



HEADLINE - HEADLINE - PUBLICATION OF THE REFORM ON SINGLE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORIZATION

With a view to "simplifying procedures" and "facilitating the life of enterprises", while preserving the protection afforded to the environment (Report to the President of the Republic on the Order of 26 January 2017), reform Concerning the single environmental authorization, in experimentation since 2014, has been published, through Ordinance No. 2017-80 of 26 January 2017. It is accompanied by Decree in Council of State No. 2017-81 and Decree No. 2017-82 of the same date. These texts create articles L. 181-1 to -31 and R. 181-1 to -56, laying down the regime applicable to the single authorization. The installations, works, works and activities (IOTA) subject to water legislation, ICPEs under the authorization scheme, and projects subject to an environmental assessment that do not require an administrative authorization Likely to carry measures of avoidance, reduction or compensation. The environmental authorization also replaces several types of authorization, among others: authorization of emission of GES, authorization of clearing, special authorization for classified sites. Only land-based wind turbines are exempt from building permits. However, for the other installations, the reform modifies the link between planning permission and environmental authorization. The deadline for processing applications should be reduced to nine months (compared to twelve to fifteen currently), said Royal, at the presentation of the reform. These amendments will come into effect on March 1, 2017; It will be possible to file applications for authorization under the previous procedures until June 30, 2017..



ENERGY - CONSTRUCTION OF A THERMOELECTRIC POWER PLANT IN BANGLADESH THREATENS UNESCO'S HERITAGE

On January 26, 2017 in Dacca, around 100 people demonstrated against the construction of a thermoelectric power station next to Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, a UNESCO heritage site inhabited by the Bengal tiger, Already endangered. The demonstrators were dispersed with tear gas by the police and four people were hospitalized. The plant will have the capacity of 1,320 megawatts of electricity. It will be the largest in the country and will cost an estimated \$ 1.7 billion. Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company wants to start construction on 14 February in Rampal, 14 km from Sundarbans. In addition to the tiger of Bengal, of which there are only a hundred in the region, the construction of this plant also threatens its unique biodiversity, made up of a very sensitive fauna and flora. The project contradicts the principles of sustainable development, since there are low carbon and economically competitive alternatives.



CLIMATE - IMAGES PUBLISHED BY NASA SHOW QUICK CHANGE OF THE PLANET



NASA recently published on its website impressive images of how the planet has changed over the last 40 years. We all know that the planet is undergoing many changes, but only with the satellite images provided by NASA we can see how drastic these changes are. The area of forests has decreased, water levels are decreasing and ice cover is melting. At the

root of these changes are climate change, urbanization and also natural disasters, such as fires and floods. Several photos show the impact that urban growth has had in landscapes, in some cases, due to population growth and others due to increased areas for agriculture. In this image of the city of New Delhi in India, we can clearly see the effects of urbanization. In 25 years the population of the city grew from 9.4 million to 25 million people. Experts estimate that by 2030, New Delhi can accommodate about 30 million people. A population growth so fast can cause many problems besides the lack of space. In November, the Indian government declared a state of emergency due to air pollution in the capital.



HEALTH – RESIDUES OF TOXIC PRODUCTS IN BABY DIAPERS

The black series continues. Last year, studies had revealed the presence of toxic products in the diet of infants and more specifically in muesli. Recent analyzes have just highlighted the presence of toxic products in other products, equally present in the lives of babies; Diapers. It is the monthly 60 million consumers who disclose the information after testing a sample of diapers on the market. According to the Magazine 60 million consumers, volatile neurotoxic and irritant organic compounds are present in more than half of the products tested and even in those stamped ecological. As in the case of muesli, the presence of these residues would result from the use of pesticides for the cultivation of starches in diapers. The presence of toxic residues in ecologically stamped products brings back to the forefront a problem, that of the real reliability of ecological labels. More than a guarantee of safety and quality, would eco-labels have become merely economic arguments intended to bait the consumer? In any case, the revelations of the Magazine 60 million consumers made the Minister of Ecology, Mrs. Ségolène Royal, react to the National Agency of Sanitary Security, a request for "analysis of the risks related to these substances , Especially in the case of contact exposure in young children ". The Agency's report is expected by the end of this year.



JURISPRUDENCE

Constitutional Council, Decision No. 2016-745 DC of 26 January 2017 - Censorship of the Bio obligation in school canteens:

On January 26, 2017, the Constitutional Council issued its Decision No. 2016-745 DC on the Equality and Citizenship Act. The priority question of constitutionality was introduced by 60 senators and 60 deputies in December 2016. Article 192, resulting from the amendment of the environmental deputy Brigitte Alain, was adopted unanimously by the National Assembly. It introduced "the obligation for the collective catering services of public entities to serve a minimum share of products derived from sustainable food and organic farming". The plates of the canteens were then to contain 40% of local products and 20% of organic products. Nevertheless, the Sages considered that this article was irrelevant to the original text. As a result, this provision has been censored.

Conseil Constitutionnel, Decision n ° 2016-605 of January 17, 2017- The obligation to take back waste by distributors declared constitutional:

Article L514-10-9 of the Environmental Code in its wording resulting from the law n ° 2015-92 of August 17, 2015, is the responsibility of distributors of materials, products and construction equipment to take back their construction waste. The provision was the subject of a priority issue of constitutionality transmitted by the Council of State in October 2016. The French Confederation of Wholesale Trade and International Trade filed a complaint with the Council of State requesting the annulment of the decree On the mode of application of the said Article. In support of its request for annulment, the applicant obtained from the Conseil d'Etat the transmission of its QPC to the Constitutional Council on the ground that the text directly infringed freedom of contract, freedom of contract and the principle Equality before the law. In its Decision No. 2016-605 of 17 January 2017, the Constitutional Council declared the text in conformity with the Constitution. The Commission refers to the continuation of the general interest pursued by the legislator through this take-back obligation.



POWER – IS THE WATER IN OUR FAUCETS POLLUTED?

In January 2017, the consumer association UFC CHOISIR published its survey on water pollution in the distribution networks of the country's 36,000 municipalities for the period 2014 to 2016. For this purpose, On the official water quality results of the Ministry of Health. As a reminder, the quality of water intended for human consumption is regulated by the judgment of 11 January 2007 and by the European Directive 98/83 / EC transposed into national law Articles R.1321-1 to R.1321 -66 of the Code of Public Health. The survey shows that water distributed to 95.6% of French residents meets regulatory standards. Nevertheless, 2.8 million people have access to polluted water. However, each of the French uses an average of 150 liters of water per day for its domestic and sanitary needs. The causes of this pollution are numerous. The first is agriculture. Pesticides, the result of intensive agriculture, contaminate 5% of the distribution networks of 2271 communes. Their regulatory limit, ie "the sum of all individual pesticides detected and quantified" is yet 0.50 g / l. They affect the rural areas but at the same time some large cities. Second, nitrates with 0.8% distribution network pollution such as in Seine and Marne or Loiret. Finally, it also affects the distribution networks, particularly those of small mountain communes, and bacterial contamination. As a result of this pollution, the decrepit pipes. In the city, pipelines are the source of traces of toxic substances such as vinyl chloride or lead, the content of which has been lowered to 10g / l since 25 December 2013 by the European Directive.



MINING REPORTS – MEPS VOTE AT FIRST READING FOR A REFORM OF THE MINING CODE



On Wednesday, January 25, the National Assembly adopted a bill to adapt the mining code to environmental law, the mining law no longer responding "neither to social expectations nor environmental," according to Jean- Paul Chanteguet, deputy (PS) rapporteur of the text in the National Assembly. In particular, this proposal for a law prohibits the exploration and exploitation

of unconventional hydrocarbons trapped in the bedrock, whatever the technique used. This measure complements the law of July 13, 2011 which is limited to the prohibition of the only technique of hydraulic fracturing. However, the proposal adopted on first reading excludes from the prohibition layer gas contained in coal seams, considered as conventional hydrocarbons. While the rapporteur of the text argues that its extraction does not require the use of hydraulic fracturing, environmental associations, like the Friends of the Earth, point out that in order to extract the layer gas on a large scale , It is necessary to resort to this method. The scope of this text is therefore to be relativized. Environmental associations regret a text that involves little progress, both concerning shale gas and the procedure for granting mining title; In addition, it is unlikely to be adopted definitively before the end of the parliamentary session, within a month.



BIODIVERSITY - MADAGASCAR LEMURIANS IN THE WAY OF DISAPPEARANCE



Like the golden toad of Costa Rica, the dolphin of China, the black rhino of West Africa or the black seal of the Caribbean, which now figure in the rank of the extinct animal species whose number keeps growing year In year, the lemurs of Madagascar are today a threatened species of disappearance. Their survival is at the same time threatened by deforestation which deprives them of their natural habitat and by the drought that threatens the south of the country because of the lack of rain caused by the meteorological phenomenon El Nino. Nature conservation groups such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) are trying to sound the alarm over the disappearance of these small animals that play a "gardening role" in nature and whose disappearance would Domino effect on other species.