

CLIMATE – TOURISM REGULATION, AN EMERGENCY IN ANTARCTICA

The tourism regulation in Antarctica has become an emergency due to the threats that its development represents for the environment. In the absence of rules governing this activity, travel agencies offer stays on ships, sometimes equipped with helicopters or submarines. It should be recalled that the Antarctic Treaty, signed on December 1, 1959 in Washington and entered into force on June 23, 1961, regulates relations between the signatory States with respect to Antarctica. The treaty applies to territories, including ice shelves, located south of the 60th parallel south. The original signers of the treaty were Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, Norway, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and the USSR (now Russia). However, any member of the United Nations or another State invited by all signatories may join him. In fact, several states have joined the treaty since it was signed. The Protocol of the Antarctic Treaty for the Protection of the Antarctic Environment or the Madrid Protocol was signed in Madrid on October 4, 1991, entered into force on January 14, 1998 and has six annexes.

However, tourist activities are not prohibited and, nevertheless, this activity generates considerable interruptions, trampling and pollution. We are witnessing a race towards gigantism of tourism, dangerous for ecosystems. It is not a question of prohibiting tourism, but of achieving a qualitative and quantitative control of the tourist population, so that tourism develops in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty and its protocol on the protection of the environment.

POLLUTION – THE FIRST SOLAR ELECTRIC BICYCLE MANUFACTURED IN FRANCE

In the second half of 2020, if the tests carried out by the city of Montrouge are conclusive, the first electric-assisted bicycle will be marketed, which will be recharged with solar panels installed on the front wheel and the frame to store as much light as possible. solar to power your battery. Dubbed SUN-E, the bicycle was created by the French Start-up Roll'in, SUN-E could be the first solar vehicle to roll in our cities and limit the environmental impact. The autonomy of the fully charged battery will be about 50 km, and depending on the exterior brightness, the bicycle can be recharged every day from 17 km in winter in the north of France (and 31 km in July) or 26 km in the south of France. It will also be possible to pedal if the batteries are completely discharged, for which a screen shows the level of charge. As in the coming weeks

MEDIATOR – PRE TRIAL COMPENSATION RECORD

A criminal proceeding is scheduled within the next 6 months. The main charges are "cheating", "fraud" and "murder and unintentional injuries." The Mediator case, a major health scandal, has lasted almost thirty years, manufactured by the Servier laboratory, whose turnover amounted to 4 billion euros. Its destiny was originally in patients with diabetes, but it was deviated and widely prescribed as an appetite suppressant, some of these patients developed serious heart diseases, leading, in some cases, to death. Removed from the market since 2009, the laboratory anticipated that It will be presented to the process that will have to be developed, compensating up to € 115.9 million, this figure could increase until reaching a record amount of € 141.3 million, corresponding to the total of the offers proposed by the laboratory to patients who have developed cardiac pathologies A head of the compensation unit recognizes and presents his regret to patients who have suffered adverse effects related to the use of the medication. This is a record in compensation matters in France. Several alert launchers denounce in the Parisian columns, compensation for "pure calculation", knowing that a criminal trial is expected very soon. During this trial, 4000 people will constitute the civil parties. However, the victims compensated by Servier promised not to be part. According to various studies, the drug could be responsible for between 500 and 2100 long-term deaths.



SUN-E will be tested by employees of Bemobi, a subsidiary of Swiss Post, some models will be used for professional mail delivery routes.



CASE LAW

CJEU March 28, 2019

For the first time, on March 28, 2019 the CJEU voted on the classification of waste in the category of "mirror entries" and opted for a classification based on the precautionary principle. In this case, about 30 managers of the Italian waste storage facilities were accused of waste traffic, including the classification of hazardous waste for non-hazardous waste. The causes of the waste were the so-called "reflected entries", that is, they fall into the category of hazardous and non-hazardous waste. On the basis of non-exhaustive and partial chemical analyzes, they would have assigned non-hazardous waste codes to that waste and would have treated them in landfills for non-hazardous waste. According to European Union legislation, a waste is classified as hazardous when it meets a material criterion, its properties and that it is necessary to take into account the "origin and composition of the waste", and when applicable, limit values for the concentration of dangerous substances. Therefore, waste is classified as hazardous if it has at least one hazard property. The Court relied on the precautionary principle. By introducing a presumption of danger of waste of mirror codes, the Court validates the "safety" thesis and at the same time consolidates the precautionary principle.



DEFORESTATION – 12 MILLION HECTARES OF TROPICAL FORESTS DESTROYED IN 2018

In 2018, the world lost 12 million hectares of tropical forests, the size of Nicaragua, revealed the World Resources Institute (WRI), which includes almost 4 million primary tropical forests essential for climate and biodiversity. The most affected countries are Brazil, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia and Bolivia. Having been little or not affected by the last glaciations, they are the richest forests in the world in terms of biodiversity, but they are often threatened by conversion to agricultural or forestry areas, and locally by deforestation and overexploitation, ecological fragmentation and / or fires. Deforestation is the phenomenon of regression of forest areas, whether anthropic or natural, is also the action that causes the permanent disappearance of forests. If a forest grows again after a cut, an attack of xylophagous insects or a fire, we are not talking about deforestation. The phenomenon of deforestation is often mentioned in relation to the degradation (functional or biological) of the forest. The loss of forest cover refers to the loss of forest area, which is often observed by satellite.

The general trend continues to increase. The rate of destruction of primary forests is of particular concern in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), while in Indonesia it has slowed by 63% compared to the 2016 peak. Indonesia has benefited from government measures and 2 years relatively wet, unfavorable for fires, but the El Niño phenomenon can change in 2019. Brazil is the country that has lost the largest area of primary tropical forests, ahead of the DRC and Indonesia. In Colombia, the loss of primary forests increased by 9% between 2017 and 2018, while the peace agreement between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia helped to make certain areas more accessible.



SPACE – A SPACE GARAGE TO CLEAN THE SPACE ?

The space could become inaccessible by 2100, even 2050. The cause, the exponential increase in the number of space debris, such as satellites out of use, higher stages of rockets, hoods, belts or fragments resulting from the explosion of spacecraft. They are around 170 million that move around the orbit of the Earth at a speed of 8 kilometers per second, or about 28,000 km / h.

The waste of more than 10 cm, large enough to destroy a satellite, increased from 29,000 in 2017 to 34,000 in 2019. Objects between 1 and 10 cm, capable of damaging or diverting a satellite, also increased by 750,000 to 900,000, and things could get worse. Demonstrations of military might consisting of destroying their own satellite are being emulated: after the United States, Russia and China, it was India that in March produced thousands of additional debris from a single shot. If each collision results in thousands of pieces of debris, which in turn can lead to collisions, the risk is to trigger a chain reaction, or "Kessler's syndrome," from the name of a NASA consultant who envisioned such a collision, as early as 1978.

Recycle in orbit? Instead of collecting waste, researchers and scientists today want to avoid their production as much as possible by repairing and recycling satellites in a "space garage". An application of the circular economy in orbit.

The space garage could, in its cheaper version, be completely autonomous, with the dimensions and mass of approximately one tenth of those of the International Space Station, either 10 or 20 tons and accommodate different small boats, capable of diagnose the state of the satellites, repair them or tow them to the garage for recycling. In evaluation for 3 years, the space garage has several prestigious supports. The potential market is high: 5,000 satellites are currently in orbit, including some 2,000 functional and 3,000 out of use. In geostationary orbit, all equipment has been identified and approximately 7 satellites could be repaired per year for 15 years; Enough to ensure a profitable activity for future space mechanics.