



HIGHLIGHTS – JURISPRUDENCE : THE COURT OF CASSATION EXTENDS THE COMPENSATION FOR ANXIETY DAMAGE TO EMPLOYEES EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS

The Court of Cassation, which until now limited compensation for anxiety damage to certain categories of workers exposed to asbestos, decided on Friday, April 5, 2019, to allow everyone to claim, under certain conditions.

The plenary assembly, the most solemn formation of the superior court, thus abandons a jurisprudence that the unions and associations of asbestos victims consider "unfair" and "discriminatory".

The "anxiety injury", which was approved in 2010 by this Court, allows the compensation of people who are not sick but who are worried about being able to do so at any time. So far, the Court of Cassation has restricted this mechanism to employees whose establishment is on a list entitled to "early retirement by asbestos," that is, workers in the processing of asbestos or shipbuilding and repair.

On March 29, 2018, by refusing to follow the Court of Cassation, the Paris Court of Appeal recognized this bias for EDF agents highly exposed to asbestos. The EDF management has appealed to the Court of Cassation. Hence this decision issued on April 5. In this new ruling, the Court of Cassation recognizes that "the employee who justifies an exposure to asbestos, generating a high risk of developing a serious pathology, can act against his employer, for the breach of the latter of his obligations, even if not I would have worked in one of the listed establishments. The worker who wants to see compensation for his anxiety damage should justify his exposure to asbestos. In return, the employer can be exonerated if he provides evidence that he has implemented the planned health and safety measures in the Labor Code.



Biodiversity – THE LPA FILES A COMPLAINT AGAINST FRANCE FOR ITS HUNTING PRACTICES

The League for the Protection of Birds (LPA) decided to file a complaint on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, against France before the European Commission for various hunting practices contrary to the European Birds Directive of April 2, 1979, which lists 80 species that can be hunted in the 500 species of wild birds present in the European Union.

In addition, LPA accuses the French government of prolonging bird hunting for several years, but each of its decisions in this regard was canceled by the Council of State. Also attached to this new complaint, other existing complaints against hunting and also involves the management of the hunting of twenty other species.

For its part, the government, through the Minister of Ecological Transition François de Rugy, defends itself arguing that the government has established an "adaptive management" of species, with scientists, associations and hunters that establishes that if a species increases, it can be hunted and vice versa.



Society - UN and UNESCO warn about the lack of access to clean water in the world

According to a report by UN-Water and UNESCO, around 844 million people did not have access to a safe drinking water service.

As a result of population growth, economic development and changes in consumption patterns, global water demand is projected to increase from 20 to 30 percent from current levels by 2050, while at the same time climate change It can complicate access to drinking water due to droughts and floods.

"Access to water is a human right that is vital for



WASTE – PLASTICS FOR UNIQUE USE PROHIBITED IN EUROPE

On March 27, 2019, the European Parliament formally approved the draft directive on the prohibition of single-use plastics, prepared by the European Commission on December 18, 2018. The final adoption of the directive should be made after the agreement of the European Council. The main contribution of the text refers to the prohibition of single-use plastics made of oxodegradable plastic for 2021. The draft directive defines the disposable plastic product as a product totally or partially made of plastic that is not designed, created or put in the market to fulfill, during its useful life, several trips or rotations.

The text also provides three new channels for extended producer responsibility, namely single-use plastics, tobacco products with filters containing plastic and fishing elements that contain plastic. Extended producer responsibility is a regime that derives from the polluter pays principle and aims to punish waste producers, or at least make them part of the collection and processing costs.

In addition, the text foresees adding an additional obligation for certain products, in particular the participation in cleaning and awareness costs. This obligation will refer, in particular, to cigarettes, food and beverage containers, bags and containers made of flexible materials, plastic bags. In addition, the draft directive establishes a timetable for the transposition of its measures, which must be completed within two years after its final adoption.



ENERGY - LOW CONSUMER COMPUTERS SERVERS FOR 2020

Regulation (EU) 2019/424, of March 15, 2019, establishes ecodesign requirements for the commercialization and commissioning of servers and online data storage products. The objective is to harmonize the requirements of energy consumption and resource efficiency of servers and data storage products within the European Union to improve

the dignity of every human being, but billions of people are still deprived of it," said Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO, the objective of sustainable development defined by the Program. United Nations Development Program, establishes "by 2030 universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, at an affordable cost", but concerns about the achievement of these goals are growing.

Sources of contamination include fecal matter, pesticides or nitrates from agriculture, but also increasingly "emerging pollutants," such as drug residues.

In order to respond to the challenges posed by the problem of access to drinking water, the United Nations does not offer miraculous solutions, but it does describe some clues, in particular that of encouraging massive investments by States, but also private actors in infrastructure, because the needs are estimated at \$ 114 billion per year, three times what is currently spent, without taking into account the costs of operation and maintenance.



Transportation - SENATE ADOPTS THE MOBILITY LAW

The Senate approved the mobility orientation bill (LOM, in French) on April 2, 2019. After almost two years of preparation, and the result of extensive consultation with the territories and actors, this text points, according to the Government, to fight against territorial and social fractures in the field of mobility, in particular by fighting "all cars" and opening middle cities.

More than 35 years after the Law of Orientation of Internal Transport (LOTI), this law is committed to a profound transformation of public policies, giving priority to the improvement of daily transport. The LOM also deals with computer data related to transport, cycling promotion or ecological transition, not to mention an important component of transport infrastructure financing with 13,400 million euros invested over the five-year period. 40% more than in 2013-2017.

Bring to all and everywhere alternative solutions to the dependence on the individual use of the car, developing innovations and new mobility solutions that should be at the service of all, reducing the environmental footprint of transport through a successful transition in our way of moving, investing more in infrastructure that improves the movement of daily life, these are the four objectives of this new law.

the functioning of the internal market and the environmental performance of these products.

It is expected that the estimated effect of these requirements will produce 2030 annual energy savings of approximately 9 TWh (approximately the annual electricity consumption of Estonia in 2014). In addition, Regulation (EU) No. 617/2013 of June 26, 2013, is amended to exclude computer servers from its scope of application and to avoid the regulatory overlap of these products. The requirement for the extraction of essential components should promote "reparability" and the ability to improve servers and data storage products, particularly by third parties.

It is worth remembering that Decree No. 2018-761 of August 30, 2018 and the Decree of August 30, 2018 have updated the list of European regulations that establish ecodesign requirements for energy-related products. Therefore, article R224-61 and article R224-68 of the Environment Code have been updated to take these new regulations into account.



CLIMATE – TIME OF EARTH 2019 - THE MOBILIZED PLANET

Earth Hour is an international day organized every year, the last Saturday of March, by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) or the World Wildlife Fund. This day consists of a general blackout of light for one hour in favor of the planet. The objective is to challenge the authorities on the impact of energy expenditure on climate and the role of nature in human survival.

The eleventh edition was held on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 20:30 in 188 countries in time zones. On this occasion, tens of thousands of buildings went out in more than 7,000 cities, from Singapore to Honolulu, through Sydney, Moscow, London, Paris, New York or Washington. Throughout the world, millions of people have symbolically switched off their lights for an hour to remember how precious the planet is.

In Paris, the Iron Lady and more than 240 monuments have been extinguished, among which are the Pantheon, the Petit Palais, the Garnier Opera, the Arc de Triomphe du Carrousel, the Senate or the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral. WWF France organized for the first time a program of live interviews of Champ-de-Mars. In all parts of France, emblematic buildings of the world of sports, such as the Parc des Princes, the Orange Vélodrome in Marseille, the MMA Arena in Le Mans and the Riviera Allianz in Nice turned off the lights of their concerts at 8:30 p.m.



ENERGIES – OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION OUTSIDE THE US IS STILL PROHIBITED

US federal judge Sharon Gleason ruled that President Donald Trump's decision to lift the ban on drilling for oil and gas in the Atlantic and in the Arctic decided by former President Barack Obama is based on "exceeding "The authority of the president and that" only Congress can dictate its repeal. "

In 2015 and 2016, President Barack Obama made a series of decisions that permanently prohibit all new oil drilling in US waters. UU Along the Arctic Ocean off Alaska, according to a 1953 law granted to the President of the United States. UU authority to protect the continental shelf of the USA of commercial exploitation.

However, in April 2017, President Donald Trump called for the lifting of the bans, depriving the country of thousands and thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of wealth, and seeking the approval of 47 new drilling areas, which It angered the country. Many environmental organizations have challenged this decision because drilling could have a negative impact on biodiversity, disturbed by the noise generated, but also in the fishing industry and tourism.

