

HEADLINE – THE FRENCH MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT PRESENTED THE LAST BIODIVERSITY PLAN ON JULY 4

This plan is presented as a response to the urgency of the silent disappearance of biodiversity. Indeed, "the current rate of species extinction is unmatched since the end of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago," said the prime minister. Support for organic farming, the fight against the artificialisation of soils, the banning of certain pesticides and plastic disposable products are among the measures of this plan. With this plan, the government hopes to implement a hundred measures, in a more incentive than constraining spirit, to try to stop the accelerated decline of biodiversity. A budget of 600 million euros over 4 years is planned to implement the actions. There is also an interministerial steering committee that will involve all stakeholders through the National Biodiversity Council. This biodiversity plan is accessible on the website of the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity Transition.

ENVIRONMENT – LIQUID WATER ON MARS !

According to the study published by The Independent on July 25, scientists claim to have discovered an underground lake on Mars. This discovery puts an end to a debate older than thirty years. The team of scientists led by Roberto Orosei demonstrated using the Marsis radar, the presence of a liquid water reservoir 20 km wide at less than 1.5 km from the surface of the south pole of Mars. While the temperatures on the red planet go down below 0 ° C, the water can remain liquid due to the large amount of dissolved salts in the water, but also because of the presence of magnesium, calcium and sodium.

Cassin Stuurman, a geophysicist, said, *"If the researchers are right, this is the first time we find evidence that there is a lot of water on Mars"*.

This discovery is a big step for science.

WASTE – THE CONSEQUENCES FOR PLASTIC WASTES OF THE CHINESE BORDERS CLOSURE



In 2017, China made a 180-degree turn in its international policy on plastic waste. This decision by the Chinese authorities seriously disrupts the policy of the major countries producing plastic waste, particularly the United States and Europe. First figures have emerged and announce that nearly 150 million tons of plastics remain on the arms of these major developed countries. Several fears appear concerning the fate of this plastic waste polluting our planet. Indeed, for more than ten years, scientists and environmentalists have noticed that the oceans become the new garbage cans of the world and will welcome by 2050 more plastics than fish. In addition, China has closed its doors on the recycling of such waste, it is certain that developed countries will find other destinations for their plastic waste.

ENERGY – FRENCH MPS PUT CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE 1ST ARTICLE OF THE CONSTITUTION

The executive who had originally proposed to add to article 34 of the Constitution "action against climate change" to the fundamental principles determined by law, finally chose to include it in article 1 of the French Constitution following the impetus of several NGOs and MPs from several sides who had asked to go further. Thus, the National Assembly voted Friday, July 13 an amendment to include the "preservation of the environment" in Article 1 of the Constitution. The Republic "acts for the preservation of the environment and biological diversity and against climate change" according to the terms of the amendment. This amendment is in line with a better understanding by the national representation of these major issues and the urgency to act. Thus highlighting the importance of preserving the environment, in all its components, for our generation but also for future generations. To endorse this revision, the text must still be validated by senators.

JURISPRUDENCE

Administrative Court of appeal of Douai, 1st chamber, July 12 2018, n°15DA01535

Environmental authorization: clarification on whether to suspend the execution of the contested authorization pending regularization.

In deciding whether or not to suspend an operating license, the court is required by the court to consider the entire case and in particular the nature and scope of the case. illegality in question. Therefore, economic and social considerations as well as any other element of general interest must attract the judge in his decision-making.

However, the Administrative Court of Appeal refuses, in this case, to suspend the impugned authorization, taking into account, on the one hand, the nature of the defect of which it is tainted, and on the other hand, "serious economic and social consequences of the suspension of the authorization to exploit both for the animal exploitation itself and for its employees".

HEALTH – ACCORDING TO A STUDY BY ANRS, THE PREVENTIVE TREATMENT AGAINST AIDS IS 100% EFFECTIVE



While nearly 37 million people in the world who live with the AIDS virus., the first results of the ANRS' « Prévenir » study, received on July 24th, at the AIDS2018 world conference, seem to demonstrate the effectiveness of a preventive treatment against the virus. The study was launched at the end of May 2017 and is under the responsibility of two medical specialists in association with the AIDES association. This study, which will run until 2020, consists in offering volunteers to take either continuous treatment called PrEP (treatment for people likely to be infected by the virus) or to take the treatment only on demand. The first results of this study show that the first 1,435 volunteers recruited between May 2017 and May 2018 were HIV-negative at the start of the tests and remained at the end of the tests. "The AIDS prevention pill is a revolution, as was the birth control pill for women in the 1970s. The important thing is that more people at risk are protected and people are stopped. see people who are still infected today while we have prevention means "says Professor Molina.

ENVIRONMENT – FIRES IN SCANDINAVIA: A FORESTATE OF WHAT AWAITS THE ENTIRE EUROPEAN TERRITORY

The month of July proved disastrous for the Nordic countries (Sweden, Finland and Norway). Indeed since the beginning of July, the world is surprised by the multiplication of fires in these countries not accustomed to severe droughts. Sweden has recorded a temperature of 32 ° C on July 17 as well as more than 20,000 hectares devastated by the flames. Finally, the Scandinavian countries being unaccustomed to such bad weather do not currently possess the tools and infrastructures necessary to fight such important fires. That is why several European neighbors, and especially France, a country frequently confronted by great fires, have provided material and human assistance in this fight against flames. Finally said said climatologist concluding that « in case of uncontrolled global warming, we could see in the second half of the 21st century temperatures of 55 ° C in France, and forest fires in the west of the country."

CLIMATE – CLIMATE CHANGE AT WORK IN EUROPE

For the second year in a row, World Weather Attribution (WWA) experts have analysed the summer heat wave that is affecting part of Europe. In 2017, the latter had already stated that heat waves could become the norm in Europe. While in the 1900s the probabilities of living a summer like the one we live in were extremely rare, the chances today are 10% per summer. In Norway, summer temperatures were up to 15 degrees above the norm. According to experts at the origin of the study "climate change of human origin increases the risk of heat waves like that observed in 2018 in Scandinavia, even if it remains difficult to quantify in what proportion it intervenes". According to them, temperature rises are due to CO2 already present in the atmosphere and even reducing greenhouse gas emissions, this would only stabilize the current state without hope of reduction.