

## IN THE ONE : POLLUTION – DECREE N°2018-704 OF AUGUST 3, 2018 MODIFIED THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE CLASSIFIED FACILITIES AND SOME PROVISIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CODE

The Decree of 3 August 2018, which transposes European Directive 2015/2193 of 25 November 2015 on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants, applies to operators of installations classified for environmental protection.

With this new text, the authorization and registration threshold go from 2 megawatts thermal to 1 MW. To further combat pollution, facilities with a capacity of more than 20 MW will now be subject to cost-benefit analysis. In addition, the text alleviates some administrative procedures. Thus, power installations between 20 and 50 MW using identified fuels will no longer be subject to authorization, but only to registration. The threshold for installations classified as 2910-B consuming identified fuels is raised from 0.1 to 1 MW. Existing 1 to 2 MW boilers that are not ICPEs will only be subject to periodic checks and limit values in the air as from 1 January 2030.

This text has changed the environmental code's content in that it modifies the heading of certain chapters (2910: combustion / 2770 and 2771: incineration); subsections 2910-A and 2910-C are unified. Through this text, we realize the desire of the French executive to comply with environmental standards taken at European level. And at the same time, he wants to reinforce environmental legislation.

## CLIMATE – ALERT ON THE FRACTURE OF THE MOST SOLID ARCTIC REPUTABLE ICE LAYER

In the week of August 20, 2018, occurred the first fracture of the most solid ice mass in the Arctic. The event was described as "awesome and scary" by a climatologist commenting on satellite images. A particularly large rise in temperature is the origin of this phenomenon. More than ever, global warming is confirmed and the time of awareness of all the inhabitants of the blue planet (political decision makers, economic actors up to ordinary citizens) is sounded.



## AGRICULTURE / FOOD – MORE AND MORE FARMERS TOWARD CONVERSION IN BIO IN FRANCE

According to Florent GHUL, the director general of the organic agency, "the

## PUBLIC HEALTH – LEAD AMMUNITIONS, A THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

According to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) inquiry, published on September 12, 2018, lead ammunition would pose a threat to the environment and public health. It's because of the activities of hunters and sports shooters that are dispersed these pellets in the nature. The figures published in ECHA's expertise are impressive. According to this report, 30,000 to 40,000 tons of lead are used in various munitions in Europe each year. This figure breaks down as follows : hunters use 21,000 tons of lead, of which 7,000 tons are in wetlands and 14,000 tons on land. Sports shooting disperses 10,000 to 20,000 tons of lead on the shooting ranges per year. France would occupy the head of the Member States of the European Union affected by this phenomenon. Because, it is France which abounds more hunters of all the European countries. ECHA states that the environmental effects concern wildlife with nearly two million birds dying each year of lead poisoning. It is also carcinogenic for humans.

It should be remembered that wetlands are more vulnerable than land. For example, ECHA is serious about establishing restrictions on sporting activities or pellet ammunition hunting in these areas. An initiative to further protect the environment and wildlife.

## BIOENERGY – WEST AFRICA : JATROPHA, ARBUSTE USED AS ENERGY SOURCE

Today, the question of the shortage of fossil fuels emerges with great acuteness. Biofuels or agrofuels appear as a providential solution for renewable energies. They are found in Africa, where some of the so-called first-generation biofuels are in the process of intensive cultivation and production. Two types of biofuels can be distinguished. On the one hand, the biodiesel industry based on soybean, rapeseed, palm oil and jatropha oils. They are incorporated in diesel in proportions of 5% to 30%. On the other hand, the methanol sector comes mainly from the alcohol resulting from the fermentation of cane sugar, corn, cassava or vegetable residues. They are, on the other hand, incorporated into the fuel.

number of new hires in organic farming reached 4,300 at the end of July 2018, compared to 3,700 over the same period a year earlier. A new record. For, hammering this growth, the label with the green leaves advance that they were 36 664 end 2017. One sees it, the progression is striking.

This increase is mainly observed in field crops and cereals. The reason for this strong growth rate in these areas is the strong demand. It is clear that the choice of organic is not a conviction but rather an economic strategy. For farmers abandoning synthetic fertilizers in favor of practices respecting environmental rules, receive assistance from the French state.



## CASE LAW

### EC, OPINION, 27 SEPTEMBER 2018, ASSOCIATION DANGER OF STORM ON RURAL HERITAGE AND OTHERS

The EC has issued a decisive opinion on the issue of the regulation of vitiated by the opinions of the prefects intervened as environmental authority. This notice is issued at the request of the Administrative Court of Orleans, which, before solving a cancellation motion of an order authorizing five wind turbines and a delivery station, sent him the file of this request.

The Council first recalls the very principle of the possible regularization of the procedure by the adoption, by the competent authority, of a modifying authorization. He then wondered about the means of this regularization.

The EC concludes that this procedural flaw can be repaired by consulting, on the project in question, as a regularization, an authority with the necessary guarantees of impartiality. He adds that for this purpose, if new regulations have replaced the canceled provisions, the judge may refer to them. Failing this, in order to fix regularization procedures to ensure that the opinion will be delivered by an impartial authority, the judge may in particular provide that the opinion will be delivered by the regional mission of the environmental authority of the General Council of the Environment and Development.

Among these biofuels mentioned above, Jatropha is distinguished by its high energy potential. Through which process is this energy source obtained? The jatropha seed provides, by cold pressing, a vegetable oil. It has properties close to diesel, with a higher autoignition temperature. Its viscosity requires starting diesel engines to reach 50°C. Jatropha oil can start engines over 50 ° C, including village motors, energy shop power stations and isolated or hybrid mini-network equipment with photovoltaic solar energy.



Certainly, there's no doubt about the energy potential of jatropha. However, it can easily be noted that its use is only at the domestic stage. For use on an industrial scale, it is necessary to solicit the mobilization of the largest scientific laboratories in the world to conduct research for the development of the capabilities of this energy source promising enough for the future.



## ENVIRONMENT – A MINING PROJECT IN GUYANA THREATENING THE ENVIRONMENT

A gigantic gold mining project (pit 1.6 miles long, 440 yards wide and 220 or 440 yards deep), piloted by the company "Montagne d'Or" is scandalous. First, its geographical situation is problematic. In that it is located between two biological reserves (in the heart of the Guyanese forest). Then, on arrival, it is planned to extract 20 kilograms of gold with a discharge of about 80,000 tons of mining waste per day. Finally, it is clear that the concentration of gold is very low (1.6 to 1.8 grams per ton of rock). This implies that this project in the long term, will bring nothing to the local economy, except that the destruction of the environment.

Faced with this phenomenon, scientists have stepped up to denounce the environmental impacts of this project. Better, public debates are organized by the National Commission of the Public Debate (CNDP) in Guyana. During these debates, we can note the degree of protest within the population of Guyana before this "destructive environment" project.



## RISING GREEN TAXATION – ECOLOGICAL TAXATION IN CONSTANT EVOLUTION

Monday, September 24, 2019, the bill of finance was presented by Bruno Lemaire and Gérald Darmanin. The law of finance announces a sharp rise in green taxation up to 1.9 billion euros. Ecological taxation includes all taxes, duties and charges based on a pollutant, more generally, on a product or a service that damages the environment.

In a very tense political and financial context, what's the role and objective assigned to this evolution of environmental taxation? On paper, it's defined as a tool to reduce pollution and damage to the environment by further taxing polluting activities. This incentive dimension's the key for economists, who believe that the goal is to change behavior by the "signal-price" and not to generate revenue. This finance bill goes farther than the rise in the price of diesel, even though it's the main information that's broadcast by the media. On October 9 the deputies organized a meeting to discuss the project and on October 15 in public session. More than ever, the government's aiming for efficiency with this finance bill.