



HEADLINES – A EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT

On 18 October 2016 the European Commission presented the first *"Mediterranean Research Partnership"*. The latter aims to develop solutions "necessary for sustainable water management and food production." This partnership, called "Prima" is expected to begin in 2018, for a period of ten years. Many countries have already taken part, such as France, Egypt, Spain, Italy, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco or Luxembourg. The Commission said in a statement *"The participation of Germany is currently being negotiated."* The participating States will therefore contribute to this partnership through a contribution which would amount to at least EUR 200 million, equivalent to the European Union through its research framework program Horizon 2020. Today, nearly 180 million inhabitants of the Mediterranean basin are considered *"water-poor"*. According to Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for research, science and innovation *"In addition to better supply the local population with drinking water and food, Prima will boost the economy of the region and create jobs."* The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union will soon endorse the process.



AIR TRANSPORT – INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION WANTS TO REDUCE ITS CO2 EMISSIONS



On 6 October 2016, the states belonging to the Organization of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) met in Montreal for their 37th general meeting and adopted an agreement to reduce CO2 emissions from international aviation. This agreement provides for establishing a "Global market mechanism" forcing airlines to offset the increase in CO2 emissions in 2020. The airlines will buy "Emission units" generated by projects that reduce emissions in other sectors of the economy.

These emissions (3% of global emissions) were shelved for were not covered by the Paris Agreement. Of the 65 States parties include China, the United States and all Member States of the European Union.

The device, which should cover 2.5 billion tons of CO2 emissions, however, remain insufficient to achieve the goal of carbon neutral growth by ICAO in 2020. However NGOs welcome the clause allowing for revision of device every three years, taking into account the projected growth of emissions and reduction targets of the increase in global temperature contained in the Paris Agreement.



EUROPE - RATIFICATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT BY EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: STAGE OR CONCLUSION



A year after the COP21, the European Parliament approved on 4 October, the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global warming below two degrees threshold above pre-industrial levels. The ratification by the European Union still happens after that of the main polluters of the planet (the United States, China and India).

This ratification is a critical step in the implementation of the Paris Agreement which was to be ratified by 55 countries representing 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Prior to ratification, 62 countries representing "52%" of global emissions had ratified the Paris Agreement.

Other issues, however, will have to be addressed quickly. Financial issues related to climate change will be discussed at the *"Climate Finance Day"* in Casablanca on 4 November. COP 22 to be held in Africa and whose goal will be to get more recognition about the challenges of adapting to climate change, financing and deployment of renewable energy. These actions must necessarily be supplemented by voluntary national policies for energy transition.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – ROAD TO POWER ELECTRIC TRUCKS

Perfect mix between railway and highway, the E6 electric road was inaugurated on 22 June 2016 in Sweden. This Swedish construction involves installing cables above the right lane on a stretch of two kilometers.

The specificity of this greenway is that it makes it possible to recharge electric vehicles during their trips, especially for trucks with pantographs that can receive energy by connecting and disconnecting through the chassis system catenary.



This new technology is made possible by the Scania Group, manufacturer of electric trucks. According to the head of research electrification of society, "the fuel savings from electrification are considerable; this technology can become the cornerstone of road transport services using no fossil fuel." The arrival of this new technology, in addition to allowing a reduction in costs for its users, is therefore in the context of sustainable development. Moreover, this electric truck system helps reduce noise and air pollution. The creation of the one we can now call the "e-way" demanded \$ 8 million of public funds and € 5 million through co-financing from businesses and the regional administration. This investment would achieve the objectives not to use vehicles using fossil fuels by 2030.

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High court clarifies the precise legal value of building permits issued on the orders of the referee and the conditions under which this build temporary permit may be withdrawn. Following the decision of the State Council, it is possible that the injunction is more often presented to the judge hearing an application for suspension of enforcement of a refusal of planning permission . However, when the administration shall, for the execution of an order of the President, a building permit, the question of the precise legal value of this authorization until now highly debated because the judge can not Indeed, order interim measures.

ENVIRONMENT

On 12 October 2016, the National Assembly finally adopted the bill on the modernization of justice. This text allows group actions against perpetrators of environmental damage. This group action is only open to approved associations for environmental protection, and those for the defense of victims of personal injury and defend the economic interests of their members.

The damage covered are listed in Article L142-2 of the Environmental Code

GMO

Asked about the legality of Article D.531-2 of the Environmental Code of the State Council forwarded to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) the following questions:

The organisms obtained through the new mutagenesis methods they are GMOs subject to the Directive of 12 March 2001?

Species obtained by mutagenesis they are genetically modified varieties subject to the rules of Council Directive of 13 June 2002?

Member states they have a discretion to define the system could be applied to these organizations or are they constrained by the obligations of the directive?

In the event that the Directive of 12 March 2001 excludes organizations from new mutagenesis methods precautionary measures should they be challenged?



With child malnutrition and water shortages, air pollution is a new challenge for the African continent. According to a study published by the OECD October 17, 2016, air pollution is responsible for over 712,000 deaths every year. These figures are particularly alarming. This is explained because of the strong urbanization but also of pollution of indoor air caused by the use of fuels such as wood and coal. Economic development is accompanied by an increase in road traffic consists of cars without pots of highly polluting exhaust, and the massive use of poor quality fuels. At this, several associations had complained to Senegal following the Dirty Diesel case. These associations accuse the oil companies to make profits at the expense of the health of Africans. Indeed, some companies take advantage of the weakness of African standards to sell fuels of very poor quality.

 **WATER – LANDING THE COMPROMISE OF WIND TURBINES ON THE NORMANDY BEACHES**

On 11 October 2016, eight associations have appealed against the implantation authorization and operation of an offshore wind farm, granted by the Prefecture. The applicants associations believe that the establishment of the park would alter the landscape of a place full of memories. The organization Robin Wood argues: *"The maritime industrial zone will occupy 50 km2 and will be bristling with 75 steel monsters and non-recyclable composites 150 m scale (...) Marine sediments will be occupied by a tangle electric cables. (...) No wind turbine of this type and this power 6 MW, has proven in real conditions its resilience and productivity."*

However, during the public debate a CNRS engineer, Mr. Veizen had compared the presence of each turbine to a *"half nail at the end of one arm."*

The project, however, aesthetics is not the only downside to the table for the applicant associations. Indeed, the FNE network said: *"We, one is for wind and against nuclear power, but it will be against this project as it will involve spills kilos of sea aluminum."* According to the deputy chairman of the Grape, some alternative solutions exist, but they would be considered too expensive by the EDF EN group.

The action brought by the associations has been filed before the Appeal Administrative Court of Nantes, in charge of litigation in this area.



 **NUCLEAR - TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF FIVE NUCLEAR EDF REACTOR**

The Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN) forced EDF to check your equipment and in particular the bottom of some generators that "this excessive concentrations of carbon likely to weaken the steel." ASN asked EDF to the company Tuesday, October 18 to accelerate the verification and therefore stopping five of its reactors for safety reasons. The Director General of the ASN said that the concerned reactors are equipped with steam generators in which initial analyzes show carbon concentration higher than the others. EDF has three months to control the resistance of the steam generators in question.

Initially 18 reactors were controlled by EDF following the detection of the composition of the steel of abnormality of the steam generators. Ultimately five generators are subject to further control. These judgments will have serious consequences for the EDF Group, even if the ad a maximum of reactors will be available this winter to meet energy needs. However, the detention of a reactor equivalent to a loss of one million euro per day, which will not be without consequences for the group. EDF also already announced a reduction of its production outlook by about 9% in 2016.

 **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

October 12, 2016 was presented by the Minister of Environment a bill ratifying the ordinances No. 2016-1019 and No. 2016-1059 respectively of 27 July and 3 August 2016 the Council of Ministers. While the first of these orders is the power consumption, the second would allow for its adoption of provisions concerning the electricity and gas networks. The latter would undertake more production of electricity from renewable energy, including allowing further integration of this type of energy on the market. It would remove for example the current legal limit previously set up to 12 MW for facilities under obligation.