

## HEADLINE – FIRST CONVICTION FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OF WASTE INCINERATION

On March 6, the agglomeration of Melun Val de Seine was convicted for non-compliance of the activity of an incinerator and thus for endangering others. The amount of the conviction is 3.5 million euros, an amount far from negligible. To follow the progress of the facts, at first, the prosecutor had asked for a simple fine for "non-compliant installation". Indeed, the ordinary procedure excluded the grievance of endangering others. Finally, after a procedure lasting fifteen long years, including several weeks of hearings and more than a hundred plaintiffs, the Tribunal de Grande Instance of Paris opted for non-compliance and endangering others. It follows that on March 6 this year, the agglomeration of Melun Val de Seine was sentenced on the basis of non-compliance with the legislation of the classified facilities of 2002 and for endangering others between January 1999 and March 2018. Constant pollution that lasted for almost twenty years and ends with the condemnation to pay 250 000 euros fine and nearly 3.5 million euros to residents of the waste incinerator Vaux-le-Pénil.

## REGULATIONS – CSR AT THE SERVICE OF THE CONGOLESE MINING CODE

The Head of State of the Democratic Republic of Congo promulgated on March 9, 2018 the new Mining Code. This new Code introduces as an innovation the consideration of social and environmental considerations (CSR). It wants to make the mining companies more accountable for the effects they have on Congolese society. Considered as a geological scandal and criticized as an ATM machine for mining companies to the detriment of the population, DR Congo has taken a step by providing for example the introduction of specifications for mining companies, the social opinion for the Obtaining an exploitation permit and defining social obligations and the sustainable development program for the surrounding communities of the project. This opinion sanctions the sustainable development plan. This code goes further in sections 211 and 212 by providing for the liability of the holder for damage to people, property and the environment caused by his mining activities.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY – EVAPORATING WATER NEW SOURCE OF ENERGY?

Last December, Lactalis, the world's largest dairy group, was accused of selling infant milk produced in its Salmonella-contaminated plant of Craon in Mayenne. And according to the Public Health Surveillance Authority of France, it has been proven that 31 children became ill after consuming milk from this plant.

The case of contaminated milk began on December 2, 2017 with the discovery of twenty children aged less than six months contaminated with salmonella present in some batches of baby milk. These salmonella are affecting young children more seriously, with food poisoning, gastroenteritis, and various other serious infections.

A few days later, ten new cases have led to the intervention of the Directorate General of Health, which, for the sake of prevention and to stop the spread of contamination, then called for the recall of the infant milk in question. Some internal investigations tend to show that the Lactalis company had been aware since August 2017 of the contamination of its production chain located in Mayenne. However, this alarming information obviously did not lead the world's largest dairy group to stop selling its product. To date, the production line is still at a standstill and as a result, more than 350 employees are in a situation of technical unemployment. To this must be added the recall of more than 620 batches of infant milk from previous purchasers (major retailers, establishments for young children, nurseries etc ...).

## EARTH – AFRICA SPLITS IN HALF



On March 19, 2018, a rift occurred near Nairobi, Kenya. This is an impressive gulf that has appeared in southwestern Kenya following heavy rainfall. It is about 15 meters deep and cut the Mai Mahiu-Narok trade route. This area of Kenya is located in the "Great Rift Valley" which stretches for thousands of kilometers. A rift is an area where the outer layer of the earth's crust, consisting of moving plates, is

thinner. This event has generated a lot of reactions among scientists. Indeed, they rely on different theories to explain the phenomenon. For some, it is a new mark of progressive rupture of the African continent. This process is then very natural and it would take several million years before the final division with the African continent occurs. Thus, the discovery of this fault seems to confirm the advance of tectonic separation movements of the continent. However, for others, including Smithsonian geologist Ben Andrews, it is the torrential rain that is causing this fault.



**WASTE COLLECTION TAX**

Judgment of the Council of State, 9th - 10th Chambers dated March 19, 2018, No. 402946

In the present case, a company asks the administrative court to grant the refund of the garbage removal tax levy to which it was subjected in respect of the year 2013 in the roles of the commune of Livry-Gargan to because of the shopping center which it owns in the commune.

His claim is rejected at first instance. The administrative court considers that the garbage collection tax takes into account not only the actual operating expenses incurred for the public service of collection and treatment of household waste, but also the expenses exposed for the sole general administration of the municipality.

The Council of State annuls the judgment of the administrative court, and considers in application of Article 1520 of the General Tax Code (as it stands in force for the tax year in dispute) that the tax of removal garbage does not have the character of a levy made on the taxpayers in order to provide for all the budgetary expenses of the municipality. The purpose is exclusively to cover the expenses incurred by the municipality to ensure the collection and treatment of household waste insofar as these have not been covered by non-tax revenue.



**AGRICULTURE – A KILLER BACTERIUM OF PLANTS DISCOVERED ON OLIVE TREES IN CORSICA**

The bacterium xylella fastidiosa, which decimated thousands of olive trees in Italy, was detected for the first time on olive trees and green oaks of Corsica, announced Monday the interprofessional union of olive growers of Corsica (Sidoc). Indeed, Sandrine Marfisi, president of the interprofessional union of olive growers of Corsica (Sidoc) declared Tuesday, April 3, 2018 that "it is the first time that the olive tree and the holm oak are affected on the island and that a die economic, olive growing, is affected.

Until now, analyzes have been conducted by ANSES (National Agency for Food Safety), which is the only body authorized to carry out these analyzes. But their conclusions, negative, did not satisfy the Corsican farmers. SIDOC asked a laboratory of the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA) in Angers, which revealed the contamination of these plants.

This bacterium was detected for the first time in Europe in 2013 in Apulia in southern Italy. There is currently no cure for sick plants in the field and two research projects on Xylella fastidiosa are funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 program.



**ENERGY – SUSHIL, THE INDIAN STUDENT ON BIKE BETWEEN INDIA AND CALIFORNIA**

This 29-year-old Indian, HEC student with a degree in engineering, embarked on a rather unusual adventure: he decided to travel 7,000 kilometers on a solar bike. This was to promote solar energy to different cities he was crossing. The electric bike that has been used as a means of transport is equipped with solar panels and can only be recharged with this power source.

The youth, having given himself a mission to understand the concept of solar energy, says that his travels have allowed him to understand the energy needs of the French and Californians and Indians. Indeed, the exchange with the local populations of the crossed mediums allowed him to illuminate the stakes and the necessities of our societies but also to discover a way to generate energy which is not sufficiently known today.

Rich experience and very well accepted by the public, the field would be an example to reproduce to better identify the importance that the energy transition represents for the future.



**EARTH – SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT TO PROTECT THE WORLD'S LARGEST TROPICAL PEATLAND**



A peatland is a wetland characterized by the progressive accumulation of peat, a soil characterized by its very high content of organic matter including carbon. The bog of the central basin, located in the Congo Basin, is the largest in the world. An amount equivalent to the greenhouse gas emissions produced within three years is stored in this peat bog of Congo. Hence, in the effort to protect this peatland, the

Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo and Indonesia jointly signed the Brazzaville Declaration on March 23, 2018. This declaration encourages better management and conservation of this stock of carbon and will allow regulated use to prevent the drying and degradation of this peatland. This agreement marks the beginning of a major collaboration between Indonesia, which is home to many peat bogs and the Congo Basin.