

**HEADLINES SIGNATURE CETA – EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH**

The *Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement* (CETA) - an international free trade agreement between the European Union and Canada - was signed on 30 October 2016. Its signature raises serious questions as to whether the threshold set at the COP21 was met, a threshold that was considered inadequate. The purpose of the free trade agreement is to facilitate and boost trade, which necessarily leads to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Studies show that world trade accounts for nearly 15% of the emissions of this gas. The objective set by the Paris agreement, namely to limit the global warming to 2 ° C, is therefore somewhat questioned by CETA. In terms of food safety, the European Commission has been reassuring that *all Canadian imports will still have to comply with European requirements.* And if the amendment of a law on hormones, ractopamine or GMOs is necessary, the amendment will have to be approved by the European authorities. Authorities which are not at present inclined to modify these laws in depth. However, the Interbev association insists that no guarantee can be given regarding the use of antibiotics and GMOs in animal rations, which is a common practice in North America. From now on, it is up to the Canadian and European Parliaments and each member state to ratify the agreement, if it agrees to them, for an entry into force first provisional then definitive.

**ENVIRONMENT – Moroccan bans plastic bags**

The host country of COP 22 set an example with a law that came into force on 1 July 2003 prohibiting the manufacture, marketing and importation of plastic bags. Heavy fines are provided for offenders.

Although the measure concerns only the so-called cashier bags, it will make it possible to fight against an environmental catastrophe for the country. Indeed, with 25 billion bags consumed each year and with no recovery system put in place, the majority of used bags end up in the Mediterranean. The government has completed the measure of an extensive campaign to collect bags in the wild.

This law is however double-edged and condemns a section of the industry whose plastic is the basic material. In order to preserve the national economy and the jobs it entails, the government has put in place a reconversion plan with 200 million dirhams.

With this strong commitment, Morocco is pioneering developing countries in terms of sustainable development and even ahead of certain developed countries.

**SAFETY AT WORK - COCT OPPOSES PROJECT ISO 45001**

While the intention of the International Organization for Standardization is commendable because of its desire to establish a reference framework for the improvement of worker safety, the reduction of risks in the workplace and the creation of conditions of better and safer working conditions in the world, the position of the Council for the Guidance of Working Conditions (COCT) is quite different. Chaired by the Minister of Labor and made up of trade unions and employers' organizations, the COCT reiterates France's opposition to the project. Indeed, by an opinion delivered on Thursday 3 November 2016, the Council opposed the standardization project ISO 45001 on the management of health and safety at work. According to the members of the COCT Standing Steering Group, *While technical standardization can be a useful tool for occupational health, not all human activities are amenable to the definition of such procedures, 'There is a solid regulatory and conventional corpus'.* The Secretary General of the COCT added that occupational health *"can not be bottled as a technical standard."* At the European level, the Advisory Committee on Occupational Health and Safety also expressed reservations. For the time being, a publication for the end of 2017 of the standard as initially foreseen is uncertain.

**BIODIVERSITY – FINALLY A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ELIMINATION OF THE ASIAN HORNET**

Since its appearance in France in 2004, the Asian Hornet has not stopped proliferating, causing considerable damage to honey bees. Although it was listed as an invasive species last July, no legal framework governed their destruction, leaving infested landowners no choice but to resort to private companies at sometimes prohibitive tariffs. It was therefore with enthusiasm that was welcomed the announcement made by the Minister of the Environment on the occasion of the 21st congress of the National Union of French beekeeping. Indeed, a forthcoming decree, the text of which had been transmitted to the Council of State, should give "the prefects the power to undertake operations for the destruction of hornet nests, wherever they may be identified, Private property, "according to Royal.

This follows the announcement by Mr Le Foll on 28 May of the forthcoming adoption of a legal framework allowing the use of public power in order to eliminate more systematically the hornet nests. This measure was very warmly received by the beekeepers who had hoped for it since 2013.





COUNCIL OF STATE OCTOBER 12th 2016, req. No. 387308 – ELECTED INTERESTED

By this judgment, the Council of State came to clarify the notion of elected "interested" as laid down in Article L. 2131-11 of the General Code of Local and Regional Authorities. In this case, the question of the personal interest of a municipal councilor who participated in the adoption of a PLU was raised by her relationship with a supermarket manager in the Transport and extension of the said supermarket. The Council of state considered that the deliberation, the purpose of which was to determine town planning forecasts and rules applicable throughout the municipality, could be vitiated by illegality only on condition that it revealed "Of the documents of the file which, because of the influence which this adviser has exercised, the deliberation takes into account his personal interest". Otherwise, it is irrelevant that this municipal councilor was interested in the classification of a parcel of the commune and that he participated in the preparatory work and in the debates preceding the adoption or even in the vote.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) – APPLE ANNOUNCES THE OBSOLESCENCE OF THE IPHONE 4: IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The multinational company of electronic products, Apple decided to make obsolete the iPhone 4 as of October 31, 2016. From this date it will no longer be possible to carry out updates or repair for lack of spare parts the smartphone Launched in 2010. This decision is all the more surprising given Apple's commitment to the environment. This "strategy of obsolescence" was denounced on RMC.fr by Laetitia Vasseur, the founder of Stop to obsolescence Programmed: *"More after-sales services, unable to repair the iPhone 4, to have spare parts ... It is really the illustration of a strategy of obsolescence programmed and a contempt for the consumer as for the environment"*. According to the latter, the strategy of the Apple group in terms of obsolescence programmed is no longer to demonstrate. The American company pushes the consumer to obtain the latest versions of his products without taking into account the production process and the resulting social and environmental impacts. In order to manufacture a mobile phone, it is necessary to extract rare minerals from mines in the southern countries and transport them. In addition, these mines are used to finance armed conflicts in Africa.



Dos Two Bordeaux wineries are under investigation. It took two and a half years for the Society for the Study, Protection and Management of Nature in the South-West (SEPANSO) to achieve this result. In May 2014 about twenty students and their primary school teacher from Villeneuve-de-Blaye had been hospitalized following serious discomfort after spreading on both properties. The link between the use of phytosanitary products in vines and the malaise of the children and their teacher had been established. An initial complaint will be dismissed on the grounds that the product was authorized. A new judicial investigation is launched, it will conclude that the use of this product although authorized was occasionally inappropriate. Indeed, the orientation of the winds on the days of spreading directed the products towards the school. For the lawyer of the association it is not a fight against the viticulture but against the irrational use of the phytosanitary products. These indictments should raise awareness in farming and wine growing. Already in July of this year the Bordeaux wine sector signed with the regional authorities a plan to reduce the use of pesticides. Since 2012, the production of organic wine has tripled in France.



AIR – CALL TO ORDER FOR UK GOVERNMENT

"A historic decision for air quality in London." It is by these words that the Customer Earth Association has granted an order to the British Government by the High Court of London to review its anti-pollution plan. The Court found the current plan illegal. Indeed, London does not respect the European standards in force since 1999 and has no chance under today's conditions to achieve the air quality objectives hoped for by 2020. Thus, the judge asserts that "The air quality plan must be canceled and rethought". This decision is a blow to the government which is also trying to demonstrate its commitment to the global agreement reached on climate change last year at the COP21 in Paris. In front of parliament, Prime Minister Theresa May undertook to do more to rid London's air especially of its NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide). NO₂ is produced by Diesel traffic, district heating and industries located west of the city (under prevailing winds). London is then the most polluted capital of NO₂ in Europe. Air pollution in the UK would be responsible for 40,000 premature deaths each year.



ENERGY - ENGIE ANNOUNCES CLOSURE OF ITS HAZELWOOD PLANT IN AUSTRALIA

On November 3, 2016, the energy company ENGIE announced the closure of its coal plant located in Australia. The old 1,600-megawatt power plant in Morwell generates electricity from coal from an adjoining mine since the 1960s. In September 2014, a giant open-pit mine 45 days, exposing Morwell's 12,000 residents to high levels of pollution. This coal-fired power plant is the most polluting in the world and its closure planned for 2017 was demanded by many NGOs for its climatic impacts. ENGIE is therefore taking a major step forward in its coal-removal process. Indeed, this announcement is part of the energy transition policy taken by the group. This closure decision comes on the eve of the opening of COP 22, on 7 November 2016 in Marrakech (Morocco). ENGIE says that after the shutdown of production, up to 250 people (out of 470 employees) will continue to work on the production site and will proceed with the dismantling and rehabilitation of the mine.