

## HEADLINE – 143 MILLION CLIMATIC MIGRANTS BY 2050

The World Bank released a report on climate change on March 19. This is a potentially devastating phenomenon for countries facing the effects of global warming. The World Bank focused on three regions: Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America. These three regions are expected to experience significant migratory movements as a result of climate change. According to experts, 143 million people in these regions may have to move by 2050. John Roome, head of climate change at the World Bank, said: "Climate change is already impacting population movements and could intensify. But if we reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage development through actions on training, land use..., these three regions will only have to face 40 million climatic migrants and not 143 million".

## CLIMATE CHANGE – THE CITY OF CLERMONT-FERRAND HOSTS ONE OF THE THIRTY LOCAL 2020 CLIMATE COLLECTIVES THAT ARE CURRENTLY DEVELOPING IN FRANCE, BELGIUM AND SWITZERLAND

Launched last December by Pierre Larrouturou, the collective aims to fight against climate change. To do so, companies, intellectuals, politicians, associations and citizens are taking collective actions to adopt in 2019 a finance and climate pact whose application would begin in 2020.

The draft of the Pact made public last December puts forward the idea of redirecting towards the energy transition the means produced by monetary creation. The manifesto states: "We believe that it is really time to sound the alarm and to mobilize the public opinion ... By relying on the monetary creation of the European Central Bank, which has created more than 2.300 billion euros since April 2015, we want to ensure that each country in the European Union can devote at least 2% of its annual GDP to the energy transition. "

## LIGHT POLLUTION – 374 TOWNS NEWLY LABELIZED "STAR CITIES"



On Tuesday March 20, the Association for the protection of the night sky and environment (ANPCEN) has awarded a label "Star Cities or Villages", valid for 4 years, to 374 French municipalities ranging from 18 to 61,000 inhabitants, from one to five stars, as a reward for the actions they have implemented for the quality of the night and the night environment. This labeling is also intended to encourage non-labeled communities to take an interest in the fight against light pollution. This fight not only protects human health and biodiversity but also promotes energy savings. Indeed, excess lighting disrupts the biological clock as much in plant and animal species as in men. Overexposure to light may deregulate flowering, kill some flying insects exhausted by light, and cause nervous and hormonal disorder in men.

## AGRICULTURE – IS TRANSGENIC CORN GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ?

Genetically modified corn is more resistant to insects. Nothing very surprising. But it also protects the surrounding cultures. In a study published in the PNAS (US Academy of Sciences Proceedings), US researchers compared the amounts of pesticides used in crops near cornfields before and after the introduction of transgenic corn between 1976 and 2016.

In 1996, the United States began cultivating genetically modified Bt corn in several states on the Atlantic coast. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) is a bacterium that secretes a toxin that attacks the larvae of some particularly voracious moth species. It kills them before they have time to develop. Bt corn secretes this toxin themselves. "There is not one Bt corn, but several," says Jean-Christophe Pagès, chairman of the scientific committee of the High Council of Biotechnology (HCB). "This is a set of transgenic corn that secrete proteins that may be different. In Europe only one kind of Bt corn is allowed, this is MON 810 corn. It is cultivated in Spain, Portugal and the Czech Republic. In France, after having been authorized, it is now forbidden.



### NGOs can request a review of GMO authorizations

In April 2015, the European Commission authorized the import of three genetically modified soybeans for food and animal feed. The German non-governmental organization (NGO) Testbiotech disputed these licensing decisions and asked the European Commission to review them, a possibility provided for by the Aarhus Regulation. In support of its review request, Testbiotech invoked arguments related to the health assessment of these transgenic soybeans. The organization raised the fact that EASA has not established guidelines on the health effects of genetically modified (GM) plants with significantly altered nutritional content. According to the organization, the absence of such guidance would have resulted, inter alia, in an inadequate nutritional risk assessment and a violation of the labeling provisions. Testbiotech also noted that for soybean event MON 87705 and 305423, herbicide residues were not considered in the consideration of the health effects of food consumption for humans or animals. In November 2015, the European Commission rejected Testbiotech's request for a review. It considered that it does not have to answer it because, in its view, health-related arguments can not be relied on in the context of a request for internal review as provided for in the Aarhus Regulation. A rejection that leads Testbiotech to seize the Court of the European Union. In its judgment of March 14, 2018, the Court considered that the decisions of April 2015 authorizing the marketing of the three genetically modified soybeans may be the subject of a request for internal review. But are health-related arguments part of this area?

In its judgment of March 14, the Tribunal affirmed that it does. In fact, the protection of human health is one of the objectives of the Union's environmental policy and GMOs can only be placed on the market if they do not have negative effects on the environment, the environment but also on human or animal health. Moreover, the European regulation which is the basis for the adoption of the decisions authorizing genetically modified foods (Regulation 1829/2003), contains provisions which contribute to the pursuit of the protection of human and animal health. in the Union.



The National Museum of Natural History (MNHN) and the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) have conducted studies based on different protocols and have reached the same alarming result: "The birds of the French countryside are disappearing at a vertiginous speed. On average, their populations have shrunk by a third in 15 years.

The species most affected are the skylark which has decreased by 35% in a little under 20 years and partridges have decreased by 80 to 90% over the last 23 years. This depopulation of birds can be explained by intensive farming practices. Massive use of pesticides kills insects and destroys wild plants that produce seeds that provide a nutritious resource for birds.



A project labeled Grand Paris provides for the creation of a forest. On the program, trees as far as the eye can see, an equestrian center, clearings, hiking trails, educational trails to observe fauna and flora and recreational areas.

Originally, this area to be redeveloped was wooded, then, in the nineteenth century, the city of Paris acquires several hectares to dump its waste water. The latter serve as fertilizer for fruits and vegetables ... which will eventually be declared unfit for raw consumption. "The pollution of soil by sewage water led to the total prohibition of market gardening products and crops for human consumption in 2000.", said the mayor of Saint-Ouen-l'Aumône, Alain Richard (LREM) at newspaper "Le Monde", before adding "This has precipitated the urbanization of the territory, become a wild depot occupied by illegal activities."

It is planned to plant trees to reforest the space. However, not all trees are eligible for the program. Indeed, it is planned to plant only hardwoods; conifers are spread because their needles naturally acidify the earth.



Two US cities are summoning oil companies to finance the costs of adapting infrastructure due to rising sea levels. The trial opened Wednesday, March 21 before the U.S. District Court of San Francisco. The cities of San Francisco and Oakland assign five oil companies (Chevron, ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, BP and Royal Dutch Shell). The judge ordered the parties to present him with the best scientific information currently available on global warming. So in the last few days there have been many scientists before him to support the claims of each party.

The two cities blame the five companies for hiding their long-standing knowledge that hydrocarbon combustion is harmful to the climate. They also criticize them for wanting to discredit research on the role of human activity in global warming. For example, San Francisco and Oakland are demanding that these companies be condemned to fund infrastructure costs incurred as a result of sea level rise in the amount of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Others, including New York City, follow the example of Oakland and San Francisco by filing similar lawsuits.