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Vote on civic service in the National Assembly: A unanimous vote to invest heavily in youth engagement

Unis-Cité, a pioneer association of civic service in France, praised the work of the High Commissioner Martin Hirsch and parliamentarians, including the rapporteur Claude Greff and Bernard Lesterlin Socialist MP, who recently adopted an ambitious bill for civic service in France.

For 15 years, Unis-Cité has mobilized more than 4,000 young people from all social and cultural backgrounds and all levels of education, who decided to dedicate 6 or 9 months of their lives to general interest missions conducted with isolated elderly, to recreate social ties in neighborhoods or to sensitize the population to sustainable development. This experience has demonstrated by example that young volunteers can meet real social needs and civic service can really be a part of social mix.

As player pioneer civic service, Unis-Cité recognizes that a true milestone was reached with the new civic service thanks to:

- **Political will is much stronger from the state:** 10,000 posts will be funded in 2010 with most of budget announced an increase of approximately 100 million euros per annum to 75,000 positions required by the President Republic by 2015. This ambition is mainly what was missing before.
- **Recognition and valuation higher is this commitment:** The new law provides for the validation of months of employment in the curricula of higher education by example.
- **A will to communicate important to young people and society** to enshrine this commitment in a sustainable way and have that life stage becomes natural to everyone. We particularly welcome the fact that civic service is provided to all youth during the JAPD and integrated into the civic education program in college and high school.

Unis-Cité welcomes and shares the central aim of social and cultural mix desired by all stakeholders with the implementation of this civic service. Achieving this goal of social and cultural mix will remain a real challenge in this civic service.

It must also be alert to the quality of assignments offered to young people that they are socially useful and complementary actions by employees, volunteers and officials.

The civic service will be an excellent way for the country to mobilize its youth meet its social and environmental issues, to enable young people to live a unique experience and live the mix for 9 months of his life.

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* Unis-Cité (www.uniscite.fr) was created in 1994 in France to test a civic service to gather youth from all backgrounds and all levels of study within a year of active citizenship. Mobilized full time for 6 or 9 months, they visit isolated seniors, work with families in the districts to adopt eco-gestures or create social bonds ... compensated € 600 per month for their commitment, they spend 1 / 5th of their time training to prepare citizens and their career plans.

Unis-Cité mobilizing 900 youth voluntary civic service in 26 cities in France

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