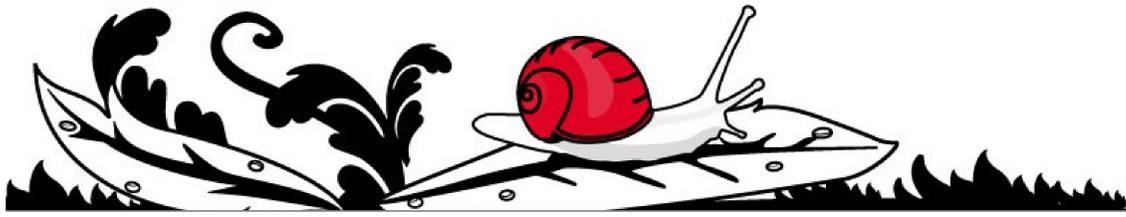
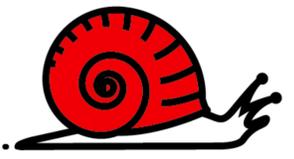


# The Political Snail's Strategy

## Association d'Objecteurs de Croissance (AdOC)

### French Degrowth Political Movement



### What is AdOC?

AdOC is a French political movement created after the political campaign for the European election. It was constituted in September 2009 in Beaugency (France).

### Short history of Degrowth in Politics in France

In the beginning of the 2000's, the provocative slogan "Décroissance" enters into Politics. There's the creation of the newspaper *La Décroissance*, *le journal de la joie de vivre*, the collective walk for Degrowth from Lyon to the Formula 1 circuit in Magny-Court, the publication of books about Degrowth (in particular Paul Ariès and Serge Latouche) and, in October 2005, the creation of the Parti Pour La Décroissance (Degrowth Party). But very soon this party experiences lot of problems, conflicts and misunderstandings.

In January 2008, the Party is almost dead, but a group of young people decide to join it and to understand what's happened, why such a raising movement is not able to be represented by a political party. Step by step and meetings after meetings, we start to criticize the concept of "party" start to think about how to make politics differently, how to conciliate the different level of Degrowth (individual, collective and political) and how to rehabilitate Politics.

Convinced that Degrowth could be applied only with an active participation of the people, we start to apply our theories in the non-electioneering campaign *Europe-Décroissance*.

In summer 2009, influenced by the writing's of one of our member, Michel Lepasant, who theorize our thinking, debates, experiences, we start to work together on the founding text of AdOC, which was adopted in consensus in the constituted assembly of the AdOC in last September.

This text describes either the political strategy, "*the Political Snail's Strategy*" and project of AdOC.



### The AdOC's Political Snail's Strategy

We propose to present and debate about "*the Political Snail's Strategy*" developed in France by several activists, politicians, intellectuals and citizens based on alternative experiences, analysis of the failure of the French Degrowth Party (PPLD) and also interesting political initiatives:

The growth society dramatically combines all the crises: the energy crisis, the environmental, social, economic, cultural and political crisis. Fundamentally it is the expression of one and only one madness: a world became inhuman, as if the belief in « always more » was enough to make sense.

To the radicality of those crises the *Snail's Strategy* opposes another consistency: the immediate exit from capitalism and productivism through all the practical alternative ways of life, already existing or still to create. That strategy does not want any other development, any other growth, any other consumption, or any other productivism but to leave behind the religion of growth, which increases inequalities, exhausts resources, wipes out the biodiversity and denies human dignity.

*Even if an infinite growth in a finite world was possible, it would still be absurd. How to open paths to other worlds?*

**In contrast with the classical strategy of power overtaking as a prerequisite of any change, the radicality and consistency of the *Snail's Strategy*.**

Degrowth is not only the aim of such a project, it is also its path and its method. The political strategy of Degrowth is a strategy of break off, in opposition with the strategies of accompaniment. **This *Snail's Strategy* firstly implies to give up the illusion that the power overtaking – whether it is reformist or revolutionary – is a prerequisite of any change of the world.** The *snail's strategy* does not want to « overtake the power » but to act against the dominations by weakening the various powers; and to create, without any delay, the conditions enabling the people to give full meaning to their lives.

The *Snail's strategy* is the critical mass and requires being present on the political scene and through all the Political dimensions of the individual and social emancipation, without any exception:

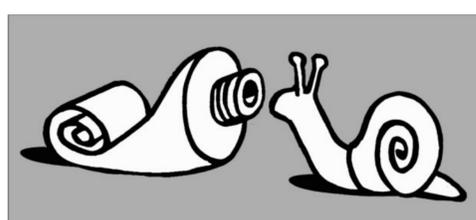
- ▶ The non-electioneering presence in the traditional political field, through demonstrations, petitions, election campaigns, critical and occasional support to political majorities so as to gain ground and perpetuate social, ecological and political successful field trials.
- ▶ The experimental projects and the immediate exit from capitalism, through practical alternatives and counter-power.
- ▶ The political project, through the various utopian branches tuned together into coherence.

### Future of AdOC ?

In coherence with its political project, AdOC will try to continue in the way of the relocalisation in promoting local Degrowth groups and in trying to improve its national visibility. AdOC will also try to develop links between local groups, project groups and that three feet.

We also think and work a lot on the status and the organization of AdOC, in coherence with our political strategy and project.

How could Degrowth be not only the aim of such a project but also its path and its method?



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