

HEADLINE – COP23 REVIEW

From November 6 to 17, the Republic of Fiji chaired the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Bonn, Germany. The 3 main objectives were: drafting the rules of implementation of the Paris Agreement; revising the States' commitments upwards; continuing the initiatives of the Agenda for Action. UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa reminded the urgency of meeting the Paris Agreement's overriding ambition to limit the global temperature to +1.5°C, despite the withdrawal of the United States from that agreement.

WATER – NATIONAL LABEL « WILD RIVERS SITE » AWARDED TO LEGUER AND GUIC

On October 20, the national label "wild rivers site" was awarded to the Léguer watershed—a remarkable coastal river flowing in the Côtes d'Armor (22) in Brittany—and its main tributary Le Guic.

This European label certified by Afnor Certification is aimed at a specific territory and is awarded to one or more structures that coordinate a multi-year action program to improve the conservation and protection of rivers considered as "having a functioning close to the natural state".

This label, a first in Brittany, is a collective reward for twenty years of work to improve the water quality and the restoration of the natural environment in this part of the Leguer and Guic.

The 1996 settlement of the Kernansquillec hydroelectric dam to allow the free movement of Atlantic salmon, especially the iconic species of this river, was one of the triggers for the river to regain its "true nature".

Beyond this distinction, the actions continue through a new project of "territory for water" signed with the Region.

ENVIRONMENT – WORLD'S FIRST « NEGATIVE EMISSIONS » PLANT

This is a revolution for humanity and the protection of our planet because this geothermal plant depollutes rather than emitting CO₂. Through an air collector, the air is captured and 80 to 90% of carbon dioxide is extracted. It is then piped with water to dilute it and bury it underground at 500 to 2000 meters deep. There, the CO₂ molecules become encrusted and trapped in the basalt, transforming the rock into carbonaceous minerals. A 2-year process artificially accelerated, which normally takes thousands of years. This technology could store nearly 40% of CO₂ production that humanity has generated for more than a century. Only drawbacks: the cost, because it takes a lot of water to convey the gas in the ground; the heat; and that the basement is composed of basalt, a volcanic rock that captures carbon dioxide. This process would be worth considering in France, particularly in its volcanic regions such as the Massif Central.



NUCLEAR – DETECTION OF RUTHENIUM 106 IN FRANCE AND EUROPE



At the end of September, a radioactive cloud was detected over France around Nice, Ajaccio and Seyne-sur-Mer. The french institute of radioprotection and nuclear safety (IRSN) considered that it probably came from Russia and yet Moscow denies any responsibility.

According to the information provided by Météo France, « the most plausible zone of rejection lies between the Volga and the Urals » and "it is

in this geographical area that the simulation of a ruthenium release makes it possible to better reproduce the measurements obtained. in Europe".

IRSN concluded that « since October 13, ruthenium 106 is no longer detected in France » and that « levels of concentration in the air (...) are of no consequence on both the human health and the environment ».

Yves Maignac, director of the information and studies agency on nuclear energy Wise-Paris, considers that it is not « an industrial accident » but a « real problem on a nuclear installation (...), these installations can be military, which could explain the absence of official track of the problem ».



TGI TOULOUSE, 11/14/2017

Levothyrox is on everyone's lips! This medication taken to treat thyroid disorders and whose formulation was changed last March is at the heart of the judicial news.

On November 14, the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Toulouse sentenced the pharmaceutical company MERCK to issue the « old-fashioned » Levothyrox formula to twenty-five patients in Haute-Garonne who were suffering « serious disorders » after taking the new formula of this drug. This decision was accompanied by a « penalty of €10,000 per day and per violation found ».

This is the first court decision in France in this case. The CEO of MERCK France, Thierry HULOT, has already announced that he intends to appeal this decision.

Let's not forget that the new Levothyrox formula has already been the subject of 300 complaints and that an investigation is currently underway. In the Levothyrox case, the Tribunal of Grasse was also seized of a complaint on the grounds of failure to provide assistance, aimed in particular at the ministers of Health and the Economy. To be continued.



WASTE – THE TOULOUSE-BASED COMPANY THAT OFFERS CLOTHES MADE FROM WASTE

Hopaal is a company that was conceived in 2016 by two young students from Toulouse. It is quite original since it consists of the manufacture of clothing made from waste. In general, to design T-shirts, you need about 2700 liters of water to grow cotton and fabric. But it also takes a lot of energy which tends to increase greenhouse gas emissions. This company finds its originality in the fact that it tends to reduce these resources. In fact, in the design of its clothes, the company uses only 40 liters of water, but she mostly recycles old clothes to reuse the fabrics. This recycling of waste not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions but also reduces the ecological impact given the small amount of water used in the manufacture of clothing. However, despite this method of manufacture, the clothes' selling price is pretty high.



RENEWABLE ENERGY – FLOATGEN, THE FIRST FLOATING WINDMILL IN FRANCE



On Friday October 13, « Floatgen » the first floating offshore windmill was inaugurated in Saint-Nazaire by Sébastien Lecornu, Secretary of State to the Minister of Ecological and Solidarity Transition. The windmill will soon be installed 20km off the coast of Croisic for a period of two years.

With a cost of 25 million euros —10 of which are supported by Europe, this floating windmill demonstrator installed on a huge lightweight concrete float has a capacity of 2 MW and can

produce an equivalent of the annual electricity consumption of 2000 households. This project was able to bring together partners in France (Ecole Centrale de Nantes, Ideol, Bouygues), but also partners from Germany (University of Stuttgart and Fraunhofer-IWES), the UK (RSK Group) and Spain (Zabala).

The Floatgen project aims to achieve three objectives: to demonstrate that a European floating wind system is feasible from an economic, technical and environmental point of view; to demonstrate the commercial capacity of the floating windmill to produce renewable electricity and to evaluate the cost of the megawatt hour (MW) by 2030.

To date, there are six floating units in the world (four in Japan, one in Norway and one in Portugal).



TECHNOLOGY – THE RISK OF PIECES FROM THE TIANGONG-1 SPACE STATION CRASHING OVER EUROPE AND THE USA

On November 6, the European Space Agency (ESA) said on its website that fragments from the Chinese space station Tiangong-1 could hit Europe and the United States. Indeed, brought into operation in 2011, China has lost control of this station since September 2016, which could cause a gradual loss of altitude and an entry into our atmosphere. The entry into the atmosphere of this 10.4 meters long for 8 tons station would lead to the blaze of only a part of it. The consequences would be that the other part of the station, having resisted the combustion, would reach the Earth. According to ESA, this part would strike any point on Earth between the 43rd parallel north and the 43rd parallel south. Europe and the United States are thus concerned. However, ESA wishes to point out that it is not possible at this time to determine the location and time where debris could hit the Earth.

