



## HIGHLIGHTS – CLIMATE : FIRST SCHOOL STRIKE IN FRANCE AGAINST THE INITIATION OF THE STATE BY CLIMATE

Since mid-February there is sun in France, to offer at least 15 ° C in Paris. The year 2019 is marked by the end of a cold winter. Before this, the Parisian students met on Friday, February 15, 2019. The first "strike for the climate" was held in front of the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Solidarity. Initiated since August 2018 by the young Swedish high school student Greta Thunberg, the mobilization extends internationally, whether in Belgium, Germany or even in the United States. The demands are simple: denounce the inaction of the leaders on climate.

These students are not the only ones who threaten the state, four NGOs have already seized the courts because of the government's climate inaction. To this is added a petition that now exceeds 2 million signatories: "The case of the century", a record in France.

François de Rugy, Minister of Ecological and Solidarity Transition, responded on February 15: "The French State is one of the most active in the fight against climate change. [...] The current government is undoubtedly the which drove the highest ambition by establishing at the beginning of the five-year period the objective of achieving zero net CO2 emissions, that is, carbon neutrality, by 2050. " The answer does not seem satisfactory for NGOs. Will these young students have a greater impact on government?



## WASTE – THE SIGNING A PACT BETWEEN THE STATE AND NGOs TO IMPROVE RECYCLING

This Thursday, February 21, the public authorities, companies and NGOs signed a "National Pact on plastic packaging." Manufacturers and distributors are committed to reducing harmful plastic packaging and incorporating more recycled materials. The State and NGOs will monitor the implementation of these commitments and the coherence of the policies of the signatories.

This agreement is the materialization of the Global Commitment of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation that fights against the contamination of the oceans by plastics, explains WWF. It is between the Ministry of Ecological Transition, six distribution companies, seven agri-food and cosmetics groups and three NGOs. Incorporates objectives already announced by the signatories. Particularly, the commitment to make all containers reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.



## BIODIVERSITY – MULTIPLE EFFORTS TO END THE DISAPPEARANCE OF INSECTS

According to a study published on February 10, 2019 in the journal Conservation Biology, there will be no more insects on the planet by the end of the century. The trend can be reversed, as demonstrated by an action plan that Germany proposes to undertake. The picture is complex, since replacement as a solution at the local level can be effective momentarily, but they have consequences in other areas. From the moment the problems are solved by an artificial pollination service, for example, with the absurd project of pollinator drones, a problem is created in other places, especially with the exorbitant cost of carbon. The beginnings of this cascade of unfortunate interventions are imposed through the birth of adverse consequences, with climate change and the sudden fall of biodiversity (for example, birds and bees).



## ENERGY – FINANCIAL AID FOR ENERGY-DEFICIENT GAS EQUIPMENT

A judgment of February 20, 2019 regarding the financial assistance mentioned in II of article 183 of the law n ° 2018-1317, of December 28, 2018 of finance for 2019, fixes the list of communes of the departments of Somme, of the North and Pas-de-Calais interested in the constitution of financial aid.



In order to guarantee the reliability of the electricity network, after the closure of two blocks of a nuclear power plant in Slovakia, in 2008 a tariff was introduced for the use of this network for export in the territory and to the states.

It is in this context that the electricity supplier company Korlea Invest, whose successor today is the FENS company, was forced to pay around 7 million euros in royalties. The original company appears before the Slovak courts to challenge this fee on the grounds that it is a charge with an effect equivalent to that of a customs duty whose imposition is prohibited by the principle of free movement of goods. A preliminary consultation on the subject was filed with the CJUE.

On that question, the Court first ruled on the merchandise concept. In this regard, it considers that electricity is a basic product and that the tax on the use of a network used to transport said electricity is considered a basic product. Therefore, the fee is subject to the FUE Treaty (on the free movement of goods). Next, the Court notes that the tax is related to the electricity produced and exported because it exceeds the border. As a result, it generates a pecuniary burden for the exporter and for the final customer.

The CJUE decided that this tariff constitutes a charge that has an effect equivalent to a customs tariff, both for electricity exported to another Member State and for electricity exported outside the EU. With regard to exports to States outside the European Union, the Court recalls that Slovakia is involved in a common commercial policy that cannot impose unilateral taxes that would jeopardize its operation.

Therefore, the owners of a gas appliance or equipment used for heating or production of domestic hot water, with a power of less than 70 kilowatts, or a power of more than 70 kilowatts if used for heating or heating, are concerned. supply of domestic hot water from a residential location, located in a consumption site connected to the gas network of low calorific power, after verifying the impossibility of adaptation or adjustment as part of the control operations referred to in article L 432-13 of the Energy Code.



### POLLUTION – THE SHIPWRECK OF LARGE AMERICA

On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, the Italian ship Grande America sank near the coast of La Rochelle. With 2,200 tons of fuel oil, the oil spill is worrisome. The incident began 2 days before the declaration of a fire of merchandise. Although the human report is quite reassuring, since the crew members have been evacuated, the issue of pollution and environmental damage is alarming.

Experts expect fuel oil to remain confined in bunkers and that very cold temperatures at the bottom of the ocean have frozen fuel. Analyzes are underway to determine the origin of the products that have surfaced. An oil slick has been seen in about ten kilometers and the Minister of Ecological Transition, François de Rugy, announced that French beaches would be affected. It will be necessary to adopt measures to protect the environment.

The association Robin des Bois intends to file a complaint about pollution and waste disposal at the High Court in Brest, especially because the ship was transporting cars outside of French standards. This accident also poses a problem related to the recovery of plastics and other debris contained in the boat that can damage marine fauna and flora.



### URBANISM – A GREEN POLICE TO COMBAT ENVIRONMENTAL INCONDUCT

On Wednesday, February 20, 2019, the president of the Grand Paris West Seine (GPSO), the mayor of Boulogne-Billancourt, the sub-prefect of Hauts-de-Seine, and the general of the Army Corps of the Republican Guard signed an agreement Association for the deployment of the Green Police in the territory of the GPSO.

This Green Police, established since March 1, 2019, aims to enforce environmental standards. The patrol, ecological until the end, moves on foot and on horseback. In June, this patrol will include among it a brigade of field guards equipped with electric scooters. Beyond their duty of vigilance, they will also make citizens aware of the territory. They also aim to collect containers and express dumpsters.

GPSO is already very committed to environmental issues. This agreement is a continuation of your actions in favor of the environment. This decision was also taken in view of the large sums of money contributed by the community against misconduct amounting to about 4 million euros a year. The person subject to a misconduct risks a fine of up to 450 euros.