



HEADLINE - PROPAGATION OF THE CRISIS OF CONTAMINATED EGGS TO FIPRONIL



Since the beginning of August, millions of eggs have been withdrawn from the sale due to contamination with fipronil, an anti-lice and tick product used for the treatment of domestic animals, but banned in the European Union for animals Intended for human consumption, since 2004. Substance "moderately toxic", according to the World Health Organization (WHO), this antiparasitic would have negative effects on the liver, the kidneys and the thyroid. Disinfection companies have used pesticides by intervening in poultry farms in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and northern France. Contaminated eggs have been distributed in 17 countries of the Union, including France. The crisis has even spread to Hong Kong. Communication between states was particularly flawed: Belgium, which was notified of a contamination in early June, informed neighboring countries only on 20 July, leaving time for the crisis to take place, to expand. In France, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Travert, stated that "all products containing contaminated eggs will be withdrawn from the market pending the results of analyzes". The list of products containing contaminated eggs will soon be published on the Ministry of Agriculture website.



AIR - FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTS IN TERMS OF AIR QUALITY



Several associations have recently denounced the attempt by several European states, including France, to artificially return to EU air quality standards. Under the European Directive of 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain air pollutants, each EU country is required to comply with a ceiling for emissions of certain pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, oxides of Nitrogen or even volatile organic compounds and ammonia. To achieve these results, Member States are obliged to provide the European Commission with a system of national inventories of air pollutant emissions, as well as a national program to reduce air pollutant emissions. However, the 2016 Directive provides for flexibility clauses in achieving these objectives, such as lower ceilings for exceptional climatic conditions or the possibility of following a non-linear reduction path. Eight Member States have recently asked the European Commission to raise the ceilings set for 2016.



CLIMATE - FRANCE SUBJECT TO IMPORTANT EPISODE OF DROUGHT

As of 15 August 2017, 211 drought control decrees were issued in 84 departments affected by a restriction ranging from the reduction of water withdrawals for certain uses (notably for agricultural purposes), the halting of non-water withdrawals priority. According to the BRGM (Bureau of Geological and Mining Research) 2/3 of the groundwater is at a "moderately low to very low" level, due to the "winter recharge deficit this year". Despite the provisions of the Environmental Code to protect water resources as much as possible, however, multiple derogations are granted to farmers, industrialists and local authorities, which undermine the regulatory mechanism to protect Water resources, knowing that almost 80% of the water consumption comes from the agricultural activity. On 9 August, the Minister of Ecological and Solidarity Transition, Mr Hulot, and the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Travert, presented to the Council of Ministers their action plan on quantitative water management, With the objective of responding to the long-term changes brought about by climate change. Among the actions envisaged, the creation of artificial reservoirs of water leads particularly to discussion: if this measure is supported by the farmers, this is not necessarily a viable solution. A change in practices is advocated by associations, such as France Nature Environment, which would particularly like agricultural and industrial sectors that consume less water.



FOOD - INCREASING CONSUMPTION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS IN EUROPE

According to the latest statistics, dating from 2015, 70% of the consumption of organic products in Europe is consumed by Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, the Danes, Austrians and Swedes who fill their baskets with organic products the most. Germany has become the leading country in the consumption of organic products, accounting for 5% of all food consumed in the country. Consumption in the country has grown faster than production and as a result of this increase Germany imports more and more organic products from other countries in Europe. The area under organic farming in Europe has increased from 9 million hectares in 2010 to 11.1 million hectares in 2015. All 28 countries increased, with the exception of the United Kingdom (-29% compared with 2010) And the Netherlands (-4% compared to 2010). According to Eurostat, the northern countries (Austria, Sweden and Estonia) are proportionally the greener with more than 15% of their agricultural land devoted to organic farming in 2015. In Belgium, Ireland, Greece, France, Italy, Cyprus, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria and Finland, have an area of less than 50 hectares on average.



JURISPRUDENCE

CJEU - 21 JUNE 2017 - Case C-621/15 N. W e.a./Sanofi Pasteur MSD

It is compatible with the Directive a probationary regime which authorizes the judge, in the absence of conclusive and irrefutable proof, to conclude that a vaccine has not been found and that there is a causal link between the vaccine and a disease on the Based on a cluster of serious, precise and concordant indices, since this cluster of indices allows it to consider, with a sufficiently high degree of probability, that such a conclusion corresponds to reality.

CC, Decision No. 2017-40424 of 19 July 2017- Constitutionality of the obligation to attach impact assessments to applications for planning permission

Decree No. 2015-1782 of December 28, 2015 amended articles R. 431-16, R. 441-16 and R. 443-5 of the Urban Planning Code in order to provide that the obligation to join the study Of impact on applications for building permits and development permits concerns only cases where the impact assessment is required under the building permit to which the project is subject in the enumeration of the annexed table In Article R. 122-2 of the Environmental Code. If the applicant submits that those provisions, in their then applicable version, in that they did not provide for the obligation to attach the impact assessment to the application for a building permit or a development permit, Impact assessment is required under administrative policies other than urban planning, have seriously compromised the achievement of the result sought by Article 8a of Directive 2011/92 / EU of 13 December 2011, Provisions of the Directive leave national authorities the choice of taking into account environmental impacts in existing authorization procedures or in other procedures. The submission of a project to a public inquiry procedure must be regarded as a means of information and public participation ensuring the implementation of the objectives set out in Directive 2011/92 / EU of 13 December 2011. The right National planning for public planning and construction projects is thus in line with these objectives.



NOISE - DECREE NO. 2017-1244 OF 7 AUGUST 2017 RELATING TO THE PREVENTION OF RISKS RELATED TO NOISE AND AMPLIFIED SOUND

On 09 August 2017, Decree No 2017-1244 of 7 August 2017 on the prevention of risks related to noise and amplified sound was published in the Official Journal. This decree for operators of activities involving the broadcasting of amplified sound at high sound levels is intended to protect the hearing of the public. Taken for the application of article 56 of Law No. 2016-41 of 26 January 2016 for the modernization of the health system, the decree amends provisions of the Public Health Code and the Environment Code. The decree inserts in the Public Health Code provisions on the levels of sound pressure not to be exceeded by these professionals. The decree also provides for an obligation to record and record the sound levels to which the public is exposed as well as an obligation to inform the public about auditory hazards. These professionals also have an obligation to inform the public about the noise levels to which the public is exposed. The Decree also amends the Environmental Code in that it provides that noise generated by activities involving the broadcasting of amplified sound at high sound levels in places open to the public or receiving from the public can not by their duration, Their repetition or their intensity may harm the tranquility or health of the neighborhood. The decree also provides that the operator, the producer, the broadcaster who, under a contract, has been given responsibility for the safety of the public, the legal person in charge of the place open to the public or receiving from the public, whether closed or open, As usual, amplified sound broadcasting activities, or the person in charge of a festival, is obliged to draw up a study of the impact of noise nuisance aimed at preventing noise nuisance likely to affect the tranquility or Health of the neighborhood.



POLLUTION - PALM OIL INVESTS HONG KONGESIDE COTES



At the beginning of August, more than 1000 tons of palm oil was spilled near the Hong Kong coasts following the collision of two ships in the estuary of the Zhu Jiang River off Canton. The authorities were obliged to close 13 beaches while this catastrophe intervenes during tourist period. Although palm oil is not dangerous to humans, it has the peculiarity of being heated during transport in order to maintain its liquid state and thus forms solidified sheets in contact with water. These aquifers constitute a major danger to the surrounding fauna, as species of fish and birds can become toxic and choke with palm oil. Worse, since it had reached the Hong Kong coasts, it would have sunk in some places to more than 10 cm below the sand. On 8 August the local government announced it had picked up nearly 100 tons of palm oil ... out of the 1000 that spilled as a result of the accident at sea. Local environmental associations accuse the government Local to minimize the incident and not take the necessary steps to stem the spill of palm oil on the coasts.



BIODIVERSITY - Strengthening the fight against ortolan poaching

The ortolan is a migratory bird protected by the Environmental Code and classified as an endangered species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature list. Its hunting is banned in the European Union, but it is the subject of a traditional and controversial hunting in the southwest of France. The Minister of Ecological Transition, Nicolas Hulot, asked the prefect of Landes to " Strengthen the fight against ortolan sparrow poaching ". According to the ministry, Mr Hulot "instructed the prefect of the Landes to strengthen all measures of supervision, control and verbalization, both with regard to poachers and intermediaries who were engaged in trafficking. Grant, as last year, no tolerance for practitioners ". Mr. Hulot stated that "the practice of poaching the orotolans is illegal, it must cease." Nevertheless, this instruction by the Minister was not well accepted by the population of South West France. The president of the county council of the Landes, Xavier Fortinon, pronounced that "it is surreal to see that the capture of ortolan in the Landes has become today the main concern of Nicolas Hulot". He believes that Mr. Hulot "would be more concerned with the future of our rural territories".