



## HIGHLIGHT – INDUSTRIALISTS AND NGOs SIGN A « NATIONAL PACT ON PLASTIC CONTAINERS » WITH THE STATE

Plastic containers are used mainly for packaging, transport or protection of the products we consume daily. Unfortunately, two thirds of marine pollution consist of these bags that take several years to disappear. In fact, according to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, which fights against the oceans' pollution by plastics, at least 8 million tons of plastics reach the marine ecosystems every year, which is equivalent to downloading every minute the contents of a garbage truck at sea. If no action is taken, by 2030 this number will increase to two per minute, and four per minute, by 2050, according to the Foundation.

Aware of these problems, the authorities, companies and NGOs signed on Thursday February 21, 2019, a "National Pact on plastic packaging." The objective of the pact is to reduce the use of non-recyclable plastic containers, guarantee the containers' recyclability and improve the incorporation of recycled materials. It was approved by the Ministry of Ecological Transition, six distribution companies (Auchan, Carrefour, Casino, Franprix, Monoprix and Système-U), seven agri-food and cosmetics groups (Biscuit Bouvard, Coca-Cola, Danone, the Laiterie de Saint Denis de l'Hôtel (LSDH), L'Oréal, Nestlé and Unilever) and three NGOs (the Tara Expéditions Foundation, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the WWF France).

The signatories of the pact assumed several commitments, including the establishment of a packages list designated as problematic or unnecessary and for which measures should be taken for their elimination, to collectively collect 60% of recyclable plastic containers from here to 2022.



## GLYPHOSATE LAWSUITS CONTINUE

On Wednesday, February 20, 50 new lawsuits were filed with the High Court of Lille, after the detection of traces of the herbicide glyphosate in its urinalysis. The plaintiffs are from Lille, Flanders, Valencennes and Douaisis. They complain about "endangering the lives of others", "aggravated deception" and "environmental damage". These complaints correspond to fifty volunteers to get checked on January 12. They have levels ranging from 0.35 nanograms per milliliter to 2.05 nanograms, with an average of 0.88 ng / ml. Rates higher than the maximum permitted dose in drinking water, established by Europe, amounting to 0.1 ng / ml. His complaint is against the State, manufacturers of pesticides based on glyphosate such as Bayer-Monsanto, marketing managers, European authorities and health authorities. Several complaints have already been presented by the collective Ariège "Campagne glyphosate" and the "voluntary mowers" in Brittany. All these complaints are sent and processed in the public health center



## SANITATION – PARIS : A DIRTY CITY ?

According to the EASY ALIBABUY website, Paris is one of the dirtiest cities in Europe, behind Rome and London. Between dog droppings, cans, cigarette butts and, not to mention the subway, the city of Paris has a lot of work to do in terms of cleanliness.

In June 2012, crushing his cigarette on the ground was punishable by a € 35 fine. Since October 1, the fine has amounted to 68 euros. In fact, on March 25 a Decree 2015-337 is published in the Official Gazette, related to the garbage abandonment and other objects on public roads: anyone who "undermines the cleanliness of public space" will receive a fine. With traffic jams and pollution records in and around the city, the last initiative of the City of Paris, in terms of balance between social and ecological, was to promise free transport. However, this may be attractive in the short term, and then lead to deterioration of conditions for users. In addition, the capital has more than 2 million inhabitants and receives 30 million tourists a year. This population generates an average of 3,000 tons of waste to be collected daily. Several measures have been implemented to guarantee a better environment for the population. Among them is the creation of the anti-misconduct brigade, which now has 3,200 agents to fight against periodic discomfort.

Beyond the legal deployment made to make the city of Paris cleaner, the solution would be in the customs. In fact, Japan is recognized as the cleanest country in the world. Cleaning is ubiquitous at school. It is the students themselves who clean the classrooms, there are no cleaning agents.



## TRANSPORTATION – LIMITATION OF CARBON EMISSIONS FROM HEAVY VEHICLES

The draft regulation on CO2 emission standards for new heavy goods vehicles has reached a milestone: negotiations between the Parliament, the Council and the European Commission, which began last January, resulted in an agreement. According to the latter, trucks will have to reduce their CO2 emissions by 15% by 2025 and by 30% by 2030 compared to 2019 levels. Otherwise, a financial penalty for surplus emissions must be applied. Until then, Europe had set CO2 reduction targets for cars, but never for trucks. This is the first time that polluting emissions from heavy vehicles will be regulated at

of the Paris prosecutor's office.



## CASE LAW

**Justice validates the pedestrianization of roads on the banks of rivers (TA Paris, October 25, 2018).**

The decision of Anne HIDALGO to make the banks pedestrian was particularly strong fought especially by Valérie Pécresse, president of the Regional Council of Ile-de-France. In spite of the failures of Vélib' and Autolib, the pedestrianization of the waterways was one of the emblematic measures of the mandate of the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo. The latter has managed to perpetuate the pedestrianization of the Georges-Pompidou road thanks to the decree of March 6, 2018. The nine applications submitted, including by local residents and merchants, were all rejected.

In its ruling of October 25, 2018, the Court confirms the legality of the decree of the mayor of Paris. In fact, the decree fulfills the objectives established by law, namely the protection of a World Heritage site and the improvement of the site for aesthetic or tourist purposes. The drawback caused by the decree in terms of lengthening of transport time, air quality and noise disturbance in high platforms is limited. This decree is compatible with the urban transport plan of Ile-de-France. In addition, there is no misuse of power or procedure if its purpose is consistent with the objectives of the police measures that the mayor can legally take. In March, the city of Paris had 1.5 million visitors since the beginning of pedestrianization. According to her, these routes are for visitors "a true space of breathing and freedom, to walk, relax, play sports or go to work by bicycle".

European level. In the document, the incentives scheme for low emission vehicles, ZLEV, should also be strengthened. However, urban and long-distance buses were excluded from the device.

The European Parliament introduced a sales reference rate of 2% for vehicles with zero emissions and low emissions in 2025 to encourage manufacturers to invest in alternatives to polluting diesel trucks. With respect to the transparency of emissions data, these must be obtained through on-board devices that will monitor the actual fuel and energy consumption of heavy vehicles. In accordance with the Paris Agreement, the Commission should propose 2022 targets for the period after 2030.



## WHALING – ICELAND EXTENDED THE WHALING LICENSE FOR FIVE YEARS

On Tuesday, February 19, it was known, despite international criticism, that the Icelandic government had decided to extend the whaling license for five years. The annual fee will be 209 for fin whales and 217 for Minke whales. Fisheries and Agriculture Minister Christian For Yulsson said the new quotas are sustainable and based on scientific research from the Maritime Research Institute and the University of Iceland. Since 1986, there has been a moratorium on commercial whaling. Iceland resumed whaling more than ten years ago. In addition to Iceland, whaling is practiced in Norway. By the end of 2018, Japan had also announced its intention to resume hunting. According to the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Organization, local whale consumption in Iceland is declining and tourists are responsible for almost all consumption.



## ATMOSPHERIC EMISSIONS – NEW BILL ON THE EMISSION OF HARMFUL EMISSIONS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE IN RUSSIA

On February 21, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of the Russian Federation sent the Government a draft federal law on consolidated calculations of air pollution. According to an official press release from the Ministry, the bill gives regions the right to organize consolidated calculations of air pollution and use the results of these calculations to standardize emissions of pollutants instead of relying on the emissions of some companies. In addition, it is reported that 12 cities have been selected to test the project. In these cities, authorized emissions may be limited, based on consolidated calculations, to industrial companies. In this case, they will be asked to develop and implement activities to reach the established limits.

In an interview with TASS, ElmurodRasulmukhamedov, vice president of the Central Council of the All-Russia Conservation Society, reports that the quota involves control in selected residential areas. It is also proposed to establish a fluctuating limit of allowable pollution based on the general state of the atmosphere instead of the declared permissible emission plans.



## SAFETY OF NAVIGATION – A NEW HEADQUARTERS WILL BE CREATED FOR MARITIME OPERATIONS IN MURMANSK

Russia has high hopes for the northern sea route that crosses four seas (Kara Sea, Laptev Sea, East Siberian Sea, Chukotsk Sea) and is the shortest sea route from northern Europe to Asia. In the next five years, it is planned to increase the flow of goods to 80 million tons, mainly through the transport of minerals. To achieve its objectives, Russia is investing heavily in the development of infrastructure and the modernization of the icebreaker fleet. The safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment against the pollution of ships on the North Sea Route are entrusted to the Northern Maritime Roads Administration, created in 2013.

At the "Arctic-2019" conference held in Moscow in February, Alexander Olshevsky, executive director of the Rosatom North Sea Route, announced that he has presented to the government a plan for the creation of a portfolio of maritime operations that would organize the assistance and navigation of the ships. The new center will be based in Murmansk and will operate 24 hours a day, monitoring the movement of the ships, while the Administration of the Northern Maritime Route only operates during business days. In addition, as reported by TASS, the center will also work to establish the most optimal ice routes between the cracks formed, thus optimizing the costs of shipowners.