

HEADLINE– REVIEW OF THE ADEME ON CORPORATE ENERGY AUDITS

The French environment and energy management agency (ADEME) has released the results of the year 2017 on energy audits required in large companies. Of the 4955 companies that declared themselves on the ADEME platform in 2017, 3,599 were able to finalize their filing, 1241 are in the process of filing and 115 have not initiated the procedure. The purpose of the energy audit is to identify energy saving deposits in a company in order to implement a strategy for rationalizing this energy. The ADEME notes that for the year 2017, corrective actions of companies have focused on the lighting of their premises, as well as on the choice for vehicles with lower energy consumption. For an incentive purpose, several options are offered to companies: perform an energy audit; or be certified ISO 50 001; or alternatively mix ISO 50 001 certification and energy audits. However, this report shows that even if the objective of 80% of the average coverage rate for audits and certifications after December 5, 2015, has been completed, many companies have not followed the recommendations at the end of the audits.

POLLUTION – FOOD CONTAMINATED BY INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION IN FOS-SUR-MER

Fos-sur-Mer is a town on the Mediterranean coast close to one of the largest industrial-port zones (ZIP) of Europe with about twenty heavy industries classified SEVESO (steel, refinery, chemistry, waste incinerator). The inhabitants of the town have long known that their air is not the purest in France as revealed by a study of the Eco Citizen Institute dated 2011. In January 2017, a Franco-American study FOS Epeal revealed that the inhabitants of Fos-sur-Mer declared twice as many diseases as elsewhere in France. A new study commissioned by the Association for Defense and Coastal Protection of the Gulf of Fos (ADPLGF) revealed the presence at alarming thresholds of dioxins and PCBs (important endocrine disruptor), in local products including bull meat or mussels. Faced with the inaction of the public authorities in such a situation, a complaint against X for endangering the lives of others will be filed with the support of the town hall of Fos-sur-Mer.

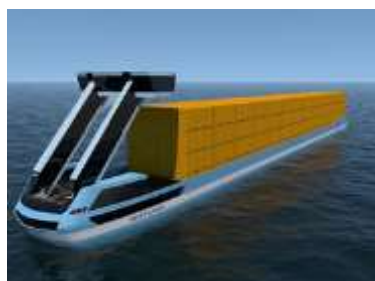
AGRI-FOOD – THE SALE OF EGGS OF HENS RAISED IN BATTERY PROHIBITED BY 2022



In February 2017, President Emmanuel Macron made a promise to the French people regarding eggs from hens raised in battery while he was a candidate in the presidential election. Indeed, the President had expressed himself before the NGO WWF (World Wide Fund) as followed: “I make the commitment that, by 2022, selling eggs laid by hens raised in battery will be prohibited”.

Even though large brands (Monoprix, Auchan or Carrefour) had already committed to it by 2020-2025, the Minister of Agriculture, Stéphane Travert, recently indicated that this promise made by the President will be held because it is expected that the eggs sold will now come from hens raised in open air and no longer from caged hens by 2022. On the other hand, this promise will only be held with respect to so-called "shell" eggs; that is, boxed eggs, or bulk, directly purchased by consumers, not eggs used in processed products. This is explained by the fact that the cost of eggs from hens raised in battery remains low compared to those from hens raised in open air, to allow the production of products in large quantities.

TRANSPORTATION – PORT-LINER LAUNCHES THE START OF CLEAN MARITIME TRANSPORTATION



More than 6 billion tons of cargo are transported each year by a fleet of 60,000 boats, which represents 90% of the goods produced and consumed worldwide. According to a study conducted by the German University of Rostock and the Helmholtz Environmental Research Center in Munich, the pollution generated by cargos exhaust could cause several cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and cause 60,000 deaths a year in Europe. That's the

equivalent of a million cars.

Today, the Dutch company Port-Liner has designed a new electric vessel that could become a solution to reduce the environmental impact caused by shipping. Called the "Tesla boat", this freighter operates exclusively on electricity thanks to rechargeable batteries whose autonomy would allow it to sail between 15 and 35 hours. Two ships are expected to open in August.

The project would cost nearly 100 million euros and has already received a grant of 7 million euros from the European Union and a contribution of 200 000 euros from the port of Antwerp to improve its efficiency.

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The company SAPAN, from Nice, was operating a "car break" without any authorization under the Classified Installations for the Protection of the Environment (ICPE). Wishing to regularize its activity, the said company requested a prefectural authorization; authorization which was refused on the grounds that this activity was incompatible with the new local urban masterplan (PLU) of Nice.


The Council of State recalled in this judgment that according to the article L 514-6 of the code of the environment, the decisions taken with regard to police of the ICPE following a request for authorization are subjected to a dispute of full jurisdiction.

As an exception to paragraph 2 of this article, the compatibility of an ICPE with the provisions of a PLU is assessed on the date of the authorization of the classified installation and not on the date of the ruling.

Finally, the Council of State specified in this judgment that, with regard to parliamentary proceedings prior to its adoption, this exception is only intended to prevent the operation of a legally authorized ICPE from being rendered irregular by a subsequent amendment of the town planning rules. Therefore, the High Court deduced that the administrative judge must judge the compatibility of a denial of authorization with the rules of the PLU in force on the day he rules.



“Picture of pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables in France”. This is the title of the report to which the association Générations Futures devoted the day of February 20, 2018. This report is the result of five years of work carried out on the basis of samples of 19 fruits and 33 non-organic vegetables, obtained from the database of the Directorate-General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF). A double classification could thus be carried out, depending on the one hand on the presence of measured pesticide residues, and on the other hand on the frequency of exceedances of the maximum residue limits (MRLs). Among the fruits, grapes, clementines, mandarins and cherries exceed the bar of 80% of quantifiable pesticide residues. As for vegetables, it is celery, fresh herbs and endives that are found above the 70% mark. In France, this is the first time that official data have been gathered to rank non-organic fruits and vegetables actually consumed in France in relation to the frequency of pesticide residue measurements.

 **WASTE – THE PROJECT FOR A NEW FUEL STORAGE FACILITY IN BELLEVILLE-SUR-LOIRE (CHER)**



EDF recently announced in a statement that it has been asked by the Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) and the Directorate General of Energy and Climate (DGEC) about new spent fuel storage capacities, as part of the National Plan for the Management of Materials and Radioactive Waste (PNGMDR). It consisted of the proposal of a solution to remedy the storage difficulties on the La Hague nuclear site that could exist by 2030. EDF suggested creating a new facility on the site of Belleville-sur-Loire, particularly because this site would have enough space to accommodate pool storage. It would therefore be a question of storing, rather than stocking, highly radioactive and exothermic MOX (plutonium oxide and uranium Oxide Mixture) fuels. Indeed, these materials, despite being used, are not waste for all that and can be reused in other nuclear reactors. This being the case, the Belleville-sur-Loire site remains only one option among others. Especially since an application for authorization for the creation of this facility must be filed before December 31, 2020.

 **POLLUTION – A GIANT AIR PURIFIER IN XIAN**



China is now considered the most polluting country in the world according to the Global Carbon Project, rejecting nearly 30% of total global CO2 emissions. In 2015, as part of its ambitious campaign to fight against air pollution, hundreds of factories were forced to cease their activity and the population was forced to heat gas. In Xian, a city in the Shaanxi Province, the Earth Environment Institute (attached to the Chinese Academy of Sciences) has built a "giant filter," which reduces air content of thin particles PM 2.5. With 100 meters high, this tower sucks the ambient air which is warmed in a natural way thanks to greenhouses and purified by a series of filters at the top of the tower. The 10 million cubic meters of air produced by the tower allow a 15% reduction in the content of thin particles over a radius of 10 kilometers. Although overall air quality in China has almost not declined, according to a Greepeace study released on January 11, 2018, such an invention could be a first ray of hope,