



HIGHLIGHT – YELLOW VESTS AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION, REVOLT AND TAX CONSENT BACKGROUND

"All citizens have the right to verify, by themselves or by their representatives, the need for public contribution, consent freely, follow its use and determine its quantum, its seat, recovery and duration." This is how the principle of consent to taxation is enshrined in Article 14 of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen of 1789. In recent weeks, its application has been conflicting, with the announcement of an increase in taxes on fuel to finance the green transition and fight against pollution.

The government has planned to gradually increase the carbon tax until 2022 to be in line with its European objectives in terms of ecological transition, a burden that weighs on energy products based on their CO2 emissions. This will have the effect of increasing, among other things, the price of fuels, especially diesel, which has benefited from years of favorable taxation compared to gasoline due to the Internal Consumption Tax on Energy Products (TICPE, acronym in French). This announcement had the effect of a real bomb in French society and gave rise to the movement of "Yellow Vests", a popular movement against the increase of taxes and taxes concomitant to a weakening of the power to buy, which, likewise, denounces the Establishment of a "punitive" ecology and not an "empowering" ecology. However, article 1 of the law of 17 August 2015 on the energy transition for green growth provides in particular that the energy policy must guarantee "social and territorial cohesion by ensuring a right of access of all households to the energy without excessive cost in terms of their resources "and must fight" against energy poverty ".

Therefore, it seems that the French government will have to find the middle ground between an ecological transition that is carried out effectively because it is vital and a non-punitive and just ecological transition. What will undoubtedly depend on the return of adhesion and popular consent, keys in all democratic societies.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE – ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION PURSUES CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INACTION

The organization Youth Environment, an organization dedicated to the environment whose mission is to make young Quebec aware of environmental problems, aims to persecute the Canadian government on behalf of young people and future generations for their inaction in the fight against climate change.

On Monday, November 26, 2018, the organization filed a class action petition with the Superior Court of Quebec alleging that, because of its inaction, the government is violating the fundamental rights protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms of Canada and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms of Quebec, such as the right to life, the right to live in a healthy environment and the right to equality. The Juvenile Environment lawyer, as well as Greenpeace in support, hopes to get the court's approval quickly so that the trial begins as soon as possible



WASTE AND INNOVATION – A FRENCH START-UP CREATES A NON POLLUTING WASTE SORTING MACHINE

The energy transition law for green growth published on August 17, 2015 significantly strengthened the objectives related to biological waste, in particular, so that all waste producers have a classification solution before 2025. Axibio, a young start-up from Hauts-de-Seine, has just developed a machine, the A 600, which classifies food waste without classification errors. In addition, the A 600 optimizes the recovery of waste, whether energy or organic and all without additional contamination. Thanks to the device launched by Pierre-André Gary and Marc Heyrault, biological waste is compacted and lacerated, which eliminates impurities permanently, which reduces the margin of error from 7 to 12% today to approximately 0% thanks to new gear.

With more than 12 million tons of waste per year, the classification without waste of biological waste is a real challenge, especially considering that only 100 kilos of waste of good quality food can produce 6.5 liters of biofuel and up to 30 kg of compost. In addition, the A 600 is fully connected. The digitalization of the whole process allows the tracking and traceability in real time of biological waste.

Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier was right when he said that "nothing is lost, nothing is created, everything is transformed."



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – NUATAN : A 100% BIOCOMPATIBLE BIOPLASTIC, 100% BIODEGRADABLE AND HARMLESS TO LIVING BEINGS

During the last London Design Festival, Nuatan was presented, a 100% bioplastic based on renewable resources developed from corn starch, both sustainable and degradable. Its designers (Crafting Plastics Studio and the Technical University of

to force the state to implement ostensible and effective environmental reforms.

This approach, if successful, would be the first in Canada, so it would be located in the lineage of the Netherlands, where a ruling was confirmed that obliged the government to acquire more ambitious means to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, confirmed in House last month.



CASE LAW

AIR POLLUTION : CRUISE SHIP CONDEMNED FOR AIR POLLUTION, FOR THE FIRST TIME ! Court of Marseille, november 26, 2018.

The captain of a cruise ship and giant of the seas, L'Azura, of 300 meters in length, with capacity for 3,100 passengers and 1,250 crew members, was sentenced to pay 100,000 euros of fine for air pollution, more specifically for breach of the air pollution standards for "use by a ship in a territorial sea of fuel whose sulfur content exceeds the authorized air pollution standards," on Monday, November 26.

In fact, it had been called on March 29 in the port of Marseille for the use of a highly polluting fuel considered "heavy, unrefined and with sulfur, which emits toxic fumes when burned."

While in 2015 a law established limit values for sulfur in the fuel of ships by 1.50% in accordance with European standards against pollution of ships, the fuel burned by that vessel exceeded the limit values by up to 1,68%. This phenomenon is explained, as the prosecutor Franck Lagier informed by the fact that "he wanted to save money at the expense of everyone's lungs, in the first port of France". The captain, a 58-year-old American who did not show up at the helm, "knew perfectly well the irregular nature of fuel oil," the magistrate said, and Carnival "did not want to apply the legal standard."

Part of the fine imposed, 80,000 euros, will be paid by his employer, Carnival, world leader in the cruise business, said the judgment of the Criminal Court of Marseille. In addition, the civil parties, France Nature Environment, Surfrider Foundation and the League for the protection of birds have obtained 5,000 euros of damages and interest.

This appearance of the captain of L'Azura is unprecedented on the Mediterranean coast or in France. Also, in general, ship pollution standards will be adjusted significantly as of January 1, 2020 for all types of ships, with a sulfur content reduced to 0.5% for all.

Bratislava, Slovakia) say it could replace all existing packaging, including for food. This very promising material is totally harmless to living beings. "If the fish eat it, it breaks down in their bodies," says Vlasta Kubušová, co-founder of Crafting Plastics Studio. Nuatan is a patented blend of two biopolymers: polylactic acid derived from corn starch and polyhydroxybutyrate produced from corn starch that has been metabolized by microorganisms. According to the designers, Nuatan could be an alternative to plastic for all single-use products, such as water bottles, bags or straws. In other words, the possibilities of use would be almost unlimited. Nuatan has already been used to make a range of glasses whose frames are dyed with natural pigments such as coffee grounds, turmeric and indigo.



ENERGY TRANSITION – SWEDEN : A SUCCESSFUL ENERGY TRANSITION WITH 12 YEARS IN ADVANCE

Tax on carbon, renewable energies, reduction of greenhouse gases. Sweden is achieving its energy transition 12 years in advance. By the end of 2018, the country will comply with the energy transition objectives established for the year 2030 as part of the UN's sustainable development agenda. In fact, Sweden has the most advanced energy transition in the European Union with 54% renewable energy. As an example, in 3 years, 3,681 wind turbine construction projects were completed and will be completed before December 2018.

From the point of view of its Minister of Energy of Sweden, "today we have a more or less neutral electricity sector for the climate, we have developed a heating sector that has gone from a total dependence on oil to 95% of renewable energy." Also, the prime minister said that "Sweden will do whatever it takes to become one of the first nations in the world to stop using fossil fuels and will no longer emit greenhouse gases by 2050."

Sweden was also the first country in the world, together with Finland, to introduce a carbon tax in 1991 that reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 9%, while increasing its growth by 48% in 18 years. "How it is possible to combine economic growth and ecological progress," Björn Strenger, Head of Value Added Tax. Ecological taxation has penalized fossil fuels and has supported bioenergy, a taxation that has made the heating sector sustainable. Today, fossil energy used for heating is 2% against 60% in 1980. In addition, Sweden also introduced in July 2018, the obligation rates to reduce the carbon footprint of fuels. Finally, the government and investors have joined forces to multiply the projects to mobilize renewable energy. The goal: to obtain 7,506 megawatts of missing energy capacity. At the same time, France has increased its CO2 emissions by 3.2% in 2017.



SECURITY OF PUBLIC SPACES – THE MAYOR OF PARIS WILL PENALIZE THE SCOOTERS THAT CIRCULATE ON THE SIDEWALKS

On Monday, November 19, the Council of Paris voted on measures to better regulate the exchange of public space in the face of a manifest security problem, through the establishment of fines issued by city officials for users of scooters that circulate along pedestrian paths.

For lack of law, the mayor of Paris "penalize users of scooters that circulate in the pedestrian paths" and "proceed to the removal" of scooters placed on the sidewalks, said Christophe Najdovski, deputy in charge of transport at the City Council of Paris, stating that "legal studies are being carried out". In addition, parking spaces dedicated to these machines will be created gradually throughout the capital.

The PPCI (Parisian, progressive, constructive and independent) went further by asking the City of Paris to think about "making the helmet mandatory" for these drivers. "We must create a code of pedestrian paths," said the side of Florence Berthout, leader of the Republicans in Paris. The actors and politicians of the sector hope that the provisions related to these new gears are foreseen in the bill of orientation of mobilities (LOM), presented on Monday November 26, 2018 in the Council of Ministers and early next year for Parliament.