

HEADLINE – THE GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR THE BUILDINGS' ENERGY REFORM

The government in power has unveiled on Friday, November 24 the new provisions to improve the energy performance of buildings. It plans to set up an ecological "bonus-malus" on housing. Indeed, these measures represent a major stake for the energy transition because the residential and tertiary buildings concern 45% of the consumption of the country in energy. The government plans to renovate a quarter of the state's housing stock in five years, or 500,000 homes per year. Some call these measures "punitive ecology measures" but the Minister of ecological transition Nicolas Hulot defends himself.

WATER AND SANITATION – FRENCH PRIME MINISTER OPENED THE POSSIBILITY OF MAINTAINING JURISDICTION AT TOWN LEVEL DURING A TRANSITORY PERIOD

The NOTRe Act dated August 7, 2015 effectively imposes this transfer from January 1, 2020. A number of elected officials, particularly small municipalities, were hostile to this measure and wanted to maintain this service at a town level.

In his speech to the May 21 Congress of Mayors, the French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe indicated that the government would propose a plan to facilitate the setting up of investment operations in rural areas and make it possible to rely on the financing of the Caisse des Dépôts and water agencies. « These investments are necessary in the context of climate change, which will have consequences for both drinking water supply (risk of increased scarcity) and sanitation management (runoff risks) », he said. Also wishing that the water agencies accompany them in the knowledge of the networks. It is a project carrying ecological and social ambitions, the realization of which would undoubtedly be a relief for the water sector which constitutes one of the main weapons of fight against climate change.

WASTE – RECYCLING ALUMINUM PACKAGING: THE METAL PROJECT EXTENDED TO 2022



On the occasion of the Mayors fair, which took place in Paris on November 22, the Aluminum and Steel Light Packaging Club, the Citéo company, the Association of Mayors of France and the Funds of endowment for the recycling of small aluminum (created by the Nespresso company) to extend the metal project from 2018 to 2022. This project was initiated in 2014 and it aims to set up the first recycling subsidiary dedicated to lightweight aluminum and steel packaging. Are concerned for example, compote bags, bottle caps, coffee and tea pods ... The total of this waste to recycle is 60,000 tons per year. The partners of this project aim to increase the number of French people who can sort and recycle all their small metal packaging from 9 to 30 million by 2022. The project's movement is clearly improving. Indeed, in 2016, 338 tons of aluminum packaging were recycled, more than in 2015. In all, 19 sorting centers are now equipped to sort industrial light metal packaging.

HEALTH – PESTICIDES

The details of the national campaign to measure pesticides in the air are becoming clearer. In the long term, France could have a national strategy for monitoring pesticides in the air. In 2018, the approved air quality monitoring associations (Aasqa) will measure the presence of 90 pesticides. On Tuesday November 28, the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition, the Aasqa Federation (Atmo France) and the National Health Security Agency (ANSES) signed the convention and the framework agreement regarding this first series of measures on national harmonization of pesticides in the air. This campaign is planned by the national plan for air pollutant emissions reduction (Prepa) for the period 2017-2021 adopted last May and confirmed in early November by Nicolas Hulot.

JUDGMENT OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (TENTH CHAMBER) DATED SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

Commission v. Hellenic Republic

By letter of May 29 2007, the Commission asked the Greek authorities to provide it, within a period of six months, with data concerning the compliance with their urban waste water treatment obligations, as provided for in Article 4 of Directive 91/271, for the year 2007.

After the late submission of the data by the Greek authorities and after all subsequent exchanges with the 62 Greek agglomerations which the Commission considered to be contrary to Article 4 of Directive 91/271; On February 21 2014, the Commission sent a supplementary reasoned opinion to the Hellenic Republic on the ground that eight agglomerations, namely Prosotsani, Doxato, Eleftheroupoli, Vagia, Desfina, Galatista, Polychrono and Chanioti, still did not meet the requirements of the Directive 91/271.

Not being satisfied with the answers provided by the Hellenic Republic, the Commission decided to bring an action. It reprimands the Hellenic Republic for failing to fulfill its obligations in that it failed to provide secondary treatment or equivalent treatment for urban waste water discharged for an agglomeration.

The Court of Justice has declared that, having failed to provide secondary treatment or equivalent treatment for urban waste water from certain agglomerations, the Hellenic Republic has failed to fulfill its obligations. But the appeal is rejected for the rest.

 **POLLUTION – FROM NOVEMBER 7 TO 14, A LARGE-SCALE « SMOG » MADE NEW DELHI SEE PURPLE**

Bad days for New Dehli. The rate of ultrafine particles (the PM2.5 which diameter is less than 2.5 micrometers) per cubic meter of air in the atmosphere of the Indian capital. This rate then fluctuated around the 500 microgram of PM2.5 per cubic meter of air, placing New Dehli in the purple category (dangerous). It had even reached 676 micrograms, 27 times the maximum rate advocated by the World Health Organization (WHO). New Dehli was not at its first smog. For several years, the city has featured many times in the first place of the WHO's ranking of the most polluted cities in the world. « New Dehli concentrates a multitude of combustion », said Benjamin Guinot, researcher at the CNRS, a member of the aerology laboratory. « We are talking about a megalopolis of 20 million inhabitants, with an increasingly important and poorly controlled road traffic, an intense industrial activity... When we walk in New Delhi, we are surprised by the amount of things that burn all over the place. Not only waste, the city is also in the middle of the most fertile agricultural land in the country, an activity that adds pollution. »



 **CLIMATE – THE MASSIVE DEFORESTATION IN INDONESIA FOR PALM OIL PRODUCTION CHANGES THE CLIMATE**

The island of Sumatra, Indonesia has experienced a very strong deforestation which has caused a significant loss of animal and plant biodiversity. A team of researchers from the University of Göttingen, Germany has shown that the expansion of the cultivation of oil palms and other commercial crops in Sumatra has made this region warmer. The average temperature in the middle of the morning in the Jambi Province increased by 1.05°C between 2000 and 2015. Part of this warming is due to global climate change, but it is also a direct consequence of changes in land use. According to the researchers, the regional rise in temperature would affect ecosystems by reducing the amount of water available during the dry season, which would cause more forest fires. The Indonesian government should take into account these initial results, which should be sharpened.

 **BIODIVERSITY – NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES: THE EFSA WILL FINALIZE ITS RISK ASSESSMENT FOR BEES IN FEBRUARY 2018**



In order to finalize its assessment report on the risks to bees of the three neonicotinoid substances (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) banned since the end of 2013 for certain uses, the EFSA is planning a series of consultations from pesticide experts in the Member States. In 2015, the EFSA, which received a mandate to update its knowledge of these three substances, reported a risk to bees associated with foliar spraying. Following the conclusions of the EFSA, states should take a decision on the proposal of the European Commission (March 2017) to ban the use of all three pesticides, including for greenhouse crops. France wants to go beyond the moratorium by adding from September 1, 2018 two other neonicotinoids (thiacloprid and acetamiprid) most commonly used.