



HIGHLIGHT – MONSANTO TRIAL IN THE UNITED STATES: FINES REDUCTION BUT CONFIRMATION OF THE VERDICT

US\$ 78 million, US\$ 39 million in compensation and US\$ 39 million in punitive damages. This is ultimately the amount that will pay Monsanto to Dewayne Johnson after a US court decision on Monday, October 22, 2018. The judge finally reduced by three the amount of the fine that had initially set a Californian popular jury to US\$289,2 million, but kept the judgment on the merits. As a reminder, gardener Dewayne Johnson is suffering from end-stage lymphatic cancer, which he attributes to the effects of the herbicides (containing glyphosate) he used. He claimed about US\$400 million from the company marketing the herbicides. The judges retained the "substantial" role of these products in the appearance of the complainant's illness. The malice, characterized by the fact that the company was able to know the harmful effects of the glyphosate, did not inform the customers, was retained by the Californian judge.

The break will be short-lived for Monsanto, because maybe the company can welcome the amounts reduction of the fine, but the judge still confirms the existence of the causal link between the use of herbicides and the occurrence of Mr. Johnsons cancer, as well as the malice of society. But the agrochemical company is confronted in the United States with more than 8000 similar procedures before state courts or federal courts. If US justice maintains its position, Monsanto may well see history repeat itself. Dewayne Johnson has until December 7 to accept this decision, otherwise a new trial will be instructed to re-evaluate the amount of punitive damages. The doctors give two years to live to Mr. Johnson.



HEALTH – AUTHORIZATION OF BACLOFEN TO COMBAT ALCOHOLISM

The National Agency for Drug Safety (ANSM in French) announced Tuesday, October 23, the granting of a marketing authorization for baclofen, as part of the fight against alcohol dependence. Its prescription will be authorized, "in addition to a psychosocial follow-up, after failure of other treatments".

Baclofen is a muscle relaxant prescribed since the 1970s to treat neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis. It was quickly used and diverted from its original prescription, by many alcoholics. Olivier Ameisen's book "The last drink", published in 2008, describing how the use of baclofen enabled him to fight against his addiction to alcohol, has generalized the misuse of the drug. Thus, since 2014, its use was authorized thanks to a temporary recommendation for use (RTU), the dosage being up to 300mg / day. However, in July 2017, following the publication of a study demonstrating "an increased risk, increasing with dose, hospitalization and death", the ANSM lowered this maximum dose to 80 mg / day, decision strongly criticized by alcohol dependence specialists.

With this marketing authorization, the ANSM intends to fight more against this public scourge that is alcoholism, and



BIODIVERSITY – 60% OF WILD FAUNA POPULATIONS REDUCED IN 40 YEARS

With each publication of WWF's biennial report on the state of biodiversity in the world, the situation is worsening: the rampage of the living world is accelerating, the blind pressure of human activities inexorably leading to the disappearance of many species. In 40 years, we have lost 60% of wildlife populations on Earth, proof that the sixth massive extinction of biodiversity is underway, sealing our own destiny. Between 1970 and 2014, populations of vertebrates, fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles dropped by 60% globally and by 89% in the tropics, South America and Central America. Species have never declined at such a rapid rate, which is now 100 to 1000 times greater than that calculated over geological time. Here is the alarming finding of the 2018 edition of the living planet report.



The causes are now clearly established and imply our direct responsibility: intensive agriculture, soil degradation and impermeability, overfishing, climate disruption, plastic pollution, livestock breeding ... reduce vital spaces, fragment or destroy animal habitats. Humanity impact is today so strong and widespread that it causes a disappearance of wildlife on earth. To date, only a quarter of the land has escaped human activities. A figure that should fall to only 10% in 2050 if we don't change.

International and national measures must be taken to prevent the disappearance of life on the planet. At the international level, this could result from an ambitious agreement on nature protection to be adopted in 2020, at the World Conference on Biodiversity in

offer patients a real chance of recovery, see for some ones a rehabilitation. However, in view of the development of misuse of this drug, the ASNM provides for reinforced monitoring with the possibility of revising the conditions of use of baclofen, whether to question its dosage (increasing or decreasing the dose maximum allowed) or its use in general.

CASE LAW

PARTIAL CENSORSHIP OF THE FOODLAW BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL, THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER 2018

Parliament finally adopted on 2 October 2018 the bill for the balance of commercial relations in the agricultural and food sector and a healthy nutrition, sustainable and accessible to all (known as the Agriculture and Food Act), highly anticipated by the agricultural sector. However, on October 5, The Constitutional Council was taken by centrist and right-wing senators.

The High Court issued its decision on October 25, 2018, validating key measures to reverse price construction and ensure better compensation for farmers, as well as those aimed at providing food and a healthier environment for the population. Thus, it must be emphasized that the Constitutional Council validated the provisions relating to the contracts renewed in the sale of agricultural products, the facilitation of the renegotiation and the strengthening of the mediation. In addition, the provisions of Article 28 amending the Environmental Code and extending the list of plastic utensils whose marketing and making available is prohibited from 1 January 2020 has also been validated.

On the other hand, the Constitutional Council has censored 23 articles "which had been introduced by amendment at first reading without presenting any link, even indirect, with the initial bill" by calling them "legislative riders". In addition, a number of articles added to Title II of the law on healthy, sustainable and universally accessible food were censored, such as the mention of the origin of products. Similarly, the introduction of an information obligation in the online sale of food products, as well as the addition to the list of the objectives assigned to the policy in the field of quality and food products origin, the promotion of those who did not contribute to deforestation was censored.

Beijing, with a target of zero net loss of biodiversity in 2030. At the national level, through concrete action in sectors with a major impact on biodiversity

GLYPHOSATE – MESURING URINARY RATE AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Your body contains glyphosate. It remains to be seen how much. In 2017, a study conducted by the association Générations Futures on 60 people showed that 100% of urine samples contained glyphosate. The rates concentration is very varied according to the individuals. Glyphosate, a "probable carcinogen" since March 2015 by the WHO, is the most widely used pesticide in the world with more than 800 000 tones applied each year. In France, the National Assembly has refused to register the ban on glyphosate (yet promised by Emmanuel Macron) within 3 years in the law during the examination of the Agriculture and Food Bill. Examination of the amendment, rejected by 45 votes against 35 (there are 577 deputies in France), proposing the ban was scheduled at 1:40 on the morning by the former President of the National Assembly François De Rugy , today Minister of the Environment.

Last September, dozens of people discovered, after analysis, that they carried traces of glyphosate nearly 15 times higher than those allowed in drinking water. The Glyphosate Campaign, encourages volunteers to make a urine test to find out the amount of pesticide found. Many participants complained of "endangering the lives of others", "aggravated deception" and "harm to the environment", about fifty have already been filed at the Foix's Court. More than 300 volunteers are identified and the movement initially limited to the Ardèche extends to other departments. The judicial process, however, will be extremely long. The farmer Paul François has been fighting in court for more than ten years to recognize the paternity of his symptoms (malaise and epileptic seizures) to the herbicide. The final hearing is expected in early 2019.

POLLUTION – THE DEPOLLUTION OF HANN BAY IN SENEGAL

On the shores of Hann Bay, in Dakar, Senegal, the situation is so alarming that an ambitious clean-up project was set up by the State of Senegal with the French and Dutch Development Agencies financial support. Considered a few years ago as a masterpiece of nature and one of the most beautiful bays in the world capable of competing with Rio de Janeiro, Hann Bay has recently reached a situation of advanced degradation. This situation is due to the direct discharge of industrial effluents from the Senegalese manufacturing industry, and domestic, 60% of which is located along the Hann Bay and directly discharges its polluted effluents which they find their source in the villages that developed nearby, without sewage system.

Thus, to deal with these environmental, economic and health issues, the Senegalese authorities have drawn up an action plan providing for the remediation of industrial and domestic liquid discharges, and have carried out various studies concerning: industrial pollution, technical scheme for the collection, transport and treatment of industrial and domestic water as well as the rehabilitation of a storm drainage canal, currently used as a wastewater receptacle.



The purpose of the clean-up project is to restore the quality of the waters of Hann Bay by financing the infrastructures for the collection, treatment and disposal at sea of part of the effluent that is currently discharged directly into the bay. Beyond, the project is a lever to advance the ongoing reform of the sector, introduce the "polluter pays" principle through a new pollution levy for industry and change practices by accelerating the implementation of pretreatments at the industrial plants.