

PRESS'ENVIRONNEMENT

N°230 – Tuesday October 3rd, 2017 By Reagan INTOLE, Kadidjatou DIABY, Stefano FLORINO, Laura IVALDI

HEADLINE – U.N. POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE FRENCH INITIATIVE ON A GLOBAL PACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

At a summit held on September 19, 2017 in the wings of the 72nd U.N. General Assembly, the U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged global support for France's initiative to launch a Global Pact for the Environment. During this meeting, organized and chaired by the French president Emmanuel Macron, Mr. Guterres stressed that « the achievement of all our aspirations for peace, prosperity and sustainable development assume that we will be able to live on a healthy and fertile planet ». The Global Pact for the Environment will be the first international legally binding document, gathering and harmonizing all environmental laws in one single document. Its objective is to be an essential tool for governments to help them implementing environmental rules and principles in their own country.

RENEWABLE ENERGY – TOTAL'S ACCESS TO THE WIND ENERGY MARKET

On Tuesday September 19, France's oil major Total announced the acquirement of 23% stake in Eren Renewable Energy (EREN RE) by subscribing to a capital increase of €237.5 million. This will be its biggest external renewable energy purchase since it bought the California-based solar energy company SunPower in 2011.

EREN RE is a French SME of 1 billion euros specialized in wind, solar and hydraulic energy.

Patrick Pouyanné, Chairman and CEO of Total, stated that the transaction will allow the company « *to make its entrance into the wind energy market* ». It follows on from Total's strategy of diversification. The deal also gives the company the possibility to take control of EREN RE after 5 years, depending on its performances. In the meantime, EREN RE will remain independent with its own management because « *we trust the right people with renewables* » said Patrick Pouyanné.

FOOD – POTENTIAL REACHING OF THE SDG N°2 « ZERO HUNGER » WITH THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FOOD LOSS AND WASTAGE ?



The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) continually calls the world to adopt a zero tolerance policy with regard to food losses and wastage. This call has been repeated during a high-level event on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) n°2: end hunger, especially by fighting against food loss and wastage. The FAO has

developed tools to identify losses and thought about potential solutions to deal with it. The intergovernmental organization based in Rome thus named one example in South-East Asia where producers of fruits and vegetables discovered that almost 20% tomatoes is spoilt during transportation due to bulk-conditioning. Initiatives to improve packaging, with the participation of the producers and other actors, led to reduce the losses by 90%.

POLLUTION – PARIS 2024 : THE CARBON-NEUTRAL GOAL



On September 13, 2017, the city of Paris has been awarded the 2024 Olympic Games. The Games carbon impact being gigantic, Paris has committed to reducing its ecological footprint by half. With this aim in mind, the French capital plans 100% bio-based materials for constructions, 100% of energy will be green electricity, 100% sustainable and certified food for the athletes' meals, 100% clean transportation. Pascal Canfin, WWF chief executive and

partner of the Olympic Games Bid Committee, calls for the observance of the Paris Climate Agreement and provides recommendations so Paris 2024 will have a 55% smaller carbon footprint than London 2012. However, he says that there will be irreducible emissions, e.g. transportation to get to the venue. Paris plans to include a budget intended to compensate for the greenhouse gas emissions. On the basis of 20 euros per tones CO2 equivalent, it's 30 million euros that should be intended for compensation measures like clean energy and reforestation. The goal is becoming carbon neutral.



JURISPRUDENCE

Judgment of the Court of justice in Case Fidenato e.a C-111/16 September 13th 2017

In the present case, the Italian authorities have sanctioned Italian producers of corn MON 810 based on a decree declaring its prohibition.

In the framework of the proceedings, the Court of Udine (Italy) has referred to the Court of Justice in order to obtain a preliminary ruling on whether emergency measures may be adopted in food related matters by utilizing the precautionary principle.

In its judgment, the Court considers that Member States can't adopt emergency measures in food related matters without being verifying the existence of a serious risk to general health as well as to the environment. Thus, the Court gives a reminder on the objective of food law and its aim to protect human health while ensuring the functioning of the internal market.

The Court then considers that even if the precautionary principle allows Member States to adopt provisional risk management measures in case of scientific uncertainty, the product questioned must present a serious and obvious risk to human health. If there is no risk established, there may not be any emergency measure adopted.



WASTES – « TRASH ISLES » : BECOMING A CITIZEN OF A PLASTIC CONTINENT



Since the past few days, a media campaign launched by the NGO Plastic Ocean Foundation and led by former US Vice President Al Gore attracts a lot of attention. It is a petition addressed to the United Nations in order to give the agglomeration of wastes, best known as "Trash Isles", a country status. Becoming a State requires territory, a population and sovereignty. Thus, Trash Isles has a territory of 3.4 million km² in the Pacific Ocean. Its population increases from day to day as each signatory of the petition becomes a citizen. Regarding its sovereignty, the island already has a currency called "debris", a passport, stamps and a flag. The benefit of such recognition lies in the fact

that being a state, Trash Isles would be protected by the environmental treaties signed by the other member states of the UN. The application of these treaties to Trash Isles would result in cleansing the island and thus making it disappear. This claim will be hard to recognize but it will still remind the world of the importance of waste accumulation on the planet and their consequences on the environment.



AGRICULTURE – THE TRAFIC OF PALM OIL LANDS IN PERU



The palm oil industry is not only destructive of the environment; its expansion also leads to violence and murder. Recently, a criminal group killed six Peruvian farmers. According to the locals, the murderers wanted to take their land for palm oil plantations. The victims were all members of *Asociación Agrícola Bello Paraíso* for the protection of forests and the preservation of local agriculture threatened by private interest groups. Violence and land

trafficking is a persistent problem in Peru as well as the rest of the world. The development of fuels produced from palm oil could bring up the pressure put on the land and result in an increase of land theft as well as violence and deforestation. However, as long as criminals benefit from an almost systematic impunity and the agro-business will turn a blind-eye to the origin of the products it buys, the problem will not be solved. As lucrative as it is, the palm oil cultivation remains particularly destructive to the environment because it causes significant deforestation and is being subject to increased monopolization by criminal gangs.



PORTRAIT – A POLITICIAN'S COMMITMENT IN THE FIGHT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Born March 31st, 1948 in Washington DC, Albert AL GORE, former vice-president of the United States gets involved in the militarism since 2006. In his documentary "An Inconvenient Truth", in which he appears as an actor showing the catastrophic consequence of global warming, he alerts the world. This work has won him two Oscars, as well as a Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, for his action in the fight against global warming. His return to the center stage with a new documentary released on September 27th, 2017. "An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power" wants to stimulate public awareness on the challenges of renewable energy. The documentary

also describes a trip to the four corners of the world during which Al Gore reaffirmed his commitment to the environment and defined himself as "a politician undergoing a process of healing".