



PRESS RELEASE

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MAJOR STRUCTURAL ISSUES

PUBLICATION OF FOUR PAPERS: AGROECOLOGY, UNIVERSITIES, JUSTICE, PENSIONS

The Court has published four papers, which form part of a body of work carried out on several major public policies, identifying both the main challenges that public decision-makers will face in the coming years, and the tools that may be used to tackle them. As an extension of the report “*A public finance strategy to exit the crisis*”, handed to the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister last June, this series of publications allows the Court to express itself on structural issues. With these educational publications, the Court is putting itself at the heart of its mission to inform citizens, at a key democratic moment. The first four papers published today summarise work already contradicted with the relevant authorities and organisations. They are launching a series of publications which will run until December, and which will relate in particular to police effectiveness, energy production choices, housing policy, the integration of young people into employment, school education and health – a dozen topics in total, identifying issues that it will be essential to tackle in the next five or ten years.

Supporting the agroecological transition to better respond to environmental challenges

National and European environmental commitments call into question the agricultural model that has prevailed in our country since the 1960s. The European Union’s common agricultural policy (CAP) has, since 2015, taken environmental issues more into account, but without obtaining the expected results. The current share of agricultural land dedicated to organic farming is 9.5%, with a target of 15% in 2022. The new CAP, the principles of which were defined in 2021, should be an opportunity to support an increased environmental ambition between 2023 and 2027, while mobilising other levers such as better enforcement of regulations, access to agricultural land, risk management and the search for additional sources of income for farmers.

[Read the paper](#)

Universities in 2030: more freedoms, more responsibilities

Of 2.7 million students, 1.6 million are enrolled in university, a 10% increase over five years. The reforms of the past fifteen years have only partially responded to the challenges facing universities: the constant increase in student demographics and the improvement of conditions for supporting student life, the acquisition of real management autonomy, or the opportunity to meet financial challenges, with regard to both public funding and own resources. The Court has identified three



courses of action for the next ten years: increasing the autonomy of institutions, conceiving the university as a real place for success and living, and accepting and mastering the differences between universities, by opening up the prospect of creating university colleges.

[Read the paper](#)

Improving management of the public justice service

For several years, the judiciary has benefited from developments intended to improve the response provided to citizens. Its budget increased by 22% between 2011 and 2021. Yet the processing times for civil cases are deteriorating, the stock of pending cases is increasing and the changes brought about by the justice programming law for 2018-2022 are struggling to be implemented. Three reforms are needed in the short term to address these structural weaknesses: the map of appeal courts must be changed and their number reduced; the justice system must equip itself with workload assessment tools and improve the distribution of staff; and finally, the Ministry of Justice must make up for the considerable delay accumulated in digital transformation.

[Read the paper](#)

Continuing to adapt the pension system to reduce deficits and strengthen equity

The financial balance of the pay-as-you-go pension system, according to which the youngest working generations finance, in particular through their contributions, the pensions of the oldest generations, is weakened by the ageing of the population. Reducing deficits (€13 billion in 2020) requires controlling pension spending, which is part of the broader context of controlling social spending and the sustainable return of social security to financial equilibrium. To achieve this, there are many parameters (age of pension entitlement, early retirement arrangements, conditions for full pension, pension indexing, etc.) but, ultimately, controlling retirement expenditure requires pushing back retirement ages or reducing the relative level of pensions. The measures should take into account considerations of equity between generations and within each generation, while aiming to simplify the rules and harmonize them between the schemes.

[Read the paper](#)

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