



HIGHLIGHT – POLLUTION : FRANCE WANTS TO STRENGTHEN STANDARDS REGARDING AIR POLLUTION BY SHIPS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Ministry of Ecology has announced that by 2020, France wants to propose a drastic reinforcement of air pollution regulations for ships in the Mediterranean. In fact, air pollution is a fundamental concern in several Mediterranean ports due in particular to the growth of cruise tourism.

This project could prevent the deaths of 1,728 people each year and generate savings of at least three times the cost of ships' adaptation. In Marseille, a study commissioned by the State made public the calls for the establishment of an international zone for the ship's pollution's limitation (ECA, in French) in the Mediterranean, in the same model as those existing in the North Sea or the Channel. The health benefits would be concentrated in Algeria, Egypt, Italy, Greece and Turkey. Also, the south of France is concerned, since the pollution by nitrogen dioxide could decrease in Marseille (5.5 micrograms / m³), Toulon, Bastia and Nice.

The entry into force of a new international regulation in 2020 should contribute to these efforts, with a reduction in seven of the maximum rates of sulfur in the fuel used. However, the government wants to go further with a pollution control zone of the ECA that halves the admissible sulfur content and reduces nitrogen oxide emissions.



GLOBAL WARMING – FOUR TIMES THE MELTING OF ICE IN GREENLAND FOR TEN YEARS

According to a Danish study, ice melting is accelerating in Denmark. In fact, the amount of km³ of ice that melts in a year would have quadrupled from 2003 to 2013. The melting of ice in Greenland, which causes sea level rise, would now be noticeable in larger areas of the immense arctic island. The DTU Space Lab of the Technical Institute of Denmark said in a statement "In 2003, 111 km³ of ice disappeared annually, ten years later, this figure was almost four times higher, reaching 428 km³ per year."

The researchers, who participated in a study on glacial mass changes in Greenland, published in the Proceedings of the American Academy of Sciences, found "dramatic and surprising changes in the pattern of melting ice." They considered that, until now, it was mainly the ice sheet that was melting, and the glaciers of the northwest and southeast of Greenland.

The main explanation for this melted ice is the increase in the temperature of the earth, especially through contact with warmer seawater. In turn, the melting of the Greenland ice sheet partly explains the rising level of the oceans.



WASTE – THE ALLIANCE OF MULTINATIONALS AGAINST PLASTIC WASTE

27 multinationals, grouped in the Alliance to End Plastic Waste (AEPW), promised 1,300 million euros in 5 years to stop plastic waste.

80% of the marine plastic waste that feeds the Eighth Continent comes from terrestrial sources. This alliance decided to act downstream of the problem. Bob Patel, CEO of LyondellBasell, a petrochemical multinational based in the USA., and founder of AEPW, said: "We need to educate consumers and governments about the need for collection and treatment of plastic waste."

AEPW has four objectives: development of collection, treatment and recycling infrastructure; the innovation; education of public authorities, companies and communities; and cleaning highly polluted areas such as rivers. In fact, a study published in June 2017 showed that 67% of plastic waste comes from 20 rivers in the world and mainly in Asia. The Alliance wants to generate partnerships with cities to develop waste management systems in urban areas without infrastructure, but also invest in the Incubator Network to bring companies, new technologies and new business models to light. On the other hand, it aims to deploy an open source international scientific project and organize workshops and training with intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations.



AMAZONIA – BOSONLARO'S VISION

The election of the Brazilian president opens the door to an intensive exploitation by the agroindustry and mining of this immense forest, a fragile habitat for many species.

The choice of Jair Bolsonaro is bad news for the rock cock, the pygmy marmoset, the spider monkey or the pink dolphin, and for humanity in general, since the Amazonia is the lung of the planet. The new Brazilian president is really determined to allow the insatiable agroindustry and mining to exploit the lands that until now were protected. Its first potential victim is the Amazonia, the largest tropical forest in the world. Deforestation deprives animal and plant species of their habitat, condemns them to extinction and causes other scourges: pollution, erosion of ravines.

The consequences are already visible. Thirty-four people died and almost 300 were still missing since Saturday, January 26, after a dam belonging to the mining giant Vale in Brazil broke up, and a second mining dam threatened to give way.

CASE LAW

CANCELLATION OF TWO ENERGY SAVINGS CERTIFICATES FOR THE BENEFIT OF HOUSEHOLDS IN SITUATIONS OF ENERGY INSECURITY

By decision dated October 19, 2018, published in the Official Gazette No. 0020 of January 24, 2019, the Minister of the Ecological and Solidarity Transition condemned the company GEO FRANCE FINANCE by canceling two energy saving certificates that he had. This sanction was imposed in accordance with Article L. 222-2 of the Energy Code. Through the Energy Saving Certificates, the State requires that the actors reach a certain amount of energy savings, in their own facilities and in that of their clients during a defined period. Basically, the company would have breached its obligation to save energy.

The Minister of Ecological Transition and Solidarity spoke out against the company GEO FRANCE FINANCE, whose registered office is 48, rue Cambon, 75001, with the cancellation of a volume of 5,567,190 kWhCumac of energy-saving certificates and one volume of 117,619,140 kWhCumac of energy savings certificates for the benefit of households in a situation of energy insecurity.

CLIMATE – CHINA AND INDIA RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCREASE IN GLOBAL CO2 EMISSIONS

The finding is alarming. Between 2017 and 2018, fossil-based discharges would have increased by 2.7%. This increase is essentially the result of the increase in coal consumption in recent years.

Global warming is putting our economies, homes and health at risk, and carbon dioxide emissions are about to hit a record high. In fact, this follows from the annual review published on December 5 by the Global Carbon Project (GCP), an international scientific consortium under the auspices of the British University of East Anglia. This evaluation, combined with that of the IPCC and the United Nations call to increase countries' efforts, invokes the 196 States gathered for the World Climate Conference (COP24) in Katowice, Poland, to take action.

The GCP report highlights the significant increase of 2.7% in 2018 as a result of global emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuel combustion (coal, oil, gas and cement plants that reached 37 billion tons in 2018). Although the increase in these discharges stagnated between 2014 and 2016 before increasing by 1.6% in 2017, carbon emissions have reached a new milestone: carbon emissions have increased by 65% since 1990. It should be added to emissions, deforestation and other changes in land use, which would raise the total balance to 41.5 billion tons of CO2 by 2018.



PESTICIDES – MEPs WANT MORE TRANSPARENCY IN THE AUTHORIZATION OF PESTICIDES

MEPs have demanded that pesticides used in the European Union be subject to more transparent authorization procedures. As such, the European Parliament adopted a text, non-legislative, with 526 votes in favor (and 66 votes against) to allow citizens "to have access to the studies used in the framework of the authorization procedure". MEPs also ask the European Commission to start an epidemiological study on the real pesticides' impact on human health. On the other hand, they recommend that the EU executive, who has the prerogative to initiate legislative decisions, propose measures to "end the spread of pesticides over long distances near homes, schools, day care centers, playgrounds, hospitals, wards of maternity or care centers".

After the discussions on glyphosate, the European Parliament created a special commission in February 2018 on the subject of pesticides, to make proposals in this area. Following the proposals of the MEPs, they also requested a review of the carcinogenicity studies with glyphosate and the inclusion of "long-term toxicity" in the data required for the phytosanitary products. French MEP Angélique Delahaye, a former agricultural farmer, described the adoption of the report as "a concrete step for agricultural professionals and consumers," but insists that it is not "an intention test of some molecules used for decades such as glyphosate."

