



HEADLINE – THE LAUNCH OF A MARINE TURBINE IN SPRING 2019

HydroQuest and Mechanical Engineering of Normandy (CMN) announce that the marine turbine "HydroQuest Ocean" will be commissioned and connected to the network in spring 2019. The winners of the call for projects are: "Renewable energy at sea and pilot farms river turbines". Indeed, since 2016, the two actors have been developing a demonstrator project for the marine tidal stream. This project must make it possible to validate the performances of the hydraulic turbine in real operating conditions, before its commercialization on an international scale. Currently being assembled in CMN workshops in Cherbourg, the hydraulic turbine is 25 meters wide and 11 meters high. It has a two-axis vertical technology, and will produce a nominal power of 1 megawatt. In addition, it will be in one and two floors to adapt to the different depths of the world's marine deposits and will have a bidirectional operation for a low sensitivity to the wind direction specify the two actors by the end of 2018. The hydraulic turbine will come out of the CMN workshops and will be installed on the EDF Paimpol-Bréhat site from April 2019, before being put into service for an initial period of twelve months.



HEALTH – STATE WANTS TOBACCO INDUSTRIES TO PROPOSE A STRATEGY TO FIGHT AGAINST « CIGARETTE BUTTS »

Cigarette butts and filters are the first type of waste collected on the beaches and in the European seas, they represent 18% of the objects counted by the observatory "Marin Litter Watch" of the European Environment Agency. On June 14 2018, Brune Poirson received tobacco companies to face their responsibility for the pollution generated by the filters and butts of their cigarettes. The secretary of state asked them to submit voluntary ecological commitments next September. Smokers must certainly throw their butts in garbage cans, and manufacturers must mobilize for the eco-design of their products. In the absence of mobilization of the tobacco industry, the government will take the lead with the implementation of an extended responsibility of producers, the European Commission is in favour of the REP. The European executive leaves no alternative: this project aims to impose an extended producer's responsibility to finance the management of cigarette filter waste.



POLLUTION – REPORT ON KILOMETRIC INDEMNITY : 2 YEARS LATER



Two years after the implementation of the bike kilometer allowance (IKV), the IKV Observatory published on June 13 the results of its first qualitative survey on the impact of the measure. This measure was introduced by article 50 of the law of August 17, 2015 on the energy transition. A survey was conducted in April and May 2018 among 66 private and public employers. The results of the survey indicate a significant increase in bicycle use among employees who benefit from IKV and a very positive opinion of employers. It shows that the number of cyclists is growing by nearly 70% in companies that set up IKV. 60% of these companies spontaneously identify benefits for their image and the well-being of employees with, for example, a 15% reduction in sick leave among their employees who use bicycles. At the end of this survey, the Observatory asks the government to include the generalization and improvement of this mechanism in the draft law of orientation of the nobilities which will be discussed in Parliament in Autumn 2018 to amplify the effects already observed and to achieve the ambitious goals.



HEALTH – FOR AN AHEAD-OF-THE-TRANSITION EUROPE

The Alliance for Health and the Environment network released a document on June 7 presenting our vision of how Europe can or must pave the way for a non-toxic environment. This vision document summarizes our positions on the current problematic aspects of the use of harmful chemicals and suggests 12 priority actions to build an ambitious transition strategy towards a non-toxic environment, which actually reduces people's exposure to harmful chemicals. It is published because the European Commission is legally committed to publishing a nontoxic environmental strategy by the end of 2018, in 6 months, but nothing has happened yet. It is therefore essential to alert institutions to remind them of the commitment, and that we need ambitious action if we really want to reduce people's exposure to harmful chemicals. The commitment to a transition to a non-toxic environment should also be at the heart of preparations for the European election campaign next year.



JURISPRUDENCE

Council of State N° 406667 – 05-30-2018

By order no. 406667 of May 30, 2018, the Council of State rejected the appeals by which several organizations requested the annulment of the intermenstrual decrees concerning the specifications of approval of eco-organisms. “Extended producer responsibility: the State may exclude composting activities from recycling activities eligible for local government financial support by packaging and paper eco-organizations”.

In this case, the National Federation of Composting Communities asked the Council of State to annul for excess of power:

- 1- The intermenstrual decree of November 2, 2016 relating to the approval procedure and specifications of the eco-organisms of the graphic paper industry.
- 2- The intermenstrual decree of November 29, 2016 on the approval procedure and specifications for eco-organisms in the packaging waste sector.

The federation criticizes these two specifications for the exclusion of composting activities from recycling activities eligible for financial support from which local authorities can benefit from eco-organizations.



RISKS – DECREASE IN HEAVY METAL RELEASES IN EUROPE



According to the European Environment Agency (EEA), releases of heavy metals from major European industries decreased between 2010 and 2016. The new data from the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) indicate that emissions of eight heavy metals – arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, mercury, nickel, lead and zinc – would have decreased by 39% in the air and 34% in the waters. The E-PRTR covers 65 economic activities and around 33,000 installations in Europe. The EEA recalls that heavy metals can cause effects on nutrient cycles in plants and cause developmental and reproductive disorders in animals and humans. Regarding air emissions, 18 of the 978 industrial facilities were responsible for more than half of heavy metal emissions in 2016. Regarding discharges into water, mines and intensive aquaculture produce respectively 19% and 14% of pressures on the environment. In intensive aquaculture, fish cages release copper and zinc into the sea. To produce its analysis, the EEA combined emission data from the E-PRTR with the UEstox model that produces information on the toxicity of the substances.



REAL ESTATE – THE HOUSING LAW DEFINES THE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW BUILDINGS



In a public session on June 12, the MPs adopted, at first reading, the bill on the evolution of housing, planning and digital (Elan). They completed the text measurements related to the renovation and energy performance of buildings. The law now defines the energy and environmental characteristics of new buildings (Article 55a). By introducing this provision in the Assembly's Committee on Economic Affairs, MPs wanted to specify the objectives to be met by the future environmental regulation of new buildings for 2020. Current legislation does not provide for these objectives “and is limited to a prescriptive approach referring to a regulatory text. The amendment adopted by the committee sets the criteria that the administration must take into account in the regulatory production”, said the deputy Richard Lioger (The Republic in March), rapporteur of the text. The levels of energy performance and carbon emissions to be achieved are defined by the reference Energy + Carbon- (E + C-), currently being tested by project owners.



HEALTH – LYME'S DISEASE IS EXPANDING IN FRANCE !

Lyme's disease, an infection transmitted by ticks, can cause many disabling and painful conditions. From a difficult diagnosis, it has long been underestimated and the Ministry of Health raised in 2016 her estimate of the number of cases in France to 55,000. According to ANSES, which conducts research on ticks, the latter can carry "about sixty bacteria, a hundred species of parasites, at least five hundred known viruses, not counting the new discoveries to come". An illness still misdiagnosed, which will be transmitted after 12 to 48 hours after the bite and can have serious health consequences. According to France Lyme, an association committed to the recognition of this disease, "the training of doctors in France would not be up to the task". People with this disease are treated in a special way, beyond official protocol, they do not benefit from treatment and antibiotics are not reimbursed.