditions remain favorable.

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## Two Complementary Forms

The IBSA consists of two mutually reinforcing components.

### 1. Financial Buffer

The financial component is a regulated savings account whose return is indexed directly to measured inflation.

Unlike conventional investment products, its purpose is not to maximize returns or encourage speculation.

Its objective is straightforward:

**to preserve purchasing power over the long term.**

Because deposits accumulate during low-inflation periods, households gradually build financial reserves capable of absorbing future inflationary shocks.

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### 2. Strategic Resource Buffer

Financial reserves alone cannot protect an economy from shortages of essential commodities.

For this reason, the second component consists of strategic inventories of critical raw materials, including:

- Copper
- Oil
- Grain
- Lithium
- Construction timber

These inventories function as physical inflation buffers.

When global supply chains become disrupted or commodity prices rise sharply, strategic reserves reduce exposure to market volatility while strengthening national economic resilience.

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## Why It Works

### It Encourages Long-Term Financial Discipline

The IBSA rewards preparation rather than emergency intervention.

Instead of relying entirely on monetary authorities, households and businesses gradually build their own reserves during favorable economic conditions.

The result is greater financial independence and reduced vulnerability to sudden inflationary shocks.

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## It Strengthens Economic Stability

Inflation often produces abrupt changes in consumer spending and business investment.

By smoothing fluctuations in purchasing power, the IBSA reduces economic volatility and supports more predictable long-term planning.

Greater stability encourages investment, strengthens consumer confidence, and reduces the severity of inflation-driven recessions.

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## It Reinforces Industrial Sovereignty

Modern economies depend upon secure access to strategic resources.

Maintaining inventories of essential commodities reduces dependence on unstable international markets and improves resilience during geopolitical crises, supply-chain disruptions, or natural disasters.

Economic security increasingly depends not only on financial capital but also on physical preparedness.

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## It Complements Monetary Policy

The IBSA is **not** intended to replace central banks.

Rather, it complements monetary policy by introducing a decentralized mechanism for managing inflation risk.

Instead of concentrating responsibility exclusively within public institutions, it distributes resilience throughout society.

Households, businesses, financial institutions, and governments all contribute to a more stable economic system.

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## A New Philosophy of Inflation Management

Most anti-inflation policies focus on controlling inflation after it has already reduced purchasing power.

The Inflation Buffer Savings Account adopts the opposite approach.

It assumes that inflation is neither entirely predictable nor entirely preventable.

Instead of attempting to eliminate every future shock, society prepares for them in advance.

The guiding principle is simple:

**Economic resilience begins before the crisis—not after it.**

The Inflation Buffer Savings Account therefore transforms inflation management from a reactive policy into a permanent institutional capability.

Rather than merely responding to economic instability, it enables society to anticipate it, absorb it, and recover from it with far greater confidence.

## V. THE DUAL-TIME CONTRACT

### Ensuring That Automation Reduces Working Time—Not Income

#### The Challenge

Artificial intelligence and automation are transforming the nature of work at an unprecedented pace.

Throughout history, technological progress has increased productivity while creating new industries and occupations. The current wave of automation, however, differs in both speed and scope. For the first time, machines are beginning to perform not only repetitive physical tasks but also cognitive activities once considered uniquely human.

If productivity continues to rise while employment opportunities decline, societies will face an increasingly fundamental question:

#### **Who should benefit from technological progress?**

Today, the answer is often uneven. Productivity gains frequently translate into higher corporate profits and shareholder value, while workers experience greater job insecurity, stagnant wages, or reduced working hours.

Technology itself is not the problem.

The challenge lies in how productivity gains are distributed.

The Dual-Time Contract is designed to ensure that technological progress benefits workers as much as it benefits capital.

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#### The Proposal

The **Dual-Time Contract** establishes a new relationship between productivity, working time, and education.

Whenever automation or artificial intelligence significantly increases productivity, a portion of those gains is converted into additional personal time rather than workforce reductions or wage compression.

Instead of replacing employees, automation gradually reduces the amount of time required for productive work while preserving income.

The released time becomes dedicated learning time.

The objective is not merely to work less.

It is to create a society that **learns more, adapts more quickly, and remains economically productive throughout longer working lives.**

A representative example illustrates the concept.

Activity	Today's Model	Dual-Time Contract
Productive work	40 hours/week	20 hours/week
Education and learning	0 hours/week	20 hours/week
Monthly income	Unchanged	Unchanged
Effective hourly compensation	1×	2×

These figures are illustrative rather than prescriptive. The principle is that productivity gains should increasingly be shared through reductions in working time while preserving purchasing power.

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## Four Foundational Principles

### 1. Right to Empowerment

Every employee has the right to receive the tools, digital resources, training platforms, and organizational support necessary to benefit from continuous technological change.

Employers therefore assume a positive obligation to invest in the long-term capabilities of their workforce.

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### 2. Learning Sovereignty

Learning time belongs to the individual employee.

It is **not** an extension of working time.

Employers may provide educational opportunities, but they may not dictate how employees use every hour devoted to learning.

Whether individuals pursue professional qualifications, university education, language study, scientific research, entrepreneurship, artistic creation, or civic engagement remains their own decision.

The purpose of learning is not merely to improve current productivity.

It is to expand individual freedom and adaptability.

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### 3. Binary Portability

Employees increasingly develop personalized AI assistants, digital knowledge bases, and automated workflows throughout their careers.

These intellectual tools should remain the property of the individual rather than the employer.

Under the principle of Binary Portability, employees retain the right to carry their personal AI agents, accumulated knowledge systems, and learning assets from one employer to another, just as they carry their professional experience.

Knowledge accumulated through learning should remain attached to the person who created it.

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#### 4. Extended Employer Responsibility

Organizations that benefit from advanced automation also assume responsibility for maintaining the capabilities of their workforce.

When inadequate training or insufficient technological preparation contributes directly to operational failures, employers share responsibility for those outcomes.

The objective is not to increase litigation.

It is to encourage continuous investment in human capital alongside technological capital.

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#### Why It Works

##### It Shares the Benefits of Automation

Rather than concentrating productivity gains exclusively in financial returns, the Dual-Time Contract distributes part of those gains through increased personal time without reducing income.

Workers benefit directly from technological progress instead of merely adapting to it.

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##### It Creates a Culture of Lifelong Learning

Continuous education becomes a normal component of professional life rather than an exceptional activity undertaken only after unemployment or career disruption.

Learning evolves from a remedial policy into a permanent feature of economic citizenship.

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##### It Increases Economic Adaptability

Rapid technological change requires equally rapid human adaptation.

A population that continuously develops new knowledge and skills is more resilient to industrial transformation, demographic change, and international competition.

The Dual-Time Contract therefore strengthens national competitiveness by investing directly in human capabilities.

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## It Preserves Human Dignity

Automation should expand human opportunity rather than diminish it.

The purpose of technological progress is not simply to produce more goods with fewer workers.

Its ultimate purpose should be to give people greater freedom to learn, create, innovate, care for others, participate in civic life, and pursue meaningful personal development.

Economic efficiency and human development are not competing objectives.

Under the Dual-Time Contract, they become mutually reinforcing.

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## A New Social Contract for the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Previous generations fought to reduce working hours from seventy-hour weeks to forty-hour weeks because industrial productivity made that progress possible.

Artificial intelligence presents an opportunity to continue that historical evolution.

The question is no longer whether automation will transform work.

It will.

The real question is whether society chooses to convert technological progress into unemployment—or into human development.

The Dual-Time Contract answers that question with a simple principle:

**As machines become more productive, human beings should become more educated, more creative, and more free.**

This proposal does not seek to slow technological progress.

It seeks to ensure that technological progress serves society as a whole.

In doing so, it offers a new foundation for the relationship between labor, technology, and democratic prosperity in the twenty-first century.

## VI. CONCLUSION

### Four Structural Reforms for Democratic Stability

The four proposals presented in this framework—

- **The Equality Bonus**
- **The Six Rules for Housing Stability**
- **The Inflation Buffer Savings Account (IBSA)**
- **The Dual-Time Contract**

—are not isolated policy initiatives.

Together, they form a coherent institutional strategy based on a common philosophy: **lasting political stability depends upon better rules, not simply greater public spending.**

Each proposal addresses a structural challenge that increasingly fuels political polarization in democratic societies:

- declining purchasing power;
- unaffordable housing;
- inflationary instability;
- and the transformation of work through artificial intelligence.

Rather than treating these issues independently, the framework proposes reforms that reinforce one another while preserving fiscal responsibility.

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## Why These Reforms Work

### Institutional Rather Than Ideological

Each proposal modifies the institutional framework within which economic decisions are made.

Instead of attempting to redistribute wealth after inequalities emerge, these reforms seek to reduce the structural mechanisms that generate those inequalities in the first place.

The objective is not to replace market economies.

It is to improve the rules under which markets operate.

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### Fiscally Responsible

None of the four reforms depends upon large, permanent increases in government spending.

Instead, they rely on carefully designed incentives that encourage private actors to pursue outcomes aligned with the broader public interest.

Fiscal sustainability and social progress are treated as complementary objectives rather than competing priorities.

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### Politically Durable

Policies founded exclusively upon ideological preferences often disappear when political majorities change.

Institutional reforms are more resilient because they create incentives that remain effective regardless of which political coalition is in office.

Durable democracies require institutions capable of surviving electoral cycles.

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## A Message to Voters

### For Conservatives

These reforms preserve market economics, reward responsibility, strengthen financial stability, and avoid expanding permanent government spending.

### For Progressives

They directly address structural inequalities, improve purchasing power, expand educational opportunity, and strengthen social mobility.

### For Centrists

They demonstrate that durable reforms can emerge through pragmatic institutional design rather than ideological confrontation.

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## Beyond the 2027 Election

Although this framework has been prepared in the context of the 2027 French presidential election, its underlying principles extend far beyond a single campaign.

Most democratic societies now face similar challenges:

- declining trust in institutions;
- demographic transition;
- technological disruption;
- housing affordability;
- inflationary uncertainty;
- and increasing political polarization.

These challenges are unlikely to disappear through electoral rhetoric alone.

They require institutional innovation capable of rebuilding public confidence while preserving both economic dynamism and democratic legitimacy.

For that reason, the proposals presented here are intended not merely as campaign commitments but as examples of a broader method of democratic governance: identifying reforms that allow citizens with different political philosophies to recognize a common interest.

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## Democratic Stability Through Better Institutions

Modern democracies rarely collapse because citizens disagree.

They become unstable when institutions no longer produce workable compromises.

The purpose of this framework is therefore larger than winning a single election.

It is to demonstrate that democratic governments remain capable of solving long-term problems without abandoning either economic freedom or social responsibility.

Consensus does not require unanimity.

It requires institutions that encourage cooperation where interests overlap while preserving legitimate political disagreement where differences remain.

That principle lies at the heart of every successful constitutional democracy.

It also lies at the heart of the **Atlantic Union Constitutional Project**.

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## Atlantic Union Constitutional Project

**François Joinneau**

Cherbourg-en-Cotentin, France

June 2026

# VII. GERMAN-STYLE CONSENSUS IN PRACTICE

## A Case Study from Cherbourg

### From Political Confrontation to Electoral Arithmetic

Political debates often become deadlocked because each side appeals to a different moral framework. One side invokes social justice, another fiscal responsibility, another environmental protection. When moral arguments collide, compromise becomes increasingly difficult because each camp believes its values are fundamentally correct.

The approach described here begins from a different premise.

Instead of asking political actors to agree on moral principles, it asks them to recognize **shared structural realities**—facts that remain true regardless of political preference.

Electoral arithmetic is one such reality.

Demographic change is another.

Neither depends upon ideology.

Both can serve as common ground for negotiation.

The following example illustrates how this method can transform confrontation into constructive dialogue.

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## The Context

On **June 25, 2026**, a local left-wing association circulated a message criticizing the newly elected municipal council after it approved higher school cafeteria fees.

The association called for a public demonstration in front of City Hall and encouraged supporters to protest the decision.

The conventional political response would have been predictable:

- the majority would defend its budget;
- the opposition would condemn the decision;
- each side would appeal to its own supporters.

Such exchanges rarely produce compromise.

Instead, they reinforce polarization.

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## A Different Response

Rather than replying with ideological criticism, the following letter proposed an alternative approach.

It made no appeal to morality.

It made no accusation.

It simply invited the mayor to consider the long-term electoral consequences of the decision.

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## Letter to the Mayor

**Madam Mayor,**

The electoral arithmetic is straightforward.

You won the 2026 municipal election by a margin of **1,859 votes**.

Between now and the next municipal election in 2032, approximately **4,135 young citizens** will reach voting age.

That represents more than **twice your electoral margin**.

During the same period, the natural renewal of the electorate and increasing public concern about climate change are likely to reinforce this demographic evolution.

For that reason, we invite the municipality to explore a solution capable of protecting both the city's financial stability and the confidence of local families.

Two approaches appear particularly worthy of consideration.

The first would simply postpone the increase in school cafeteria fees.

The second would introduce **free—or at least heavily subsidized—public transportation** for middle-school and high-school students, thereby fully or partially offsetting the increase in cafeteria costs.

Each option has advantages and disadvantages.

However, the second proposal better addresses the legitimate expectations of younger generations while supporting families facing increasing economic pressure.

Given your experience as both a former nurse and a mother, I believe you will appreciate the long-term perspective underlying this proposal.

Respectfully,

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## The Methodological Lesson

This exchange illustrates what the Atlantic Union Constitutional Project describes as **German-Style Consensus**.

Its central idea is simple:

**Replace moral confrontation with structural reasoning whenever possible.**

The distinction is important.

**Moral arguments divide.**

Different political traditions often reach different conclusions because they begin from different values.

As a result, moral debates frequently become zero-sum conflicts.

**Structural arguments converge.**

Demographic trends, election results, fiscal balances, economic incentives, and institutional constraints remain the same regardless of political affiliation.

They provide a shared factual foundation upon which negotiation becomes possible.

**Durable compromise emerges from shared interests.**

Compromises imposed through political pressure often disappear after the next election.

Compromises based upon mutual interests tend to survive because every participant continues to benefit from preserving them.

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## From Municipal Government to International Diplomacy

Although this example concerns a municipal policy debate, the underlying method applies equally to national and international politics.

Successful constitutional systems rarely eliminate disagreement.

Instead, they create institutions that channel disagreement toward negotiated outcomes.

The same principle applies to diplomacy.

Nations need not share identical political philosophies to recognize common strategic interests.

Institutional architecture should therefore encourage cooperation wherever objective interests overlap, even when ideological differences remain.

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## A Constitutional Method Rather Than an Ideology

German-Style Consensus is not itself a political doctrine.

It is a **method of constitutional engineering**.

Rather than asking which political philosophy is correct, it asks a different question:

**Which institutional design is most likely to produce stable cooperation among people who will never completely agree?**

That question lies at the heart of the Atlantic Union Constitutional Project.

The objective is not to eliminate political disagreement.

It is to ensure that democratic institutions continue producing workable compromises despite it.

Ultimately, constitutional success should be measured not by the intensity of political debate, but by the durability of the institutions that transform disagreement into peaceful cooperation.