



PRESS'ENVIRONNEMENT

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HEADLINE - CLIMATE COMMITMENTS AFTER ELECTION OF DONALD TRUMP

Environmental advocates are questioning the future of the United States' commitments to climate change agreements. Indeed, the 45th American president Donald TRUMP has hinted that he will abandon the *Clean Plan Power* which contains the objectives of reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), initiated by the Obama administration. The concern of the actors for the fight against climate change is all the greater because Mr. Trump would also like to withdraw from climate commitments. A mobilization of international civil society would be an effective response to such a climate-skeptical attitude of any president to remind us that the urgency in the preservation of our planet and the legal achievements are priorities. It may be noted that there is a safeguard in the *Paris Agreements* in Article 28, which lays down a three-year period after ratification (the United States signed the Paris Agreement on September 3rd 2016) before Any State Party may request a withdrawal. To date, several voices have been raised including that of a hundred American multinationals who called to order the future tenant of the White House.



HEALTH – VICTIMS OF DEPAKINE ARE FINALLY INDEMNIFIED

On Monday, November 14th, the National Assembly voted, within the framework of the bill of financing of the social security the creation of a Fund of compensation of the victims of the Depakine. It is a promise announced this summer by the Minister of Health Marisol TOURAINE that has just been adopted. In fact between 2007 and 2014 more than 14,322 pregnant women were exposed to the harmful and dangerous effects of the sodium valproate contained in Depakine. Malformations and disorders of fetal development occurred during pregnancy in some of these women. The French pharmaceutical company which has marketed this drug is SANOFI; He will have to partially pay for these compensation. The budget allocated to this fund is 10 million euros, and this will come into effect as of July 1st 2017. This medical scandal received a response similar to that of the Mediator in 2011.



TECHNOLOGY- THE BLOCKCHAIN, AN ENERGIVOROUS REVOLUTION



Announced as the main technological innovation from the internet, the Blockchain, popularized by the virtual currency Bitcoin, arouses great enthusiasm. This protocol, which guarantees secure financial transactions without the use of any intermediary, is like a gigantic, anonymous public accounting book with a history of ineffaceable operations shared by millions of users who, for a fee, can validate Financial operations, grouped by blocks, using different techniques, such as algorithmic problem solving. In order to prevent the system against fraud, the colossal computing resources necessary to validate these blocks are nevertheless problematic: an Irish study of 2014 demonstrated that the Blockchain dedicated to the bitcoin generates electricity consumption similar to that of the whole of Ireland . Now the bitcoin should see its use become more democratic in the years to come, and the environmental impact of its Blockchain multiplied tenfold. However, this technology, applied to another context could have virtuous effects on the climate: according to a recent forum of the newspaper "Les Echos", the setting up of a Blockchain of carbon could contribute to a greater transparency on emissions market CO2.



TOURISM - AFTER ICELAND, NORWAY VICTIM OF TURISTIC ATTRACTIVENESS

Is it a trend ? Consequences of Terrorism on World Tourism? The Nordic countries have the wind in their sails. But this phenomenon, beneficial economically, has serious environmental consequences for the host countries. After Iceland, subject to exponential tourist pressure since 2010, which causes considerable damage to its natural sites, Norway is now worried. The Lofoten Islands archipelago, located in the north-west of the country, has seen its population increase by 20% since 2013, reaching almost 1 million visitors in 2015. This figure could double in the coming years. However, the natural sites of this archipelago of 24 500 inhabitants are fragile, and its infrastructures insufficient to absorb such a flow. The result is worrying consequences: congested roads, saturated landfills, contaminated sites, anticipated erosion of footpaths. The mayor of the municipality of Flaskstad expressed the need for "drastic" measures to frame this phenomenon, which is an important issue for Norway, which has a proactive environmental policy but whose economy, suffering from the collapse of prices Of the oil, could hardly give up the financial windfall of tourism





WASTE

CJEU - 10 November 2016 - Case C-313/15 and C-530/15

Are mandrels in the form of rolls, tubes or cylinders around which a certain number of flexible products (aluminum, plastic films, etc.) are wrapped constitute indeed packaging, within the meaning of Article 3-1 of Directive No. 94/62 / EC of 20/12/94 on packaging and packaging waste? The CJEU, on a request for a preliminary ruling by the French Council of State, replied in the affirmative. As a result, mandrels are destined to become packaging waste and, on French soil, according to the rules of the environment code, that their elimination is ensured by their producer, importer or the person Responsible for their first marketing, on their own initiative, or by using an eco-organism approved by the State, against payment of a contribution.

WIND POWER INSTALLATIONS

CJEU - 27 October 2016 - Case C-290/15

The Belgian Council of State had submitted a request for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of Article 2 (a) and Article 3 (2) (a) of Directive 2001/42 / EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment. In that judgment of October 27th 2016 the Court of Justice of the European Union considered that, under the provisions of the Directive, an order containing provisions on the siting and operation of wind turbines falls within the concept of " Plans and programs ", it is defined as a regulatory act and therefore subject to an environmental assessment obligation.



ENERGY - THE SOLAR ENERGY RACE: THE « MOROCCAN SOLAR CHALLENGE »

The « Moroccan Solar Challenge » is the first solar car race organized in Morocco. This race is created in 2013 by the Institute of Research in Solar Energy and Energies Nouvelles (IRSEEN). This event is COP22 certified and is aimed at schools, universities and research institutions from all over the world. Compete solar vehicles, designed, developed and manufactured by students and researchers without using a single drop of fuel. This initiative makes it possible to apply their theoretical knowledge in the field by making solar cars while participating in the protection of the environment. The fourth edition of the race was held on November 12th and 13th 2016 on a 150-kilometer journey from Marrakech to Ben Guéris (round trip). This event also aims to inform and raise awareness of the public through educational and pedagogical activities. This year eleven candidates participated, including six Moroccan teams, three French, one Italian and one Turkish. This year it was the Italian team that won the race. The next edition will see its journey from 75 kilometers to 500 kilometers on several stages and will take an international scale with the participation of several major international teams.



POLLUTION - CHERNOBYL: A NEW SARCOPHAGE

Thirty years after the Chernobyl disaster (Ukraine), which has left thousands dead and contaminated up to three quarters of Europe, the balance remains precarious around the nuclear power plant. The plant will soon have a new dome whose gigantic steel structure began on Monday, November 14th, its advance to cover the first concrete sarcophagus built in a hurry in 1986. The contract for the construction of a new dome Was signed in 2007. Beginning in 2012, it has just ended. This confinement arch is therefore the end of a 10-year construction site. Heavy 36 00 tons and 11 m high, this construction must be gradually laid down until its final location by the end of November. Planned for a lifetime of at least 100 years, it should make it possible to secure decontamination operations inside the damaged reactor. It is a painful of the past amounting to 2.1 billion euros. In spite of the exclusion of the men and the dangerousness of the places, Chernobyl has become a reserve of wild animals such as bison, wolves, elk and bear for example. These animals found the places welcoming and return there to reproduce, at least the large mammals.



NEWS - NOTRE-DAME-DES-LANDES: AN END TO HISTORY?

The Administrative Court of Appeal of Nantes, contrary to the recommendations of the public prosecutor, validated the prefectural orders on November 14th 2016, signed by the prefect in December 2013, authorizing the work of the Notre-Dame-des-Landes airport (Loire Atlantique). This is an important decision for the future of this controversial project. This decision was very much awaited by all the parties to this outstanding case since autumn 2012. The choice of justice could also lead to the evacuation of the "zone to be defended (ZAD) occupied by several hundred opponents and" Farmers and inevitable confrontations with the arrival of the forces of order. The anti-airport movement reaffirmed that "it will leave no room for work or expulsion", and indicated that it would file an appeal before the Council of State. This procedure, which is not substantive but procedural, is not suspensive and does not preclude (in theory) the commencement of proceedings. It is in this sense that Prime Minister Manuel Valls has said that "the State will therefore continue its preparations to resume work so that they can intervene as soon as possible". In an endless story?