



HEADLINE - THE EARLY EXHAUSTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR 2017

Since Wednesday, August 2, the planetary natural resources of this year 2017 are exhausted until January 1, 2018. This means that Man has used all the renewable resources or not that our planet produces in one year. The stock of these resources naturally is now exhausted. Since the 1970s, the "Move The Date" has been steadily declining in the calendar, and this decline is steadily accelerating. Indeed, every year humanity lives "on credit" about three days earlier than the previous year. According to the NGO Global Footprint Network, this phenomenon is due in particular to the excessive fishing, to the huge human carbon footprint in the atmosphere, to the extent that forests are no longer sufficient, and to deforestation. The NGO also provides a census of the countries with the most resources. Australia is at the top of the ranking, if the world's population lives like this, humanity would need five planets a year. Curiously, it would need only 2.1 planets if one took the example of China which is more populated, but which consumes less finally. On average we would eventually need 1.7 planets to live by continuing to live as currently. In this context, our Minister for Ecological and Solidarity Transition explains that, despite our efforts in favor of the environment, through the law on biodiversity, low prices for renewable energies, organic farming and stagnating consumption of Coal, "we are not moving away from the worst" and so we need to make more commitment to the environment.



WASTE - THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN SUEZ AND BOUYGUES CONSTRUCTION FOR A CIRCULAR ECONOMY OF CITIES

According to Jean Louis Chaussade, General Manager of Suez *The problem of the sustainable city is before us; It is a market in the making, whose potential is difficult to estimate precisely.*

Suez and Bouygues Construction had already worked together and this had proved a success: within the framework of the Greater Paris Express or, during the development of connected objects ensuring a better safety of the operators on the ground.

At present, the two groups are united in circular economy and sustainable development. Suez and Bouygues Construction have just concluded a three-year global partnership to design and develop innovative solutions. The idea is to combine the expertise of the two constructions and environmental services giants to develop logic of circular economy. To this end, SUEZ brings its expertise in water treatment and waste management, and Bouygues Construction will contribute its know-how in the design and development of an eco-district, in a sustainable development approach.

Environmental issues are thus more and more anchored in our morals and in the economy. *Today, the environmental emergency prompts us to go even further and to mobilize our respective expertise in order to propose together breakthrough solutions in favor of better exploitation of resources*" adds Philippe Bonnavé, Chairman and CEO of Bouygues



BIODIVERSITY - SEGOLENE ROYAL BECOMES AMBASSADOR FOR ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC POLES PROGRAM

On Friday, July 28, 2017, the former Minister of Ecology Ségolène Royal was appointed French ambassador in charge of international negotiations for the Arctic and Antarctic poles. This position was formerly occupied by former Socialist Prime Minister Michel Rocard from 2009 until his death in 2016.

In the Arctic, new economic, strategic, scientific and environmental challenges have emerged with the rapid melting of the ice and the massive presence of natural resources (oil, minerals, gas, fish). France has no territories, unlike Antarctica, but is increasingly aware of the importance of security of access to resources.

In June 2016, Mr. Rocard presented the National Arctic Roadmap calling for "the application of high environmental standards" and for the banning of "high-risk" extractive activities in the region.

Ségolène Royal, which will continue to implement the national road map, is also concerned about "the lust of riparian states". The melting of the ice "will unfortunately allow access to underground resources, including fossil fuels, which were not attainable, which were not exploitable so far," she said. "The impact of global warming is massively seen at the poles. The sea ice has receded several kilometers in a few decades," she added.



FOOD - GENERAL STATE'S OF FOOD

Campaign promise of candidate Macron, the State's General of Food were officially launched on July 20 in the conference center of the Ministry of Finance in Paris.

They aim to ensure a better distribution of the value created, to accompany the transformation of production models and towards a healthy and sustainable diet.

The work will be organized in two stages. From the end of August to the end of September, the first project will be devoted to the creation of value and its distribution. One of the workshops will focus on the development of the bio-economy and the circular economy.

From the beginning of October to the end of November, participants will tackle health and environmental issues, including the ecological and solidary transition of agriculture and the fight against food waste. A transversal workshop, organized from the end of August to the end of November, will address the question of investment, technical support and research needed to achieve "environmental, health, social and economic performance".



JURISPRUDENCE

CAA Nancy, 1st Ch., 20 July 2017, No. 16NC02160

In the present case, the Prefect of the Meuse rejected the application of a wind project sponsor for authorization to install wind turbines in the territory of several municipalities. On appeal, the Tribunal Administratif de Nancy rejected the applicant's claim for the annulment of the order and the issuance by the judge of the authorization to operate (in the context of full legal proceedings Which derives from the Scheme of Classified Installations for the Protection of the Environment). As the applicant has appealed, the case comes before the Administrative Court of Appeal of Nancy. The Court accepts the company's argument to establish a procedural flaw committed by the Prefect of the Meuse, who did not respect the deadlines for convocation in the Départemental Council or the communication of the draft order before it was signed. Appellate judges, however, apply the traditional case-law to retain the unlawfulness of the decision taken if the defect which affects it is such as to influence the meaning of the decision taken or deprive the persons concerned of the decision, A guarantee, which the applicant does not mention. Finally, the CAA's judgment illustrates the major and common difficulties in assessing the impact of a wind farm on sites and landscapes. The dispute was essentially as to whether the refusal of authorization of the project by the prefect could be justified by the situation of co-visibility of wind turbines from historical sites of the First World War (Ossuary of Douaumont, American monument , Etc.) and was likely to call into question a UNESCO classification. The judges nevertheless conclude that the prefectural decree rejecting the authorization of the project, confirming the judgment of first instance.

The program will bring together representatives of agricultural unions, associations, insurers, health professionals, agribusiness and distribution companies, government, the European Commission, elected officials and experts. The general public can express their opinion on a new website. A part of the proposals will be included in the "agenda of solutions" that the Minister of Agriculture, Stéphane Travert, announced for the end of the year.



LANDSCAPE - END OF THE ANTICOSTI ISLAND EXPLOITATION PROJECT

In Quebec, on the North Shore, Anticosti Island, well known for its remarkable biodiversity in that it seeks UNESCO's inscription on the World Heritage List, sees the threat of oil exploitation moving away. The Government of Quebec has indeed decided to end the estimated 40 billion barrels of oil project (1 to 5% of which could be recovered).



However, the premises remain divided on the outcome of this decision. On the one hand, since it takes place before the end of the exploration phase, thus making it impossible to actually calculate the resources present on the Island and to decide on the feasibility of the potential extraction. On the other hand, because this project constituted employment and growth prospects for its territory, which now has to rely solely on tourism to develop.

However, this decision insists on the necessary transition towards renewable and green energy, in particular from the industrialized countries. While the Government of Quebec is currently in the process of negotiating compensation payments to petroleum groups (which require the proper enforcement of contracts), some residents do not intend to abandon the appeal already filed against the province and the federal government for a declaration of the Failure to comply with public consultation obligations, prior to authorization of exploratory drilling and removal of water.



CONSTITUTION - DECISION OF 31 JULY 2017 OF THE CC: CETA AND PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

Parliamentarians criticized the AACA for violating social and environmental standards, including the precautionary principle, which was not clearly articulated. Lastly, the Constitutional Council ruled on July 31 that the CETA agreement did not require a constitutional revision

The Constitutional Council recalled the constitutional value of the precautionary principle and confirmed that it was not mentioned in the CETA agreement. On the other hand, after an analysis of the text, the Constitutional Council considers that the precautionary principle should be respected on the basis of the commitments of the States, since the agreement states that "the parties are obliged to ensure and encourage High levels of environmental protection, to strive to continually improve their legislation and policies, as well as the levels of protection on which they are based".

The Constitutional Council also justifies its position by finding that its absence is not synonymous with ignorance.

Thus, "all these provisions of the agreement are appropriate to ensure compliance with the precautionary principle arising from Article 5 of the Environment Charter" in the French Constitution.