



## HIGHLIGHTS – CIGARETTE BUTTS, A NON-BIODEGRADABLE RESIDUE VERY PRESENT

Cigarette butts are the most common waste in the world, in the United States they represent one third of the total annual waste collected.

All these cigarette butts are not biodegradable. Discarded everywhere and, in any case, consumers tend to neglect the consequences of this small remainder.

Contrary to appearances, the cigarette butt is not biodegradable, it is made of paper and cellulose acetate. It consists of plastic material, which needs fifteen years to decompose into thousands of micro-plastic particles. With the particularity that is the exposure to the ultraviolet light of the sun that allows its decomposition, which is why it is called photodegradable material.

If the "polluter pays" principle is applied, the tobacco companies must take charge of the management of the residues of their cigarettes. This management will be based on the payment of eco-participation to an eco-organization, such as what already exists in many everyday products (household packaging, plastic bottles, electrical and electronic equipment, furniture, etc.). The objective of this ecological participation is to allow the financing of information, prevention, collection and disposal of waste.



## SOCIETY – SHOULD WE ESTABLISH A DEPOSIT FOR PLASTIC BOTTLES

By asking this question, the government initiates a dynamic of change. A few years ago, when the glass bottles were deposited, this approach worked with citizens and businesses until it was abandoned in 1992. The plastic bottle is a problem, especially in the most densely populated urban areas.

Initiatives are starting to emerge with companies such as YOYO, which rewards those who classify their plastics. The concept is simple: there are coaches and classifiers, each of them accumulates a certain amount of points that give access to rewards.

The minister of ecological transition has made this reflection, the idea will be to charge the consumer a supplement that could go from 5 to 25 cents more on the purchase price that will be returned at the time of the return of the product once consumed. For this practice to be operational and profitable, it would be necessary to install enough collection points.

In parallel, the government has just launched calls for projects to be implemented within the communities. To finance these operations, the communities will benefit from specific support per tones collected, donated by the approved eco-organizations of the packaging sector.

The daily life of the French can soon see change their habits.

## BIODIVERSITY - Warning: towards a halt to the salinization of roads

It is indisputable that, in winter, when it snows, traffic is difficult on the roads. The only solution that the public authorities have is to clear the roads. In Canada, for example, more than seven million tons of salt on average spread on roads. Except that, when melting, this snow carries with it a significant part of the salt. Unfortunately, scientific studies have shown that by 2050, salt levels in many lakes in North America will endanger the survival of the plants, animals and aquatic microorganisms that inhabit them. Clearly,



## BIODIVERSITY – TOWARDS A STRICT BAN ON ELECTRIC FISHING IN EUROPE.

Today, electric fishing is only practiced in northern Europe, especially in the Netherlands, which considers it an innovative fishing technique that is not dangerous to the environment. Anyway, the European Parliament just voted the total rejection of the practice of this controversial fishing technique. The question that must be asked is whether electric fishing will be permanently prohibited in Europe.

Electric fishing has been banned in Europe since 1998: "It is prohibited to capture marine organisms using methods that include the use of explosives, poisons, soporific substances or electric current". (Article 31, REGULATION (EC) No 850/98 OF THE COUNCIL of March 30, 1998). And, nevertheless, this technique has been authorized since 2007 on an experimental basis in all the countries of the European Union. Since 2009, the Netherlands has allowed 5% of its fleet to practice electric fishing; and the capacity of its trawlers is increasing (a fleet of one hundred Dutch consisting of trawlers of 30 to 45 meters, equipped with electric networks).

Electric fishing consists of placing a network with electrodes that sweep the seabed. According to those accused of this technique, electric fishing would be very advantageous insofar as it would destroy less all the seabed, unlike the heavy nets that are traditionally used for fishing. And that the boats would consume less fuel, thanks to the technique that works at a lower speed.

Fortunately, in February 2019, the European Commission finally recognized the illegality of electric fishing. The Commission acknowledges that the Netherlands is in fraud in relation to the licenses granted to the electric fishery and announces its intention to start very soon a formal infringement procedure against the Netherlands, due to the breach of European Union legislation.



## WASTE - ONE KILOGRAM OF TRASH PER SECOND AT MC DONALD'S

Although a decree of March 12, 2016 finally established the regulatory basis for the implementation of the classification in the source and the separate collection of waste

continuing this way, in 31 years, the survival of aquatic biodiversity will be affected by the concentration of salt in rivers. As we can see, road salt guarantees road safety during a snowstorm. But the impacts of this practice on the environment are very deplorable. Certainly, alternatives to salt have been tried in recent years, including solar panels embedded in roads or beet juice. But unfortunately, we are only in the experimental stage.



## JURISPRUDENCE - The case of Paul François v. Monsanto

On February 6, 2019 before the Court of Appeal of Lyon, the fourth round of the lawsuit was held between the French farmer Paul François and Monsanto, a giant of the agrochemical industry recently purchased by the German Bayer. The case has been reserved and the decision is scheduled for April 11, 2019.

It should be remembered that it was in April 2004 that the farmer became intoxicated after inhaling the Lasso vapors, an herbicide marketed by Monsanto while cleaning the tank of a sprayer. In 2007, he took responsibility for the compensation and compensation (more than one million euros) to the agrochemical giant before the court of great jurisdiction of Lyon.

The judges of TGI de Lyon decided in 2012 that the agrochemical company is responsible for the neurological disorders suffered by the applicant, for which the latter appealed to the Court of Appeal of Lyon. But the appellate judges confirmed the court's decision.

Therefore, Monsanto filed an appeal in September 2015 and obtained the annulment of the decision of the court of appeal in July 2017. By annulling the judgment, the superior court sent the parties to the same court of appeal in Lyon.

The higher court considered that this case was part of the special law of liability for defective products of article 1245 of the civil code that states: "the producer is responsible for the damages caused by a defect in his product, whether or not it is linked by contract with the victim." And not on the basis of the lack of information, as presented by Mr. Paul François.

by the companies, four years later, the report does not present any effort on the side of the Business.

The Secretary of State, Brune Poirson, called on Thursday, January 31 to the main fast food brands to remind them of their obligation to classify.

Regulatory obligation refers to the remains of food, but also to everything that can be found together when customers have finished eating (cutlery, baskets, cans ...). In case of non-compliance, the maximum penalty is a fine of 150,000 euros, which may be accompanied by two years of imprisonment.

But the government wants to give fast food brands a last chance before sanctioning them.

It is questionable whether in this case the franchisor and the franchisee are legally independent merchants. Even if the essence of this contractual relationship makes the franchisor and the franchisee independent, the franchisor, as head of the network, must provide some discipline.

The Secretary of State announced that she "reserved the right to make public the results of the controls carried out and the names of those committed outside the law."

## ENVIRONMENT – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS HARBOR MORE THAN 98% OF NANOPLASTICS

These small particles are present in many products and the efficiency of wastewater treatment to retain them could not be measured so far. Researchers from Eawag and ETH Zurich found answers using palladium.

If there is no single definition of these microplastics, they are generally described as particles of a maximum of five millimeters in diameter, spherical (or we speak of microbeads) or without particular form, solid at room temperature, made of synthetic polymers such as polyethylene, polypropylene and nylon.

We are here in the world of the infinitely small, less than a micrometer, or 0.001 millimeter. Contrary to popular belief, nanoplastics are not always macro-plastic, more than 2 cm, which degrade to become smaller. "As soon as you break a disposable cup, the powder escapes, they are nanoplastic, and we find them everywhere.

## ECOLOGY – RED MUD AT THE SEA OR ON THE EARTH

This Tuesday, February 12, 2019, activists of the association of protection of the ocean "ZEA" arrived to discharge 10 tons of toxic red mud before the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Solidarity. And a ton in front of the headquarters of HIG, owner of ALTEO.

This action was carried out with the purpose of denouncing the toxicity of this waste full of heavy and radioactive metals.

ALTEO is the world leader in alumina. Created 120 years ago, this plant has continued to grow and has generated many controversies.

It must be remembered that, as of January 1, 2016, ALTEO can no longer send its solid waste to the Mediterranean Sea. So, he found an alternative by disposing of these wastes through the earth.

The consequence of this action is the spread of cancer-causing pollution among residents.

The protesters want to stop this contamination due to the inaction of the government and society. The alumina plant, La Gardane, is looking to expand its mud deposits on land, continue to discharge into the sea and revalue these radioactive and heavy metal-laden waste commercialized throughout France. In 2018, the court reduced the time allowed to the plant to two years so that these discharges of liquids comply with environmental standards. However, today no action has been taken for the environment.

How will the government react in the coming days, faced with this contamination carried out openly before the eyes of all, causing irreversible consequences for the earth?

