

## **JAIME VERA SUMMER COURSES**

### **Caldera: “Passion for equality, defense of diversity and redistribution of wealth are the values of modern Social democracy”**

The Executive Vice president of IDEAS Foundation, Jesús Caldera, considers that “passion for equality, the defense of diversity and the redistribution of wealth are the three identifying marks of modern Social democracy”.

During the second and last Summer Course at the Jaime Vera, devoted to analyzing the future of Social democracy, Caldera affirmed that “although political representation does not prove it, I think the majority of European society shares progressive values” and he urged European social democratic parties “not to be afraid and not to get carried away by conservative agendas and to always commit themselves to the same old values with a modern discourse”.

Caldera looked back and blamed “conservative politics, which committed to the deregulation of markets” for generating the unprecedented economic and financial crisis and urged progressives to “go further in the idea that cohabitation is regulated by a social contract based on solidarity and not in an atmosphere of exaggerated individualism”.

The Vice president of IDEAS appealed to the criteria of sustainability as an “axis” on which policies must revolve around “we owe our children a future and currently the replacement rate of natural resources we consume is at 30 per cent”.

At the inaugural session, together with Caldera was David Del Campo, Director of the Jaime Vera Institute, who agreed with the idea that social democratic governments “must have the courage to carry out progressive policies that guarantee harmony between economic growth and social coverage”, for which he gave the example of the Dependency Law.

## PANEL ON SOCIAL CHANGE TRENDS

The afternoon session was devoted to the panel on “Social change trends” with the participation of Belén Barreiro, President of the CIS, Andrés Ortega, Director for Analysis and Studies of the Prime Minister’s Office and Ignacio Urquizu, Professor of Sociology at the Complutense University of Madrid.

Barreiro explained that, although the degree of concern of Spaniards for unemployment and the economy is very high, “it had been worse” and he reminded that despite the crisis “the Prime Minister has never been rated worse than the opposition leader”. Barreiro added that the crisis “has hardly displaced the ideological position of Spaniards” and concluded that “the left continues exceeding the right in all the social policy, international, autonomic, etc, indicators except that of economic management.”

As for Andrés Ortega, he defended the idea that “as a rule of thumb, in Spain as well as in Europe people are against the cutbacks in spending, because we are conscious that Welfare State needs reforms in order to survive”. Nevertheless, referring to the Spanish case, Ortega noted that “surveys say that citizens have neither accepted the pension freeze nor the conditions of the future labor reform.”

To conclude, Ignacio Urquizu denied the theory according to which economic crisis by itself overthrows governments and cited ideology as the driving force of Spanish voters.