



## HIGHLIGHTS – FACILITIES CLASSIFIED: FRANÇOIS DE RUGY ESTABLISHES SIX PRIORITIES FOR 2019

The Minister of Ecological Transition has just communicated the guidelines for the inspection of the Facilities Classified for the Environmental Protection (ICPE, for its acronym in French) for 2019. Among the priorities are the Seveso sites, quarries, chemical products, intensive livestock and classification of five varieties of waste.

François de Rugy highlights six priority actions among the fifteen thematic actions listed. They are aimed at Seveso establishments, intensive farms, combustion plants and quarries. Two more transversal actions focus on the classification of waste and chemical products.

The minister calls for greater control of certain risk regulations at Seveso facilities. The inspection will focus on the identification, knowledge and maintenance of security barriers, on the one hand, and the risk control measures that emerge as the most critical according to the Risk Assessment (EDD, acronym in French). The inspection is also requested to supervise the monitoring of the Pressure Equipment (ESP, acronym in French) in places that do not have a recognized inspection service and for which the failure of such equipment is likely to cause a serious accident.

Hazardous material pipes are also targeted with specific control over corrosion protection.

With respect to conducting inspections of chemical products, they will focus on compliance with the regulations for the use of refrigerants in the CFC family. Special measures will also be taken on releases of substances of concern (CMR, POP, PE, etc.)

The inspectors are also responsible for supervising compliance with the waste classification obligations by industrial operators.

Another priority of the action is to bring intensive farming to European standards.

These annual thematic actions are added to the recurring actions of the inspection related to the exercise of the policy of facilities classified or the integration of risks in the planning and development tools.



## HEALTH – PERMAFROST THAWING: A RISK OF RESURGENCE OF PREHISTORIC DISEASES

Siberia, 2016, the 70-year-old anthrax spores were released from a reindeer corpse after a layer of permafrost was thawed. This episode caused the death of a child; thousands of reindeer have also been infected. While in Poland the COP24 is coming to an end, in the northern regions of Siberia and Canada, permafrost continues to thaw. In the polar regions, temperatures increase two to three times faster than in the rest of the world: between 0.2 ° C and 0.5 ° C per decade. The icy soil of the Arctic regions is the largest greenhouse gas reserve in the world: the consequences of its melting in the face of rising temperatures could be dramatic. But it isn't the only thing. This soil layer, whose surface is estimated between 10 and 15 million square meters (between 20- and 30-times France sizes), also contains viruses potentially dangerous to humans. According to the most optimistic scenarios, by 2100, 30% of the permafrost could disappear. For a few more degrees, billions of bacteria and viruses could be reborn from the melted permafrost. The vast polar regions of the Arctic are deserted and dead only in appearance. Its frozen soil contains huge amounts of organisms accumulated over thousands of years and only wait a few more degrees of temperature to return to life.

In 2014, Professor Claverie and his team discovered two giant viruses, harmless to humans, that managed to reactivate: "This discovery shows that if we are able to resuscitate 30,000-year-old viruses, there is no reason why some more viruses dangerous to humans, animals or plants do not survive more than 30,000 years. "



## Antarctica- failure to create a marine nature reserve in the Southern Ocean.

The Southern Ocean or Antarctic Ocean is an ocean defined by a convention that establishes it between the parallel 60 ° south and the Antarctic continent. This



## CLIMATE – COP24 AMBITIONS REDUCED TO A MINIMUM

The signatory countries of the Paris Climate Agreement finally reached an agreement in Katowice, Poland, on October 15, 2018. In fact, they established the content and manner of use of the Agreement.

What was unfortunate was the lack of a greater commitment to the climate emergency. The promises made in 2015 are far from the 2 degrees established by the Paris Agreement, which leads to a warming between 2.7 and 3.5 degrees.

The most vulnerable countries do not benefit from this, especially because the question of compensation for the losses and damages that global warming harms them and wish to be taken into consideration by the developed countries as they do not benefit as expected in the text of the agreement. The United States, allied with Russia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, has been able to relativize the scope of the alarming report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which would serve as a point of reference to significantly increase commitments to reduce countries greenhouse gases.

The Paris Agreement states that developed countries must provide financial assistance to developing countries, the Katowice text only advocates a report from rich countries on such financing. A "need to avoid losses and damages" related to warming without integrating the issue of financing. The final decision simply takes "note of the Silesia Declaration, which recognizes the need to take into account the imperatives of a just transition for the working population". An agreement that unfortunately saw its ambitions reduced to a minimum.



COP24-KATOWICE 2018  
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## HERBICIDE - START OF A JUDICIAL ACTION SERIES AGAINST GLYPHOSATE

Fifty legal claims filed last October in the Foix Ariège Court are the beginning of a new

delimitation corresponds to the parts of the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans legally covered by the Antarctic Treaty. The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) failed in its mandate after meeting in Hobart, Tasmania. The current governments could not agree on the creation of a vast sanctuary in the Austral Ocean, while this project was supported by 22 of the 25 members of the Commission and more than 2.7 million people around the world.

For H el ene Bourges, head of the Greenpeace France ocean campaign: "We had a historic opportunity to create the largest protected area on the planet in the Southern Ocean to protect wildlife, combat climate change and improve the health of our oceans. Twenty-two delegations came to Hobart to negotiate in good faith, but the scientifically unfounded arguments presented by the blocking delegations destroyed serious scientific proposals for the urgent protection of the marine environment. "

The Chinese, Norwegian and Russian delegations played a role in blocking the proposal. It's a very unique area with a very rich species diversity. They're linked to a very particular ecosystem with very cold waters (the Weddell Sea is the coldest on the planet). We've a life that abounds on the seabed, but also at the level of krill, threatened by fishing today. And if we remove this link from the chain, we run the risk of falling apart.

### JURISPRUDENCE - The Supreme Court rejects a large criminal trial regarding asbestos

On Tuesday, December 11, the Criminal Chamber of the Court of Cassation dismissed the appeals of the associations of victims of asbestos, the University Campus of Jussieu and the Normed Dunkirk Shipyard. In fact, it confirmed the annulment of the accusations for "homicide and unintentional injuries" of eight members of the National Permanent Committee of Asbestos (NPCA), in the case of the sanitary asbestos scandal. A scandal that is still responsible for 3,000 deaths per year.

The lawsuit against these officials was filed in 2011 after a fifteen-year investigation following the two complaints filed in 1996 by the Asbestos Committee of Jussieu and the Regional Asbestos Association of Pas-de-Calais, which represents the workers of the Normed shipyard.

This decision follows the sentence handed down on September 15, 2017 by the investigation chamber of the Court of Appeal of Paris, which opened the way for the inadmissibility. The prosecutor's office had considered that the diagnosis of a pathology related to asbestos does not allow dating the date of exposure or contamination.

The Court of Cassation concluded the lack of merit given the characteristics of the functions or the participation of the officials processed in the framework of the NPCA activities, because they could not "in the context of the scientific data of the time, measure the severity of the Risk to which they would have exposed the victims. "

This decision puts an end to the allegations of criminal responsibility of the members of the Permanent National Asbestos Committee. But "The case does not finished with this decision that can only stop the investigation because there are deaths every day, so there are new facts to judge every day," said lawyer Hannotin.

lawsuit series against Monsanto, as a result of an important campaign of analysis launched by the collective of volunteer gardeners in the region. 1.43 nanograms per milliliter, is the average amount of glyphosate found in the urine of 60 Ari eg e inhabitants. It is known that the glyphosate rate reaches 14 times the authorized dose in drinking water in France.

This controversial herbicide, patented and used since 1974, is part of more than 190 phytosanitary products in France. It has been classified as potentially carcinogenic since 2015 by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. According to Dominique Masset, co-president of the Campaign Glyphosate association, these legal actions for "endangering the lives of others", "aggravated deception" and "damage to the environment" point to the leaders of large groups, but also to the actors that played a role in the product marketing. The objective is "to achieve an immediate ban on this product". "These are endocrine disruptors that act from small doses, over generations," explains another member of the association.

Also, in Lyon a preliminary investigation was opened this summer for "administration of harmful substances, following a class-action lawsuit by the beekeeping union of Aisne against the French headquarters of Monsanto / Bayer.

In Vienna (Is ere), the parents of a 10-year-old boy with serious congenital malformations filed a lawsuit in 2017 against the manufacturers of herbicides with glyphosate, including Monsanto. The objective of the *Association Campaign Glifosato* is to launch a major campaign of analysis throughout the territory and create a national citizens mobilization around the subject of glyphosate, an affair which has not been finished.

### WASTE – TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY OF INDIAN OCEAN CITIES

A charter for the circular economy development was signed on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at the Saint-Martin University in Reunion Island. This first edition of green growth defenders brought together cities and communities in the area that are now working towards the emergence of a shared vision of sustainable waste management across the Indian Ocean. Preserving the environment is a common goal, so that sustainable development is, ultimately, a condition of survival, especially for these island countries and territories.

The elected representatives of several important cities in the region were able to present their waste management problems. The objective was to unite their thoughts to achieve the signing of a charter and Proposal, for the development and sharing of the sector of the circular economy in the Indian Ocean. Organized with the support of the Association of Indian Ocean Cities and Communities (AVCOI, acronym in French), these meetings brought together institutional actors, experts, academics and community leaders from the Comoros Islands, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, Seychelles and Reunion.

This is an opportunity for an outermost region such as Reunion to use its waste management and innovation technologies in the management of cities and inter-municipalities responsible for garbage collection, which often face management difficulties and lack of resources. A constructive cooperation approach is necessary in view of the situations exposed by some elected officials. A city like Antananarivo now has 2 million inhabitants and the rural exodus widens the adverse conditions.

### SECURITY – SPACE RUBBLE, A RISK FOR SPACE ACTIVITY.

About 750,000 space debris measuring more than one centimeter and about one hundred million more than one millimeter are currently orbiting Earth. Space rubble is the residue of an abandoned satellites and rockets explosion that roam in space. The problem is that they can potentially collide with all the machines launched by man in space (watch in particular the Alfonso Cuar on film Gravity).

On April 20, 2017, as part of the European Space Agency's (ESA) *Proxima* mission on board the International Space Station, French astronaut Thomas Pesquet said: " The space rubbles that clings to the orbit of the Earth worries us a lot in the station, but it's a problem for all of us." Which should be understood is that even a small residue, due to the speed with which it advances in space, can explode an active satellite, and this explosion will generate a new cloud of waste. All debris is a potential threat.

Each time more satellites are launched into space. Currently there are more than 2,000 assets in orbit near Earth and in geostationary positions. Nowadays, the solution is to think of satellites that can be more easily destroyed at the end of their mission, in contact with the atmosphere. Therefore, European engineers are trying to create new generation satellites that will self-destruct during their atmospheric reentry. And if solar panels are easily reduced to dust, still have to find a solution to destroy the toughest components, made of titanium or steel, before they reach Earth.