



HEADLINE - CHANGES PLANNED FOR JANUARY 1ST, 2017

The year 2017 begins with the application of new environmental measures. In a non-exhaustive way, let us mention a few. First of all, the prohibition of single-use and non-biodegradable plastic bags in the boxes of shops has been extended, since New Year's Eve, to all bags distributed, both in the fruit and vegetables department and in the butcher's or deli. As of January 1, 2017, quench your thirst, dear consumer, in front of your water bill, where you will now see, in the case of non-standard pricing, the price of the liter of water (in addition to the price per m³ d 'water). Regarding taxation, Environment Minister Segolene Royal announced that the price of diesel fuel will increase by about 4 cents per liter, thus approaching the price of gasoline, Be lightened. This heavier fiscal measure aims to dissuade consumers and, in the long term, to limit the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere. Finally, in this same perspective, the French will be able to benefit from a reduction of approximately 6 000 € for the purchase of an electric vehicle thanks to the setting up of an ecological bonus scheme. This financial incentive for the purchase of clean vehicles will also apply by the payment of a € 1,000 aid for the purchase of a plug-in hybrid or an electric scooter.
Happy New Year everyone !



ENERGY - WATTWAY SOLAR ROAD

The Ministry of the Environment inaugurated this Thursday, December 22, 2016 1 km long by 2.8 meters wide solar road Wattway in Normandy.

Consisting of polycrystalline silicon photovoltaic slabs manufactured at the SNA factory in Tourouvre in Normandy.

Wattway's goal is to cover local electricity requirements (lighting or recharging electric cars). The 2800 square meters of slabs installed on the road of Normandy should produce 280Mwh in one year which remains inferior to the conventional solar panels which, on the roofs, in France produce on average 137kWh / m².

This new concept which is a first at the world level will have to extend on the national road plan according to the Minister of the environment Ségolène Royal. Over the next four years, road 164 in Brittany, the rest area of Marzan in the Morbihan and road 165 of the great seaport of Marseille will be invested with this new technique.

Nevertheless, the question of the environmental balance of the product has not yet been realized for the moment, so it remains to be seen whether there will be a real positive impact on the environment.



BIODIVERSITY – CREATION OF THE FRENCH AGENCY FOR BIODIVERSITY (AFB)

The French Agency for Biodiversity is the bill 2016-1087 of 8 August 2016 for the reconquest of nature, biodiversity and landscapes. The decree authorizing the creation of the French Agency for Biodiversity was published in the official gazette on 27 December 2016.

This decree establishes the organization and functioning of this new public institution. The agency will therefore result from a merger of the National Office for Water and Aquatic Environments, the National Parks of France, the Agency of Marine Protected Areas and the Technical Workshop of Natural Areas. It will be operational on January 1, 2017, and will be organized around three national clusters that will be located in Brest, Vincennes and Montpellier.

This new organization aims to contribute to the search for a balance between economic flows and the ecosystem. Its vocation is to respond to the stakes of our society which are posed by a loss and degradation of biodiversity in order to better understand the relationship between man and nature so that biodiversity can be better known and better preserved.



POLLUTION - THE INTERMINABLE CONFLICT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND URUGUAY ON THE POLLUTION OF THE URUGUAY RIVER

The conflict between Uruguay and Argentina as a result of the pollution of the binational waters of the Uruguay River by cellulose-rich plants in Uruguayan territory, but affecting Argentina in the same way, dates from 2005 And still has not stopped at the moment. Argentina filed with the International Court of Justice a complaint against Uruguay justified by two facts: first, that the activity of these plants was polluting, and secondly, the non-respect of the laws of the State of the river Uruguay. In search of a solution, the two governments

decided to create in 2010 the Scientific Committee within the Administrative Commission of Uruguay to manage and deal with the issue jointly. However, it would appear that they did not reach a consensus to resolve the conflict. For this reason, on December 13, the Environment Ministers of Argentina and Uruguay, Sergio Bergman and Eneida de León met to discuss the issue. Finally, the implementation of new measures such as the increase of environmental control points along the Uruguay River and the creation of a specialized laboratory for water analyzes, Better control system.





JURISPRUDENCE

Court of Cassation, Criminal Chamber, 22 November 2016:

The Criminal Chamber, on 22 November last, clarified the distinction between domestic and non-domestic wastewater.

In this case, a wastewater truck dumped the contents of septic tanks into the public sewerage network.

The first judges characterized the facts as a contravention of dumping spills and unhealthy liquids outside the authorized locations.

The Court of Appeal, which was approved by the Court of Cassation, invalidates this settlement judgment in a clear distinction between the discharge of domestic sewage (which is covered by the contravention) and non-domestic sewage (which falls within the scope of the offense). The material discharged into the public sewerage network was transformed into sludge that had to be reprocessed before discharge.

Thus, this judgment recalls the imperative nature of the reprocessing of wastewater, whether domestic or non-domestic.

Court of Cassation, 3rd Civil Division, 6 December 2016:

The damage resulting from a natural disaster is hardly insured by insurers. That is why this area gives rise to litigation.

On December 6, the Court of Cassation recalled the conditions of compensation for natural disasters.

In this case, an individual, following the 2003 droughts, had undertaken repairs in his home. His insurer argued in his cassation appeal that the natural disaster (drought) was not the sole cause of the damage.

The Court of Cassation dismissed the appeal by stating that although it was true that the natural disaster was not the sole cause of the degradation of the house, it was the determining factor.

The effect of this ruling is therefore to facilitate compensation for damage caused by natural disasters, or at least to clarify the conditions.



HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT – THE EMERGENCE OF NEW DISEASES AS A RESULT OF DEFORESTATION



About 200 new diseases. This is the figure given by researchers from the Research Institute for Development (IRD) and the University of Bournemouth (UK), who have demonstrated the correlation between human activity of overexploitation of the forest and The emergence of new infectious pathologies.

In a report released on December 7, 2016 in the Science Advances magazine, these researchers claim that the systems are connected; That is, it is essential to take into account the connection between

the aquatic environment, the terrestrial environment and human presence and to evaluate their interaction in order to understand the origin of the diseases.

It is by studying a bacterium called "Mycobacterium ulcerans", and making a comparison of sites damaged by human activity with sites remained intact, that the researchers managed to identify as acting this bacterium.

Thus, they have deduced that the disruption of animal communities and the food chain, as a result of deforestation, but also of intensive agricultural development, leads to changes in the environment from stable to degraded and promotes the development of species bacterium. These emerging infectious diseases, which have been mainly observed in inter-tropical areas, are transmitted by viruses such as Ebola, Zika or HIV.



LEGISLATION – CHINA WANTS TO TAX COMPANIES AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Pollutant Emissions Tax Act was approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Assembly (ANP) on December 25, 2016.

This law will concern companies and public institutions that discharge pollutants into the air, soil, water but also cause noise nuisance. A tax of 1.2 Yuan (0.2 euro) will be set for the emission of 0.95 kilograms of sulfur dioxide. However, the law does not provide for carbon dioxide (CO2), while China is the main emitter of this greenhouse gas.

In each province, the government will remain free to increase air pollution tax rates by ten years after approval by the People's National Assembly.

According to the Xinhua news agency, this new law on the tax of polluting emissions will improve the awareness of taxpayers to the environment, forcing companies to move to cleaner production.

The Act is therefore designed to reduce the loopholes in the government system and to optimize environmental progress in China.

