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# A French presidential candidate goes on hunger strike

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Publication date: Sunday 9 January 2022

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from Jean-Marie Matagne, 7 January 2022

I heard on the radio this morning that 12 people including Pierre Larroutou and Anne Hessel were beginning a hunger strike in Paris today with the aim of bringing the left-wing parties and ecologists to agree on presenting a single candidate for the upcoming presidential election.

Having taken part in the Popular Primary, I approve this aim, on condition that the government programme that this candidate will defend includes France's participation in the abolition of nuclear and radioactive weapons and the reduction of arms around the world, along with a methodical and rapid phase-out of nuclear power generation.

So this morning I also began an open-ended fast with these objectives - they had already motivated my candidacy for the presidency in 2002, and my hunger-strike in 2012 (from 15 May to 26 June) when I sought to persuade President Hollande to organise a referendum on that subject.

I belong to no political party, but I am an activist and now a declared candidate "for a democratic and convivial France, in a livable world decarbonised, denuclearised and demilitarised".

Let me add that in my view democracy and conviviality would require, after the elections, the creation of a Citizens-Initiated Referendum [RIC in French], and the immediate abandonment of the "Vaccine Pass" (an ineffective measure against the Covid epidemic, discriminatory, heavily punitive, and contrary to the fundamental human right to give free and clear consent to medical treatment.) \*

Tomorrow I will take part the march in Saintes against the "Vaccine Pass".

Jean-Marie Matagne Ph.D

\* NB : New Zealand, a much less authoritarian country than France, has counted 50 deaths for 5 million people.

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