

Caldera points to pollution and waste management, reforestation and services related to the environment as employment niches and examples of a sustainable economy

Yesterday the Executive Vice President and head of IDEAS Foundation, Jesús Caldera, pointed out pollution and urban solid waste management, controlled reforestation and exploitation of the wood sector and services related to the environment as employment niches that, councils and local institutions can promote in the framework of the future Law on Sustainable Economy.

Caldera participated in the 2nd Symposium of the Municipal Group for Parliamentary Action organized by the Federal Secretariat of Towns and Municipal Policies at the Senate.

During his statement, the Executive Vice President of IDEAS Foundation declared that activities linked to the so-called eco industry involve around 200,000 people and only represent 2% of the GDP, “therefore they are sectors with significant growth rate”.

In fact, in the specific case of forest management which is essential to fight plagues and fires and help rural population to settle, Caldera encouraged councils to pledge for controlled wood exploitation policies as well as the reforestation of new areas.

Likewise, Caldera noted job generation potential of education from 0 to 3 years, based on the competence of councils.

The former Minister of Labour, once again, pointed out Innovation and Education as the two pillars of the economy of the future, where renewable energies; biotechnology, aeronautics and sectors linked to communication, and social services must play a crucial role in the development of the future Law on Sustainable Economy.

Regarding the social issues, Caldera dismantled the neoliberal model discourse, which considers that keeping social services negatively affects competitiveness. In his opinion, with a social model, Europe has put up with the crisis better than the USA, with a neoliberal capitalism model, and where besides, people do not enjoy a model of the Welfare State.

Caldera defined the economic model that has driven the world to the crisis as unfair, “for it has increased the number of inequalities, creating artificial bubbles, taking advantage of the lack of market regulation”, insufficient, “for today we have 20 million more people than 4 years ago who are below the minimum level of nutrition”, and unsustainable, “for it is based on the consumption of a fossil fuel energy, which are both running out as well as plunging the world into the climate disaster”.

Finally, and returning to the specific case of councils, the Vice President of IDEAS urged all civil services, and particularly councils, to reconsider the model of horizontal growth, “an unsustainable model in terms of energy and time consumption”.