



le Grenelle Environnement

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1 Fighting climate change

France must immediately take steps to cut its greenhouse gas emissions (GGE) by 75% between now and 2050, corresponding with a reduction of 90% of GGE content from its GDP if we assume that the latter will be multiplied by 2.5 over this period. This will entail creating a radically different development model, which also reduces energy requirements. The first stage, up to the year 2020, is placed at the beginning of a roadmap for the radical improvement of energy efficiency and has been fixed by the European Council as follows: a reduction of 20% of greenhouse gas emissions, or 30% in accordance with any commitments from other industrialized countries, a reduction of 20% of energy consumption and a proportion of 20% of renewable energy used in total energy consumption.

Between 1990 and 2005, French gross greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by 2% (and by more than 9% once the effects of forests and regional land-use were corrected); during the same period, transport emissions increased by 22% (with figures stabilizing over the last few years, mainly due to increased fuel costs), and building emissions by 15%. The share of these two sectors in the total French greenhouse gas emissions increased by 8 points during the same period (from 37% to 45%). In France, buildings consume 42.5% of total energy and transports 31%; the main concern now is to succeed in drastically reducing energy consumption in these two priority sectors. Preliminary studies concerning socio-economic impacts are required to define how to act decisively in these sectors.

1.1 Pushing forward progress in a proactive manner for the building sector

The building sector consumes 42.5% of total French energy. Average primary energy consumption in the current pool of primary residences stands at 240 kWh/m²/year in 2007 and CO₂ emissions stand at 93 Mt/year. This represents potential energy savings that could be made immediately. Committing to a large-scale thermal performance plan equates to reducing energy costs in a sustainable manner, increasing spending power margins of the French population and responding to the major challenge of reducing greenhouse gases. The greenhouse gas indicator is therefore used jointly with the energy indicator. In view of the technologies available, the tertiary residential sector could be required to contribute more than 20% to compensate progress that is – in theory – more difficult to achieve in other fields. This programme is accompanied by a professional training plan and a section detailing how to adapt to heat waves (bioclimatic systems, particularly for French overseas territories).

Proposals from the workgroup shall be enhanced and organised around six programmes or action plans covering both new standards for all new buildings and thermal renovation projects for public and privately owned buildings.

1.1.1 Launching a disruptive technology programme in the new housing sector

Imposing increasingly stringent regulations from 2010 onwards and progressively raising standards with a view to achieving widespread implementation of passive or positive-energy buildings.

- From now on (2010) all buildings and public facilities must be constructed according to low-consumption (50 kWh/m²) or passive or positive energy standards. The highest-performing renewable energies will be systematically integrated. With regards to positive-energy buildings, it will be possible for local authorities to sell electricity on the network.
- New constructions in the tertiary sector (offices, etc.): same objectives and scheduling as public buildings.

➤ New private housing constructions:

For housing, in accordance with group I proposals, the action plan is based around three dates:

- 2010: expected transition to high-level energy-efficiency regulations – with the objective of ensuring that one third of all constructions is composed of low-consumption or passive/positive-energy buildings.
- 2012 (instead of 2015 as per group proposal): widespread implementation of new low-consumption housing (50 KWh/m²).

2020: target – all new housing composed of passive or positive-energy buildings.

1.1.2 A radical project for the energy-efficient renovation of existing buildings

➤ Public buildings

Carbon balance and energy balance efficiency assessments in all public buildings.

Thermal renovation combined with works to provide total access for the disabled, with a performance objective set for 2015 that is adapted to the type of building and possibly to the size of the authorities (authorities from large towns and regions are committed to more stringent objectives).

The French government is committed to carry out the renovation of its buildings over the next five years.

- Council Housing Agreements to be negotiated with council housing operators with a view to bringing all properties up to standard more quickly, starting with the 800,000 most run-down properties. Negotiations to be held on completion deadlines and improved long-term funding.
- French National Agency for Urban Renewal (ANRU) programmes (€40 billion) conducted by applying future standards in advance (80 or 50 KWh), principle of improved funding.
- Private developments of housing and offices: requires powerful financial incentives to speed up energy renewal of existing buildings. Implementation of powerful incentive measures (proposals from group I):
 - Update "sustainable development" tax credit, extended tax deductibility status.
 - Implementation of reduced rate "CO₂ loans" along the lines of Germany's KfW CO₂ Building Rehabilitation Programme
 - Develop innovative financial services through collaboration with the banking sector and businesses to pre-fund investments by pledging future savings: energy performance contracts, energy-efficiency services, energy-saving certificates, and "domestic projects".

Significantly, the programme plans to combat energy insecurity, by identifying and renovating the most "energy-intensive" properties: special emphasis on class G from the energy efficiency diagnosis between now and 2012.

Joint objectives: access for vulnerable persons, interior air quality (see chapter 3), very intensive use of certified wood and biomaterials in building sector, compatible with sustainable development of both.

1.1.3 Main associated measures

Incentive measures: "sustainable development" tax credit renovation; funding through low rate loans for low-consumption housing; increased income tax credits for interest on such loans, domestic CO₂ projects; equitable sharing of profits associated with energy savings between the landlord and the tenant; investment provisions for SMEs.

Develop an insurance offer for professionals with regards to sustainable development to take account of the introduction of renewable energy, ecotechnologies, etc.

Innovative funding methods: see above

Rallying professionals: intensified professional training and recruitment:

- Launch of a large-scale professional training, recruitment and qualification plan for construction professionals, integrating energy-efficiency, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, climatic adaptation and indoor environmental quality.
- Creation of specialised thermal renovators: develop a professional industry sector devoted to "building renovators" and multidisciplinary management, capable of providing global services to individuals and professional project managers.

Focus R&D to meet the objectives defined above and to reduce costs.

1.2 Drastically changing transport sector strategies

Here again...a clean break is necessary. A radically different approach is needed, putting a brake on the policy of motorway construction and extending the large-scale development of alternative transports. Today, 83% of passenger transport is conducted by car, 10% by train and 1.5% by plane. With regards to domestic freight transport, roads are host to 86% of the traffic, rail 12% and rivers 2.3%.

The current paradigm, founded on according priority to roads and motorways¹ and on the separate development of transport methods must be abandoned in favour of an integrated, multimodal development approach whereby road and air transport are only used as a last resort imposed by technology status or geography. The global road capacity of the country must not increase, except with a view to eliminating congested areas and eradicating safety problems, or for the benefit of the local community. This principle must be applied with common sense. It is also a question of reducing transport energy intensity. **The target objective is to reduce current emissions by 20% between now and 2020 for all means of transport** (reduce to the level in 1990).

1.2.1 Overall consistency for transport infrastructures

- Create a **transport observatory** bringing together all stakeholders to assess emissions according to a shared methodology that is subsequently used to provide the compulsory displays of greenhouse gas emissions for transport orders and services. Produce eco-indicators. Promote them at a European level.
- Between now and March 2008, through consultation with stakeholders, produce the **national framework for new transport infrastructures** of any type - constituting an update of the CIADT (French interministerial committee for land-use and regional development) from December 2003 - used to conduct general assessments of their consistency and impact on the environment and economy, before any new decision is made. In the same manner, establish and assess regional scheduling of transport infrastructures (also see governance chapter). The production of new infrastructures must go hand-in-hand with the **improvement of services**, and of the maintenance and operation of existing networks.

1.2.2 Progress for private vehicles

- Lower **average CO₂ emissions from the entire car population currently in use, from 176 g CO₂/km to 130 g CO₂/km in 2020**, through a combination of regulations and incentives:

¹ NB: France has 15,000 km of motorway and dual carriageways; 1,800 km of high speed railtrack and 2,000 km of wide gauge waterways. The 18 French urban areas outside the Ile de France area each have a public transport network: 114 km of underground, 329 km of tramways and 800 km of bus routes in protected areas.

- o For new vehicles: France is in support of increasingly stringent EU regulations concerning CO₂ emissions from new commercial vehicles (120 g compared with 130 g in current conditions).
- o Development of highly energy-efficient vehicles, rechargeable hybrids and electronic cars.
- o Competitive advantage for least-polluting vehicles (yearly bonus-malus green disk, see below).
- **Eco-driving programme:** definition of a national eco-driving programme in France. Tests will be conducted for lanes reserved on motorways, slip roads and in urban areas for public transport, shared cars and taxis, in addition to the possible implementation of lowered speed restrictions for all vehicles.
- Similar progress for **utility vehicles and two/three wheel motorized vehicles.**

1.2.3 Urban and regional passenger transport: intense development of road travel alternatives

- Two thirds of energy savings could be achieved through:
 - o promoting technological innovations that reduce pollution and vehicle consumption, whilst ensuring the reduction of local pollutants (particles, Nox)
 - o developing car pool and sharing schemes by removing legal red tape, promoting active transport modes (walking, bike) using a “street code”.

With cross-cutting measures:

- o developing commuting/travel plans for companies, administrations, schools and business parks (incentives or regulations)
- o improving the governance and communication between different authorities
- o integrating districts into the scope of transport tax according to their population in the tourist season.
- **Development plan for urban transport:**
 - o 1,500 kilometres of new tramway lines or protected buses to be added to the 329 existing kilometres within the next 10 years. Objective of modal report equivalent to 18 billion kilometres travelled by users. Estimated cost of investment in infrastructures stands at €18 billion (according to GART [French transport authorities group] research). Requested government funding: €4 billion
 - o Projects in the Ile de France: Ile-de-France: 70% of transport takes place between suburbs. Launch of a circular bypass using an automatic underground around Paris (Métrophérique or Arc Express projects), consultation with the competent authority. Extending the East-West link (EOLE) towards Normandy and improving line 13, building out-of-town park and ride car parks.
 - o DOM-COM: priority implementation of public transport plans.

Before the end of 2008, this programme will be the subject of negotiation with French transport organisation authorities and, more generally, with the local authorities concerned: definition of programme, government support methods and competencies of organisation authorities (freight transport, parking, etc.).

- **Development of regional rail transportation:** modernize and improve intermodality.

On the outskirts of urban areas and in periurban environments, more simple implementation measures were put forward (park and ride schemes, intermodal pricing, etc.) Coordination between organisation authorities, urban areas, regions and *départements*, government intervention must result in transport ticket harmonization.

These measures will entail improving the current transport governance, particularly the development of competencies in the organisation authorities (freight transport, parking, urban tolls, etc.).

1.2.4 Long distance passenger transport

The objective is to provide passengers transport solutions, which have increased efficiency in terms of hydrocarbon dependence, greenhouse gases, and energy-efficiency.

1.2.4.1 Major extension to high-speed line networks and upgrade of existing network

- **Preliminary upgrade required for existing standard network:** alongside efforts made at a regional level, annual contribution from the French government and public establishments shall be increased to €400 million, 2.5 times higher than in 2004.
- **Double the high-speed railway line network** with a view to offering better alternatives to air and car transport: 2,000 additional kilometres of high-speed railway lines to be built between now and 2020, study launched into a further 2,500 kilometres in the longer term. Between now and summer 2008, this high-speed train programme will be the subject of consultation (taking account of the need to protect biodiversity) and negotiations with local authorities, particularly regional councils: priorities – layout, alternatives to high-speed, funding sources, with state funds standing at €16 billion in any event.

1.2.4.2 Reducing the impacts of air transport

a) Reduce emissions and pollution from aircraft using technological progress

- Supporting technological progress and research efforts (ACARE - Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe):
 - reduction of unitary consumption and pollution caused by aircraft: cut fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions by 50% between now and 2020 through research programmes.
 - reduce nitrogen oxide emissions (by 80% by 2020)
 - reduce noise pollution by 50% (less than 10 dB per flight)
- Drive forward **fleet modernisation**: 20% of the oldest aircraft are responsible for 60% of emissions.
- **Modernize aircraft control** through the creation of a single European sky: France has invested €200 million (out of a total of €2.1 billion) in the SESAR programme over a seven year period; improve **air traffic** (continuous ascent and descent cruising)

b) Improve operations and services at airports

- Encourage **TGV airport connections**.
- Improve **airport ground services through enhanced public transport**: drive forward the CDG Express project for Roissy.
- **Reduce waiting and taxiing times**: objective to cut times by 10% at all Parisian airports, equivalent to a saving of 10,000 tonnes of CO₂. Accelerated emissions reduction for airport equipment by using green vehicles.
- On-site **production and use of renewable energies** (particularly using geothermics): objective for Paris airports – cut energy consumption per passenger by 20% by 2010, and 40% by 2030.
- **Airport infrastructures**: the creation of new infrastructures must correspond with traffic movement for environmental reasons.

c) Incentives

- **Establish the real cost of air transport**.
- Integration of air transport in the European system of emission license exchange.
- Study the implementation of taxes for aircraft on domestic train paths if a train alternative

exists of a similar quality: tax on turnover, passengers or jet fuel.

1.2.5 Develop methods with the lowest possible emissions and integrate ecological costs

The French President fixed an objective of increasing non-road freight from 14%, as it stands today, to 25% over a 15-year period. The development of rail, maritime and river freight has been declared in the national interest and is part of the French legislation (LOTI).

Developing the rail, maritime and river offer:

- Increase the share of rail freight by 25% by 2012; develop a rail network devoted entirely or mostly to freight by the year 2025, including the required mountain passes and urban bypasses; support the CAREX project (TGV freight), taking account of La Poste's commitments.
- Definition of train paths, network time-phasing and priorities, opening train paths to multiple-combination operators, implementation of regulation authority.
- Strengthen combined transport: implement long trains on two North-South lines; develop capacities on Atlantic line after commissioning of high-speed line between Tours and Bordeaux; open train paths to multiple-combination operators; renovate support system for combined transport.
- In consultation with road transporters, develop widespread and highly frequent offers on "rail motorways": reduction of long distance road journeys (> 500 km) for HGVs, particularly for international traffic; launch the rail motorway programme (consists of transporting trucks by train): implement the first two high-speed lines North to South-West and North to South-East. Objective 2020: 2 million trucks transferred, i.e. 50% of traffic and the remaining 50% in the long-term. Tests on the Perpignan – Luxembourg line. Programme conditions: optimum network time-phasing set at one train every 15 minutes. €50 million of public funding will be devoted to infrastructures and €50 million to freight platforms. Mobilization of a long-term loan: €800 million to purchase adapted material.
- Sea motorways² (5 to 10% of traffic south of the Alpes and to the west of the Pyrenees): massive development of sea motorways, along the Atlantic coast (France – Spain) and the Mediterranean (France – Italy, France - Spain).
- Widespread distribution of services from seaports via rail and river channels (doubling market shares); to this end, improve interfaces with large sea ports.
- River plan: launch of Seine canal North Europe project for €4 billion. Objective: €4.5 billion tonnes/km transferred to waterways, equivalent to 250,000 tonnes of CO₂; preparation of public debate into Saône Moselle link; renewal of support plan to modernize river shipping.

Improving environmental performances of road freight:

- nonstop tolls
- eco-driving
- greenhouse gas emissions from transport services displayed.

1.2.6 Incentives

- **Creation of Ecotax based on mileage payable for HGVs using the non-concessionary road network in France.**

Objective: operational implementation by 2010. Compensation methods using various means

² The method described for rail motorways can be applied to sea motorways.

and resumed at bottom of invoice. This resource assigned to rail infrastructures (Funding agency for French transport infrastructures - AFITF). Request to revise the Euro-toll disc directive with a view to better integration of environmental costs. The amount taxed, which must be able to be passed on, will depend on the specific emissions of the vehicle, the maximum load capacity and the distance travelled.

- **Provide a competitive advantage to the least polluting vehicles using an annual green disk based on a car's pollutant emissions (particularly CO₂), with a yearly bonus/malus system.** Progressive and significant, the system concerns new vehicles. It will provide an incentive to renew the current car population. The green disk could be supplemented by a **bonus incentive to scrap vehicles over fifteen years of age** (generally the worst polluters) if a replacement vehicle is purchased with low emissions, in line with the latest technologies, to avoid fine particle emissions.
- The majority of any new environmental resource implemented as a response to climate change could be assigned to the **low-emission transport projects funding agency (AFITF), and to local authorities for the funding of regional climate-energy plans, particularly the development of public transport.**

1.3 Fairer and more efficient urban development

The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions must now figure among the priority objectives of urban development, alongside controlling energy requirements, saving fossil resources and controlling network extension expenditure, strongly influenced by urban sprawl. Moreover, more remote accommodation leads to difficulties in accessing public services and equipment. Intervention constitutes a vital contribution towards social equality for the populations concerned, often poorer communities, as well as reducing the vulnerability of these regions.

- **An ambitious programme to revitalise city centres in decline**
- **A proactive eco-quarter plan boosted by local authorities:** at least one eco-quarter will be created before 2012 (coherent with existing quarter and integrated in overall development) in all districts with large-scale housing development programmes; fifteen major innovative projects in the energy, architecture and social sectors.
- **A new legal framework underlining the crucial role of local authorities and providing them with adapted tools:**
- **Introduction of an approach adapted to climate change and energy control** in regional development objectives: the estimated relevant grid is concerned with living environments and urban areas or urban communities with more than 100,000 to 150,000 inhabitants.
- Encouraging a **global urban development plan**, integrating transport, housing, public areas, shops, and widespread implementation of SCOTs (regional consistency plans) in sensitive areas.
- Reinforcing the **enforceable character of SCOTs**.
- Introducing SCOTs in **energy performance and greenhouse gas emission criteria**.
- **Widespread implementation of regional climate-energy plans to be made compulsory within 5 years** and such plans to be linked to urban development documents.
- Used to make **concrete steps in the fight against urban sprawl:**
 - o Compulsory impact study that could lead to the prohibition of opening further large areas to urban development without adapted public transport programmes or assessment of the impact resulting from the loss of agricultural and natural areas.
 - o Including objectives (assessed) concerning the reduction of land consumption in all urban development documents.
 - o Specific indicators.

- o Improved links between different public policies in urban development documents (housing, activities, agricultural land, transport, energy, open spaces, biodiversity, etc.), and with regional climate-energy plans (also see energy democracy chapter), and more stringent control of the compliance with laws that aim to achieve an economic development of space and natural resources.
- o Creation of "Areas of environmental densification" equipped with bigger land-use coefficients very close to public transport services
- o Areas of environmental densification for quarters with high performance energy-climate statistics.
- **Progressively revise local taxation and financial and tax incentives** in the field of housing and urban development towards a more sustainable urban development guaranteeing more economical management of resources and space.

1.4 Energy: reducing consumption and carbon content in production

Achieving the "factor 4" in the European plan presupposes a change of scale in the development of carbon free production methods as well as in policies designed to reduce energy consumption.

1.4.1 In the field of energy consumption control

- **Widespread implementation within a 3 to 5 year timeframe of a carbon-energy balance [water-waste-transport]** for all corporate bodies, public or private, with more than [50] employees or agents.
- Extend **energy tagging** to all high-consumption devices (television, computers, etc.), prohibit the sale of the most energy-intensive devices within a short timeframe, impose low energy consumption monitoring systems and encourage the acquisition of the most energy-efficient equipment, in accordance with the "Energy using products" directive 2005/32/CE.
- Ban **incandescent lamps** by 2010, whilst providing correct environmental management of the next generation lamps.
- Through regulations and incentives, develop the design and adoption of **high-performance and innovative products and processes in industry** and provide particular assistance to SMEs in this context: reserve the ecologic section of the sustainable development document for SME funding, set up a guarantee fund for loans dedicated to sustainable development projects for tradesmen and SMEs, extend innovation guarantee funds to risk-capital in eco-innovative SMEs.

1.4.2 Balanced and carbon-free energy production

The objective is to balance French energy production by relying on the central network of decentralised systems to ensure increased autonomy. It is also a question of further reducing the carbon content in the French energy supply, and, in an initial phase, to meet the objective of 20% (or even 25%) of renewable energies (total energy) in 2020, in good environmental and feasibility conditions. This presupposes increasing the share of renewable energies in the energy mix by 29 million TOE by 2020 by following two strategic lines, devolution of power and decentralisation wherever possible.

- **Development of each of the renewable sectors, taking account of environmental requirements:** general review of different sectors (support system, ecobalance, etc.) and proposal for a plan to promote renewable sectors that excel in ecologic terms.
 - o biomass (with uses ranked hierarchically as follows: food, material, energy – for the latter assistance with the installation of collective boiler rooms as a priority and a mobilisation plan for fuel wood resources)

- o geothermics
- o wind
- o photovoltaic cells ("national solar building plan" centred on the integration of solar energy into buildings, by overcoming obstacles – particularly regulations – concerning the integration of solar energy into buildings)
- o hydraulics.
- **Promote renewable heat networks**, maintain and increase efficiency of existing networks and create a renewable heat fund.
- **Sector-based development programmes for energy autonomy in installations:**
 - o agricultural exploitations (maximizing the potential energy production of each farmer): see p.18
 - o mass retailing (solar development).
- **Exhaustive and contradictory expert assessment of ecological and energy balance of first generation agro/biofuels** conducted by the ADEME (French Environment and Energy Management Agency); on the basis of results, ADEME will submit their definition of the energy portfolio. Support by France of certification measures at a European and global level for the biofuel production sector, taking account of their economic, environmental and social impact. Intensify R&D and accelerate the implementation of industrial pilot projects into second-generation biofuels.
- **Renewable energy, electricity storage, etc.: bring R&D into new energy technologies up to the standard of that conducted in France's civil nuclear programme.**
- **Test geological CO₂ capture and storage technologies** (financial support for demonstrators) and manage such technologies. In parallel, develop research into recycling CO₂ captured in this manner and into the energy performance related to the use of fossil fuels.
- Adapt the positioning of the **nuclear sector** to changes in electricity requirements and the increasing power of renewable energy: programmes into controlling energy requirements and the development of renewable energies will automatically lead to a drop in the nuclear share in the French energy mix.
 - o Observed disagreement over the justification for nuclear facilities, particularly with regards to the EPR programme.
 - o Request from several stakeholders for greater transparency with regards to the management of the nuclear programme, particularly in terms of technology transfers.

1.4.3 Incentives

World energy consumption increases by 2% each year. Energy prices are likely to increase and become irregular over the coming years and decades. A price signal over the long term would now seem essential to best organise production and consumption of energy in a society that must become less energy-intensive and produce fewer greenhouse gases.

Three essential structuring measures: provide carbon price or ecologic price indicators using tagging between now and 2010; give green products a competitive advantage using the bonus-malus model, provide a more general carbon price or signal price in the form of climate-energy contribution.

Each round table member agreed that the benefits of climate/energy contribution must be recognized. Two approaches were put forward:

- either the Environment Round Table immediately advocates the creation of climate-energy contribution and consigns a workgroup to study its implementation conditions.
- or the Environment Round Table decides to conduct further studies into the climate-energy contribution before committing to the principle of its creation.

The two choices have been submitted to the French President for his decision.

Whatever the outcome, agreement has been reached upon the principle of taxation neutrality for any climate-energy contribution: there can be no new taxes and the equity and redistribution methods

must be examined to respect company competitiveness and household spending power, particularly for the least well off.

The workgroup that will examine the feasibility and implementation conditions of climate-energy contribution must submit its conclusions by spring 2008 at the latest.

Significantly, the general review of compulsory deductions will aim to give an opinion on the technical methods of a climate-energy contribution.

From a European and international perspective:

- Development of **bidding process for CO₂ emission quotas**, with a bidding level that takes account of exposure to international competition.
- Support for an **ambitious international agreement** targeting the reduction of CO₂ emissions, which will have everyone's backing. At the very least, obtain this agreement at a European level and with the main CO₂-producing countries.
- Support **border tax adjustments** (Cambridge tax):
 - o support, on a global level, the creation of a carbon tax or sector-based global agreements targeting the most carbon-intensive products as a priority
 - o failing this, negotiate the implementation of a "carbon" adjustment device on European borders concerning imported products according to their carbon content, either in the form of a tax, or through the compulsory purchase of corresponding CO₂ quotas.

1.5 Providing new impetus for research and drawing up a climate change adaptation plan

Research development concerns four sectors (gt1, p.81-82), where the most important technological priorities are energy produced by photovoltaic cells, energy efficiency and public transport:

- **Understanding and observing** the climate, particularly its variability and regional peculiarities.
 - **Adapting to climate change** in all sectors, particularly towns, agriculture and forests, public health, adapting to extreme events, biodiversity and natural environments.
 - **Reducing energy consumption**, for ground and air vehicles, urban structures and operations, industrial processes, etc.
 - **Producing energy without carbon**, with particular emphasis on photovoltaic cells, carbon capture and storage, second generation biofuels and electricity and heat storage.
- **Coordinate an ambitious policy with regards to research and development for ecological innovations, by emphasising the transition phase to industrialisation.** Particular attention must be paid to rallying and coordinating competitiveness clusters working in the environmental sector with a view to **increasing research tax credits and funding for demonstrators.**
 - **At the ADEME, implement development support funds for demonstrators of ecological technologies.** Firstly, support could be given to CO₂ capture projects, second-generation vegetable fuels, bioclimatic systems in rehabilitation and compact green urban vehicles.
 - Rapidly outline a **national climate adaptation programme**, inspired by research, to then define the regional climate-energy plans, in terms of economic activities as well as cooperation in countries in the southern hemisphere.



2 Protecting and managing biodiversity and natural environments

Background

"Biodiversity" is associated increasingly with the concept of sustainable development, particularly because the scientific community believes it is "life insurance for our changing world". 60% of vital services provided for man by ecosystems are in decline (Ecosystem Millennium Assessment). Concern about the loss of biodiversity is a necessity. For millions of years, species have solved problems to survive, multiply and overcome the crises presented by nature. So biodiversity is a pool of responses by the living world to changes in the environment, which have been tested throughout this long history. By diminishing this evolution potential, we are also reducing our ability to adapt to the variability of the environment, and particularly of the climate. This is why biodiversity is the life insurance of our world.

The loss of biodiversity comes from changes in land use, fragmentation and intensive exploitation of the land, the introduction of species that become invasive, and more recently, climate change. Every species is an option value for the future. It deserves to be protected to enable the ecosystem that is its home to develop its capacity to adapt to change and continue to provide man with its products and services.

A change of course is therefore essential in this field. Biodiversity must become a central element of public policy.

- Rapid development of the land is a major factor in the loss of biodiversity. 8.3% of land in mainland France is developed, one of the highest rates in Europe. Between 1982 and 2004 the amount of developed land grew by 43%. The amount of land occupied by agriculture and livestock farming (53%) is constantly decreasing.
- **Applying targets to local development plans (PLUs) to combat the reduction in agricultural and natural land.** A study of possible measures to limit the amount of land developed will be carried out by 2008 (particularly protected agricultural areas and a tax on land that has been asphalted).

2.1 Halting the loss of biodiversity and strengthening the richness of the living environment

Every year from 1992 to 2004, France lost 73,000 hectares of permanent grassland, 30,000 hectares of farmland excluding grassland, 26,000 hectares of wooded land (isolated trees, hedgerows) out of a total agricultural and natural land area of 5.7 million hectares (permanent grassland, fallow land, hedgerows, dry stone walls, forestry land, wetland areas, etc.). The oceans are too often seen only from the point of view of fisheries resources, yet their physical, chemical and biological balance is decisive for the planet.

2.1.1 A green and blue belt crisscrossing the whole country

- **The green belt** is a planning tool consisting of large natural areas, and corridors that link them or act as buffers, based on a mapping on the scale 1:5000. It is complemented by a **blue belt** of waterways and bodies of water and the plant-covered strips along the edge of these waterways and bodies of water. They allow a territorial continuity to be established,

which is an absolute priority. The green and blue belt is **managed locally in association with local authorities and in consultation with local players, on a contractual basis, within a coherent framework backed up by the government**: reference framework to be defined in 2008; mapping of continuities and discontinuities nationally to be completed within two years; consultation on contractual regulatory measures and incentives (inclusion in planning documents) and development of the belt in the regions in 2009-2012; joint development of a biodiversity criterion for operating budgets (DGF); use of the green and blue belt to stop major infrastructure from being built; remuneration of environmental service; implementation of the pan-European network within the perspective of adapting to climate change.

- **National strategy for protected areas and conservation and restoration plan within 5 years for the 131 critically endangered species** (IUCN 2007) in France (mainland and overseas): at least 2% of land heavily protected within 10 years, creation of 3 national parks (Mediterranean, wetlands, broad-leaved trees of the plains); pollinators plan, land and marine invasive species plan
- Regulation of **light pollution** by law
- **Restoring nature in cities** and the many roles it plays: run-off prevention, energy, heat, health (water, air, noise, waste), prevention of chemical use, aesthetic, psychological
- **Boosting the timber sector by protecting ordinary and unusual biodiversity in forests**: producing more timber (as a material and renewable energy) and gaining more from its use. Prioritising the **local use of wood** (as a material and energy source) in local development projects and land-based projects (like the rural centres of excellence and forestry charters, in particular). Improving **certification** (FSC and PEFC) and encouraging the use of certified wood in public constructions: all timber bought by the government will be certified from 2010. Making the certification of imported timber compulsory. Promoting timber as an environmentally friendly material in construction, as part of a national plan to favour wood. **Adapting building standards specifically to wood**. Introducing a "made with wood" construction label. Recognising and promoting the **environmental services of forests**. Remunerating the additional environmental services provided by forests. Fostering the resilience of forests faced with climate change.

2.1.2 Creating the essential tools for understanding, management and monitoring through expertise, training and research

- Getting parliament to look in 2008 **at the appropriateness of setting up a national agency for expertise on biodiversity**, bringing together existing public bodies in the field, with regional consultation authorities to be defined.
- Creation in 2008 of a **biodiversity observatory**³ (inventories, mappings, indicators, spread of knowledge), and a **French foundation for cooperation on research into biodiversity** networking the various existing bodies and enabling extra research funding to be put into biodiversity⁴ (including applied research). Completing the land SSSI inventory and carrying out the marine SSSI inventory in 2010.
- Research into **soil biodiversity** (microbiology) will be improved
- **Strengthening of the naturalist disciplines** (botany, zoology, ecology, taxonomy, etc.). Introduction into **initial and continuing training** courses of skills useful for inventing and introducing good practices
- **Joint taskforce** of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Planning to **identify ways of maintaining the environmental service provided until now by fallow land**.
- General audit in 2008 of tax measures detrimental to biodiversity (at least 20) and feasibility study of a **gradual changeover to a more favourable taxation system**
- **Improvement of the national strategy for biodiversity** and the development of regional strategies.

³ from the SINP

⁴ compared with that of the IFB and BRG

2.1.3 Managing the sea and coast jointly and coherently

- Principle of **joint management by ecosystem**
- **Reduction and prevention of pollutants coming from the continent** (see below in particular): extraction operations, dredged slurry, energy production, etc.; fighting pollution by applying deterrent penalties to those who would destroy biodiversity (e.g. gas releases, ballast water discharges and invasive species)
- **Management of fish stocks** by setting up joint Operation and Management Units and a network of protected marine areas (10 protected marine areas by 2012, covering 10% of territorial waters), for joint management with areas in which fishing is not allowed; rules for recreational fishing on foot; eradication of illegal fishing in French waters
- Establishing a **pilot programme for the Mediterranean** for this joint management
- **Eco-labelling of fish products in 2008**
- Trialling **administered, non-transferable fish quotas for red tuna** from the Mediterranean in 2008-9
- Collection and management of **floating and beached waste** (macro-waste)
- **Reduction and prevention of risks and pollution** linked with port activities
- Reforming and simplifying the **system governing extraction at sea** with an overall vision specific to the maritime environment
- Restricting **the use of maërl** (sand and seaweed fertiliser) to more worthy functions (ending its use in water treatment plants)
- A **sea title** will feature in the law of application of Grenelle.

- **Desire for the Musée du Vivant to be the museum of this presidential term through the restoration of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle.**
- **Warning about the catastrophic situation for seriously endangered red tuna, which demands drastic action to reconstitute stocks.**

2.2 Restoring the environmental quality of water while ensuring it is renewable

General objective: by setting a target for all bodies of water ultimately to be in good condition, going from 70% currently to less than a third failing to meet this target by 2015 and less than 10% by 2021.

2.2.1 Prevention of chemical pollution

- Eliminating or restricting as much as possible the use of [extremely] worrying substances⁵ under the terms of the REACH regulation among phytosanitary products
- **Eliminating the most worrying phytosanitary products⁶**: 30 by the end of 2008, 10 by the end of 2010 and reduction by half by the end of 2012 for products for which there are no replacements, **and continuing** to accelerate research and the spread of alternative methods
- **Generalising the coverage of agricultural land in winter** taking account of local conditions
- Completing the introduction of protected zones around all drinking water collection points and **protecting the supply zones of the 500 most threatened water collection areas by 2012**; developing a special programme for water boards in the areas that supply collection points and adapting their financial resources for this purpose.

⁵ Carcinogenic, Mutagenic and Toxic to reproduction in categories 1 and 2 (CMR1, CMR2), Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP), Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic (PBT), very Persistent, very Bioaccumulative (vPvB)), [CMR3, endocrine disruptors, neurotoxins]

⁶ see Note 5

- Preventing **widespread pollution by farming** (agro-environmental measures) **and training users** (see below)
- Controlling the risks associated with **medicine residues**
- Reducing **chronic and accidental emissions of priority substances** into water and sediments
- **Banning phosphates from all cleaning products by 2010**

2.2.2 All urban water treatment plants must be up to standard by 2009 and at the latest by 2012

Currently 146 of the largest water treatment plants serving 18 million inhabitants, or nearly a quarter of the French population, do not meet water treatment standards.

- **Serving of notice to all local authorities**, asking them to prepare an investment schedule and feasibility studies within one year.
- **Depositing the necessary funds** into the budgets of the authorities concerned that do not execute the notice
- Loss of aid at the full rate and all operational bonuses for authorities that have not registered along with the water board for their area, by the end of 2007
- Provision to medium-sized authorities experiencing difficulties associated with the increased cost of water of **extra funding worth 2 billion euros in the form of loans at reduced rates of interest from the French national savings bank.**
- **Information** by making a map of compliance by French cities available on the Internet
- Launch of a special initiative to extend the detection of **leaks from the water mains network** to all areas and plan the necessary work

2.2.3 Restoring ecological quality to aquatic environments

- Acquisition of **[20,000] hectares of wetlands** to protect against development
- **Grassed strips and plant-covered buffer zones** of at least 5m along waterways and around bodies of water to be included in planning documents
- **Restoration of continuity for freshwater ecosystems**; removal of the most problematic obstacles to fish migration after a study has been carried out to identify them.

2.2.4 Reducing the exposure of populations at risk of flooding

- **Priority elimination of black spots** by constructing flood defences and by prevention through planning measures; approach using tributary basins and high water expansion areas;
- Health monitoring and assessment plan of long-term risks with psychological monitoring of children; extension of the approach to other natural and technological disasters

2.2.5 Adjusted, modernised management of water quantity

- **Adapting water catchment to available resources** either by reducing catchment during dry periods (collective management of quotas) or by building storage facilities, while respecting the ecology of water systems and priorities for use
- **Developing new systems for the collection and reuse** of rain water or waste water, first dealing with the health issues and if necessary changing the regulations; launching a leak reduction programme for mains water systems
- Across all sectors, **strengthening bans and checks of their application to illegal products** (timber, species, chemicals, etc.)

2.3 Diversified, productive and sustainable agriculture

Background

The primary and priority vocation of agriculture is to provide food for the population, and this will be even more the case over the coming decades. Climate change, with its uncertainties and speed of approach, is raising difficult issues for farmers all over the world and is demanding that they adapt, diversify and contribute to the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions: agriculture contributes around 28% of emissions globally (including deforestation for farming) and 19% in France.

However, intensive production methods often pose a high risk to the environment, even threatening the sustainability of agriculture itself.

In addition to important changes in farming practices that have been effected in the last ten years or so, a deeper transformation is required in all aspects of farming, revisiting the bases of conventional agriculture in order to reconcile demand for quantity and economic efficiency with resistance to climate change and environmental realities: it is a matter of producing enough by working with the soil and living systems, thereby guaranteeing their continued existence, and safeguarding both production and ecosystems.

2.3.1 Achieving sufficient organic agricultural production to improve its predictability and costs

- Supporting the structure of the sector: **gradually moving to 20% organic production by 2012 in orders placed by public catering services** (20% organic produce by 2012) and evaluating that policy in the next 2 to 3 years with a view to its extension to all collective catering through multi-year supply contracts; modification of the guide to public contracts for collective catering; joint drafting of the standard local agreement by the end of 2007; raising the ceiling for assistance and maintaining the tax rebates; increasing the share of seasonal and local products (farming near cities, etc.) in collective catering in the same way.
- Consequently, **switching 6% of farmland to organic farming by 2010, 15% by 2013 and 20% by 2020**; organic farmland could be preferentially sited in the 700,000 hectares around drinking water collection points to protect this water resource and reduce treatment costs by preventing pollution at source. The water boards will work to promote organic farming in the areas that supply the water collection points. To achieve this objective, it is essential to **structure the farming sector**. €3 million per annum will be allocated to the organic agency to do this. Harmonisation of organic criteria is also necessary at European level. The mid-term revision of the CAP in 2008 will be a chance to change the terms of use of the first and second pillar (including transfers between these pillars) to finance all kinds of sustainable agriculture. The first effects of these measures will be evident from 2009. In addition, tax rebates for organic farming will be doubled from 2008, and if necessary, additional resources can be found.

2.3.2 Extending the use of ecologically productive farming practices to all areas

- **Setting up a voluntary environmental certification scheme for farms in 2008**, with grades up to A for high environmental value (HVE) based on a simple reference system of results indicators. Allowing the integration from 2008 of environmental requirements **for AOC (appellation d'origine contrôlée) products** on a voluntary basis. Carrying out a survey in 2007 of specifications for environmental requirements. Having 10% of products HVE-certified from 2012. Negotiating multi-year contracts with supermarkets to develop HVE and organic production.
- **Achieving certification for 50% of farms by 2012**: giving a bonus to young farmers setting up as HVE or organic farms from the outset; public support for starting up farms (% fulfilling public orders); regarding the separation of roles between vendor and prescriber within 3 years, two approaches have been suggested: more or less total separation or, as proposed by FNSEA, an obligation for a written recommendation by the seller; having all secondary school farms HVE certified by 2012 and introducing biodiversity, environmental effects of inputs and soil function modules into the curriculum; developing training courses as an alternative to

disciplinary action; increasing funding for rural development and the agricultural environment during the CAP health check in 2008.

- **Promoting the organisation of agricultural and non-agricultural players in an area:** when a qualified majority of players agrees on advanced farming practices, these practices are by extension of the rules applicable to other operators in the whole of the area concerned

2.3.3 Accelerating the development of diversified sustainable and productive farming methods

- **Launching a major programme in 2008 of applied research and training on all aspects of agriculture** (integrated production, forestry, etc.) making the most of the diversity of research bodies, techniques and cooperation and a very large network of farmers, aimed at adapting agricultural production to the new challenges it faces by putting agricultural science back at the forefront and by aiming to use resources and inputs sparingly; expanding the public research effort, particularly by allocating €9 million to a special ANR programme and reorienting INRA programmes towards the development of practices that use few inputs
- **Adapting the gene policy for seeds and domestic breeds to the new challenges:** in particular, assembling a catalogue supplement containing old varieties of seed, extending the system for evaluating varieties to general use by 2008 (in-built resistance to drought, disease, pests, etc.), including those varieties most widely cultivated today and taking it to European level
- Launching a **national policy for the rehabilitation of farmland and the development of domestic, cultivated and natural biodiversity** on farms; reorganising the disease surveillance network for bees. A parliamentary taskforce will put forward operational proposals before 2009 for an emergency bee plan.
- **Phytosanitary:** withdrawal of the most worrying products if they can be replaced: 30 by the end of 2008, 10 by the end of 2010 and reduction by half by the end of 2012 for products for which there are no replacements; reduction by half of pesticide use by accelerating the spread of alternative methods, subject to their development. Launching a survey of the health of farmers and farm workers in 2008, and an epidemiological surveillance programme; ban on spreading by air, except in special cases
- **Irrigation** (see above/water)
- **Nitrates and phosphorus:** clearing of areas of nitrate concentrations in excess of 50mg/l and where there is surplus phosphorus in the environment within [5 to] 10 years by drawing up an initial list of priority areas; development of alternative methods and environmentally-friendly farming measures supported where possible by additional resources.

2.3.4 Increasing the energy efficiency of farms

[30]% of farms with low energy dependency by 2013 (biogas, solar, presses, plant protein plan, etc.). Tax rebates for performing an energy audit. Precise monitoring of consumption, and performance of energy audits of farms. Direct and indirect energy saving (tractors and machinery, buildings and glasshouses, input consumption). Producing and using renewable energies on farms (trials of methane production, use of agricultural timber, changes to the tax system for energy).

2.4 A strict and transparent framework for GMOs and biotechnologies

2.4.1 Increasing research into biotechnologies and GMOs

- **Strengthening the following disciplines:** ecotoxicology, toxicology, ecology, epidemiology, agricultural science, microbial ecology, agricultural economics, etc. by providing [over 10 years] the finance necessary for training and consolidating research teams; creation of a stakeholders' council within the Ministry of Research;

- Organisation of a "**European or international summit on the gene**" by consolidating a national policy on the knowledge and protection of genetic diversity [during the European Presidency in the second half of 2008].
- France must continue researching GMOs.

2.4.2 A High Authority for Biotechnologies in 2008

This independent administrative authority would replace the existing committees and could:

- **have** its own human and financial resources for creating an independent, multidisciplinary, public-spirited body of scientific expertise, with its own operating and research budget, which can issue its own opinions and be consulted by a wide range of bodies, including the public.
- **adopt** transparent, public and multidisciplinary opinions on every plant and animal GMO, though it would not replace the political level in decision-making.
- **with these opinions, cover** growing, import and human or animal consumption by evaluating long-term environmental, health and socioeconomic impact, in accordance with sustainable development criteria.

The composition of this authority will be very diverse. Biovigilance (including traceability) will be separate from this High Authority.

Preparations for it can begin in 2007. It will be set up in accordance with the timetable of the law on biotechnologies.

2.4.3 Adoption of a law on biotechnologies and GMOs by the end of spring 2008

The High Authority for Biotechnologies will be set up by this law and prefigured by a taskforce from November 2007. It will work on the basis of the most recent international research.

The law will be based on the following principles:

- **Responsibility;**
- **Precautionary principle;**
- **Transparency and participation;**
- **Freedom of choice** to produce (coexistence rules) and consume GM-free products;
- **The issue of the unpatentability of living things**, particularly the genome, with [certificates for the registration of seed or systems *sui generis*] and the national policy on genetic resources instead, will be the subject of a national public debate in 2008, looking at scientific, socioeconomic and ethical aspects of the issue
- **Short-term treatment of permitted varieties:** activation of the safeguard clause on Monsanto 810 maize until the entry into force of the law on biotechnologies.



3 Protecting health and the environment whilst promoting economic growth

Statement of reasons

The degradation of our environment can have serious and noted consequences on our health. Certain risks have been proven while others are uncertain but need to be monitored closely. Progress in the knowledge of and the reduction of environmental effects on health is an asset, in terms of health and competitiveness, for companies which are taking the lead in these areas. Furthermore, the effect of greater international competitiveness on resources makes material scarcity, which is the central pillar of a future circular economy, strategic in this new situation.

Six founding themes were established:

- a precautionary principle: an absence of proof does not mean an absence of risk and measures which are proportionate to the risks at hand are needed as soon as doubts on the impact on the environment and/or health appear,
- a principle of substitution, which is a principle for action,
- the explicit recognition of environmental policy as a component of health policy,
- a strong connection between environmental health and the ecosystem's state of health,
- the need for participative governance and democracy,
- the polluter pays principle.

3.1 Greater knowledge of, regulation and reduction in the use of harmful substances

3.1.1 Tracking and preventing exposure to populations and encouraging innovation

- The development of an **ambitious policy for the replacement** of [extremely] threatening chemical substances (products, procedures, production systems, use) **and innovation** with an aim to restrict or very strictly regulate the use of [extremely] threatening substances⁷ in the sense of the Reach ruling
- After the national environment-health plan (PNSE) drawn up for 2004-2008, a **new PNSE will bring together as from 2008 all stakeholders** by broadening the scope of the first plan (new technologies, new pathologies, environmental fairness, etc.):
 - **reduction in discharges of the most threatening substances and reduction of exposure to such substances**⁸, for example, benzene, mercury, trichlorethylene

⁷ Category 1 and 2 chemicals classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction (CMR1, CMR2), Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), persistent bio-accumulants and toxic pollutants (PBTs), very persistent and very bio-accumable organic pollutants (vPvB)), [CMR3, endocrine disruptors and neurotoxins]

⁸ Category 1 and 2 chemicals classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction, Persistent Organic Pollutants, persistent bio-accumulant pollutants.

and certain chromium compounds, for all sources and environments one objective was defined over the two months;

- o the inclusion of a **transport health plan for vehicles (all types)**, including the accelerated renewal of vehicle fleets [by lifting the VAT on investments]
 - o **the anticipation and prevention of risks** associated with products, techniques and changes to the environment
 - o **health at work** (see below)
- A **population bio-surveillance** programme, under PNSE II, to characterise the state of health and assess the results of public policies in the area of health and the environment; drawing up registers on cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and respiratory pathologies
 - Developing **health and the environment fairness** by first dealing with black spots and starting with children and the most sensitive or most exposed populations: free health and the environment consultations for the most vulnerable; accelerated intervention when a health problem is uncovered⁹ ;
 - Parliamentary mission on the organisation of **environmental surveillance** through the IFEN (public institute for the environment) and AFSSET (Agency for Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety) on the development of substances present in various environments and the implementation of a portal for the dissemination of environmental data collected through this surveillance process
 - The setting up of **inter-regional, multi-disciplinary centres dedicated to health and the environment, a centre for toxicology and ecotoxicology and inter-hospital clinical healthcare, prevention and research centres**, all with 400 new research positions
 - **Phytosanitary products which contain extremely threatening chemical substances (CMR1, CMR2 and bioaccumulable substances) will be banned from sale as from 2008 for use at home and in public places.** The case of threatening substances (including CMR3) will be dealt with under National Environment-Health Plan II.

3.1.2 Improved guarantees for fair competition

- Greater information from user firms and their employees through **significantly improved security data files.**
- On the basis of **negotiations between social partners**, a focus on the greater role of CHSCTs (committees for health, safety and working conditions) in the area of health and the environment, the monitoring of at-risk populations in the workplace, the training of specialised doctors, employees' curriculum laboris, etc.
- **Improving public inspection means** on sites and with regard to the levels of toxic substances contained in domestic and imported products: an extra 100 agents under the Reach ruling, an extra 200 to 400 agents for classified installations, greater action by the DGCCRF (Directorate General for Competition, Consumption and Fraud Control) in foodstuffs, in particular, and those which are meant for children.
- **Introduction of REACH requirements into an international agreement** which goes beyond a European framework.

3.2 Quality of outside air and air inside buildings

The draft bill produced following the environment round table will contain a section on 'air' which will ensure these goals are respected and that the pollutants targeted by the WHO are considered:

- immediate compliance with regulatory targets for NOx and the ozone;
- **particulates plan:** the cardio-vascular and respiratory effects of fine particulates are now well-known: a target of **15µg/m³ (PM 2.5) a target value in 2010 and a compulsory value in 2015**, namely, a 30% reduction on today, and the fulfillment of the guideline value of the WHO

⁹ 'Environmental Rapid Response Unit' ('SAMU de l'Environnement')

over time ($10\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). It includes primary and secondary particulates: combustion installations, boilers, forms of transport, wood-fuelled heating.

- **Improvement in interior air quality:** obligatory labelling of the volatile pollutants contained in building and decorating materials, prohibition as from 2008 of CMR1 and 2 substances in these products, CMR3 substances come under PNSE II; reduction of wood-fuelled heating system pollutants. Introduction of **systems which measure and provide information on the quality of interior air** in premises which receive large numbers of people or vulnerable people (children, the elderly, etc.) and in all public premises which receive members of the public (stations, airports, metro, etc.).

3.3 Fight against excessive noise

The negative effects of excessive levels of noise on health are increasingly well-known. Today, 160,000 homes are exposed to excessive levels of noise around airports (more than 55dB) and there are approximately 280,000 homes along road networks (more than 70dB). Each year 8,000 homes are currently sound-proofed; this figure must be increased for reasons of public health. On the basis of environmental fairness, the most run down areas must be given priority.

- **Revision of the noise black spot inventory by the end of 2007 and resorption within five to seven years of those which are the most harmful to health;** an increase in resources dedicated to tackling road, motorway and railway noise from €150 million to €400-450 million; funding to be negotiated between the State and local authorities; RFF (French railway network operator) and motorway operators; **review of the Tax on Air Transport Noise Pollution for airports** and a change to its implementation procedure so as to eliminate the backlog of files within two years
- Definition of areas which are incompatible with building projects due to noise, possible prohibitions and effective enforcement
- **Revision of how planes approach and take off from airports** to reduce noise and fuel consumption; tightening of constraints imposed on night-time traffic at airports in urbanised areas to reduce this amount of traffic to the bare minimum; maintaining of existing prohibitions
- **Building acceptance process which is adapted** to regulations in the areas of aeration, ventilation and acoustics; simplified noise labelling for electrical goods.
- **Creation of noise observatories in major conurbations** (dissemination of data, consultation)

3.4 Emerging, technological and nanotechnological risks

- **Anticipation of risks linked to nanomaterials:** the National public debate commission will organise a debate on the risks linked to nanoparticles and nanomaterials. **It will be obligatory to declare the presence of nanoparticles in mass market products as from 2008;** a systematic cost/benefit analysis prior to the launch onto the market of products containing nanoparticles or nanomaterials as from 2008; ensuring employees are informed and protected on the basis of the AFSSET study.
- **Health observation and watch adapted to emerging risks** (particularly in French overseas territories): following the example set by the US Center for Disease Control (first body to discover AIDS in industrialised countries) and organising existing healthcare networks around this example;
- Gathering of scientific findings on **radio frequencies and health**, particularly with regard to mobile telephony; feasibility study for a measurement campaign; in light of actions by other European countries, determination of the maximum emission value in the area of telephony; inclusion of a chapter on 'electromagnetism' in the bill following the environment round table.

3.5 The prevention of waste and its associated pollutants as a competitive advantage to companies and territories

3.5.1 Action on polluted soil

- Finishing the inventory of sites which could have been polluted in the past and cross-referencing it with the inventory on water catchment areas and places which receive sensitive populations to **prioritise actions for 2010**
- Action plan on the **restoration of closed petrol stations and polluted orphan sites**

3.5.2 Prevention and recycling of waste

The best waste is waste that we do not produce, for two reasons: it would be a waste of resources and a potential source of waste. The separation which has started to be noted over the past two years between waste production and growth must be highlighted as a growth strategy for an economy which consumes few raw materials and which does not pollute.

The workshop on waste continues for a period of 8 to 12 weeks.

a) Towards an economy which uses little packaging

- **Industry agreements** within mass distribution as a priority to introduce products onto the market which use less packaging
- **Innovation** and the greater responsibility of the manufacturer
- **Education** of consumers in the selection of products

b) Development of the eco-design of products

- Gradual development of the **environmental responsibility of manufacturers** (implementation of financially attractive technologies)
- **Incitement to extend the lifetime of products** when it is environmentally sound to do so and the **integration of costs** for the final treatment of products into the price.

c) Stimulating recycling and the prevention of waste in the economy

- Extending the scope of the compulsory **local plans for waste prevention** (under departmental plans for the management of household waste)
- **Enhanced reuse of organic waste** which targets as a priority refectories, hospitals, markets, [development of household composting], sanitary improvement of organic matter to be returned to the soil, development of methanation under the health plan
- Radical increase through various means (upstream to downstream, including the standardisation of practices) in the **recycling of waste in the areas of construction and public works**
- **Improvement of the recycling sectors** ('manufacturer's greater responsibility'):

SMEs need to be accompanied in their actions to cut the amount of waste they produce just as much as recycling sectors deserve further recognition and professionalization. Likewise, local authorities must be accompanied in the implementation of waste prevention and reuse actions (e.g.: organic waste)

 - **prevention target for municipal waste: [5 to 7] kg less per inhabitant per year**
 - **recycling targets:**
 - **for household waste: [35% to 60%] in 2015 compared to 19% in 2004;**
 - **for company waste excluding the construction and public works sector and agriculture, move from 68% in 2004 to 75% in 2012**

3.5.3 Active citizens who are aware of sorting and recycling

- **Giving a new push for the recycling of household packaging waste**
 - The **contribution made by the 'Green Dot' (Point Vert)** for packaging could be copied and extended to packaging associated with the consumption of households outside of the home so as to support the management of this type of waste by local authorities
 - Homogenisation of the colour of sorting containers at a national level
- **Encouraging preventive waste management**
 - The cost for the treatment of household waste from private individuals and ordinary waste from companies must be reduced when the aforementioned actively contribute to facilitating treatment through **an incentive-based fare system which combines a fixed and a variable part**. [Over time, parishes which do not apply an incentive-based fare system would have to apply VAT at the normal rate for the collection of household waste].
 - **Eco-tax** associated with the manufacturer's greater responsibility, particularly for dispersed toxic waste: products which generate a lot of waste could be taxed differently.
 - **General tax on polluting activities (TGAP)** for stored waste could be replaced and a new TGAP base created for incinerated waste.

3.5.4 Definition of an effective and relevant mix of waste treatments based on environmental and health principles

- **Improved assessment of possible impacts on health and the environment** of the various treatment and reuse methods, the scrupulous respect of standards for each treatment method, including continuous (or not) air quality monitoring and the monitoring of environmental effects.
- **The place of incineration as part of the solutions**; two positions are being debated:
 - **[A]** incineration provides energy recovery from non-recyclable waste as long as its operating management process and consultations on how it is organised are systematic and in proportion to the stakes at hand; new infrastructure projects can only therefore be considered on the basis that their location and capacity are relevant to the amounts of non-reused and non-recycled waste and that they provide energy effectively (thermal energy, if possible) under controlled conditions. (case by case study)
 - **[B]** the introduction of a moratorium on the building of new incinerators and co-incineration (particularly for cement plants) so as to give a bigger push to the prevention and recycling of associated waste and to reduce the share of incinerated waste to 20% of household and assimilated waste by 2020]

3.5.5 Towards a circular service economy

The economic challenge of environmental policy is not therefore to promote a deindustrialised economy but rather an economy with less carbon, energy and non-renewable natural resources which makes more room, in particular, for a circular economy which is based on reducing and recycling waste and, more generally, the more efficient use of resources and more room for a service economy which replaces the sale of goods with the sale of their use: unlike the selling of a good, renting a good means its lifetime can be extended without affecting exchanges nor the services offered.

- Bringing together in 2008 a **working group with the same composition as the environment round table** to identify the obstacles to the introduction of a service economy and to assess its potential (particularly public contracts). Creation of a pedagogical portal on the environmental impact of products (namely, carbon footprint, lifecycle analysis, ecological footprint, etc.) with transparent foundations. Studying of tax variations in line with this impact.
- **Developing eco-designs** through professional training, tax measures and the encouragement of innovation



4 Developing ecologically-responsible democracy

Background

Radically reforming environmental policy, putting the concerns for the longer term and for future generations at the heart of plans for the development of the country, coming up with a new form of growth – all these things require appropriate policies in all areas: energy, transport, housing, agriculture, health, and so on. A new type of governance is needed. We have to invent new regulations and organisations; in short, we need an ecologically responsible democracy that will encourage consultation, dynamic confrontation between often contradictory interests, negotiation and mediation, within a perspective of sustainable development. The overall approach chosen is one of reconciling environmental protection with the use of the environment, economic development and social progress, (environmental protection should be as high on the agenda as the fundamental interests of France) as laid down by the Environmental Charter.

This will mean changes to institutions, better application of the right to information about environmental matters, clarification of the division of responsibilities between different players, recognition of new players, and a genuine commitment to education about the environment and sustainable development.

A draft framework law in the spring on "ecologically-responsible democracy" or "improving the environmental dialogue" could deal with the principal decisions about governance drawn from the proposals below.

Main areas of discussion

4.1 Recognition of environmental partners

Representative, legitimate players need to have a defined status when it comes to protecting the environment, so they have the means to take part officially in dialogue on the environment as part of the social dialogue.

- Defining **criteria to determine the representativeness of environmental players**, such as competence, independence, amount of support they can muster (number of members, good management, transparency, absence of rights to the use of the interests defended, etc.), actual activity, experience, respect for the values of the Republic, freedom of association, the democratic operation of the association, ability to organise a debate on the environment involving citizens, etc.; determining rights, duties and resources
- **Reforming the Economic and Social Council (CES) by reviewing its composition (bringing in environmental partners) and strengthening its influence** (scope of plans and projects submitted for an opinion; conditions of referral; involvement with the preparations for decisions concerning sustainable development), etc. Specifying its procedures (new college? qualified personalities? CES with constant numbers? marginal or more substantial revision of its composition?).
- **The environment pillar is recognised and fully established within the CES**
- Defining the **institutions open to players from civil society and environmental partners**.

Integrating environmental players within the CESRs using similar procedures to those for the CES, development councils and all other consultative bodies (procedures to be defined) and consular bodies. Study of the feasibility of consular chambers for the environment.

4.2 A national sustainable development strategy approved by a Parliament giving more consideration to the environment and sustainable development

- **Establishment of parliamentary committees dedicated** to sustainable development, with an environment subcommittee in the National Assembly and the Senate, which must be consulted on all texts relating to the budget or the environment
- **Adoption of the national sustainable development strategy by Parliament.** An annual report to Parliament (in parallel with the monitoring of Grenelle)
- **Genuine integration of the opinions of the CES and conference of elected representatives** (if used) consulted in advance, and of the conclusions of national public debates. Justification of the follow-up to these opinions and conclusions.
- Integration of **the environment and sustainable development into the LOLF indicators**

4.3 Local and regional authorities: key players in defining and implementing sustainable development policies

Local and regional authorities are unquestionably the key players in any sustainable development policy. Their conveyance of public policy and local organisational and coordination activities are the necessary conditions for the success of the envisaged actions. It is therefore important to bear this in mind and encourage greater consistency in their respective interventions. As a result it will be necessary to come up with further consultation procedures that will foster more effective action at each level by applying the principle of subsidiarity within a clearly defined perspective of sustainable development.

- The strategic role of the regions when it comes to planning, infrastructure, intercity transport and regional energy and climate plans (which may take priority over one another) is recognised. But in an approach involving central government and other authorities, it will be the responsibility of the departments, local councils and inter-council structures to play the decisive role in local and regional climate plans, carbon "audits", local Agenda 21 initiatives, housing and planning, lighting of public places, etc. The setting up of a "**conference of elected representatives**", which will bring together representatives from the various elected representatives' associations in proportions yet to be specified, should be envisaged. This "conference of elected representatives" could express its own opinions on the national sustainable development strategy alongside those of the CES, before Parliament makes its decision. Its consultative role will be similar to that of the European Committee of the Regions.
- This conference of elected representatives will be involved in the discussion, preparation and implementation of the following:
 - **The national sustainable development strategy** in coherence with the European sustainable development strategy
 - **Setting of the operating budget (DGF) on the basis of environmental criteria** (greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity policy, protection of natural land and farmland, etc.)
 - **Development of responsible public procurement [Revision of the public ordering system** (environmental criteria for choosing and evaluating obligations imposed on the co-contractor, etc.) – see also 4.4-]
 - **Integration of environmental considerations into planning documents (including risks and biodiversity), specifying the evaluation criteria**
 - **Audits of "carbon"** (all greenhouse gases) **to be extended to all areas** from 2008

- **Adoption of a 100% certified timber commitment** in public contracts
- **Regional climate energy plans made compulsory everywhere within 5 years**
- **Linking of decisions on transport and planning**
- Use of local Agenda 21 initiatives implemented by local authorities or local authority groupings as contractual tools between central government, the regions or departments, and local authorities
- **Monitoring and evaluation of experiments in sustainable development**
- Once a year, a **regional version of the "conference of elected representatives"** could bring together representatives from all the authorities in the region and from the decentralised government departments. This would be a chance to conduct an assessment, make any necessary adjustments, coordinate action, etc.
- The issue arises of the **future of the National Council on Sustainable Development (CNDD)**
- **National solidarity effort towards overseas local and regional authorities for them to become showcases for sustainable development.** These overseas authorities should be spearheading eco-development in their region. This assumes the existence of an integrated vision based on tailored programmes in the fields of transport, protection of biodiversity, energy independence (prioritising renewable energies), reduction of waste, new construction (heat insulation to reduce energy consumption), agriculture (biomass), and climate adaptation. This requires the definition, in consultation with those concerned, of particularly ambitious programmes in the following areas:
 - **Energy:** Energy independence of overseas authorities by reducing consumption and using up to [50%] renewable energies for this consumption by 2020 (30% in Mayotte), and in particular: supporting research and development (within the framework of the ANR and PREBAT). Adopting regulations that encourage the use of solar hot water production in new buildings. Reducing demand (particularly by setting an example in the public sector); supporting renewable energies with the aim of a climate energy plan in 2012. Establishing the overseas departments as priority areas for work by competitiveness clusters looking at renewable energies.
 - **Waste:** Achieving exemplary integrated waste management by 2020, combining reduction of waste production with recycling and value generation from waste
 - **Natural risks:** introduction of an earthquake plan for the West Indies and implementation of a policy of natural risk prevention in all overseas territories and departments by 2015.
 - **Biodiversity and natural resources:** introduction of a system to protect habitats and wild species, management and knowledge of the sea and its resources; integrated management plans at micro-basin level. Setting up of a biodiversity monitoring system and a national observatory for the marine environment. Introduction of a tailored system of protection for land and species, comparable to the Natura 2000 system in mainland France. Strengthening of the IFRECOR system and greater involvement of France in organising the international network for protecting coral reefs. Completion of the marine sanctuary project for the Caribbean; support for the classification as a UNESCO world heritage site of the heights (Hauts) on Réunion.
 - **Extraction operations:** development of an overall vision for the future management of these operations in Guiana, and incentives for doing this in New Caledonia. Review of the Kaw mountain project over at least 6 months regarding its social and environmental impact
 - **Pollution and health:** setting up of a participative taskforce on chlordecone in the West Indies: health monitoring, programme of pollution removal from the soil, retraining, land management, support. Improvement of the state of the water by 2015 and provision of safe supplies of drinking water. Improvement of pollution awareness and strengthening of the role of the water boards in this respect. *Action on paraquat.*
 - **Governance:** centre of excellence, regional cooperation. Apply the right of experimentation laid down by law to adapt regulatory provisions and incentives (finance, tax) to the overseas departments and territories. Ensure better appropriation by decision-makers and the population of the problem of sustainable development, and their involvement in the "overseas" action plan agreed as part of Grenelle

4.4 Exemplary public authorities

- **"Carbon" audit** of all public buildings and plan to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- **Environmentally responsible public procurement** calls for the adaptation of the public contracts code to make environmental criteria as important as price, and to allow ecological variants in responses to calls for tender
- A **training session on environmental issues and sustainable development**, including health and the environment, could be compulsory for all senior civil servants before they become prefects, ambassadors, directors of central administrations, etc.
- Addition of **an environment title to the LOLF** (monitoring indicators, environmental taxation scheme, etc.)
- **Coherence of public policy** to be guaranteed by the national sustainable development strategy
- **Reduction by 50% by 2012** of paper consumption by the administrations and 100% recycled paper use from 2012.

4.5 Public decision-making that takes account of sustainable development

Decisions should be made transparently and should be based on consultation and participation; enough time should always be allowed for decision-making, which should include access to information, and evaluation and expertise by a range of players; decision-making should be followed by effective application.

- **Anticipation, evaluation and management of social and economic changes** brought on by the decisions being considered (purchasing power, jobs, training, etc.) in a spirit of cohesion and social justice
- **Reform of public enquiries** to ensure better public participation
- **Public debate**: increasing the scope of public debate and the possibilities for referral; overhauling the procedure by including issues of governance of the post-debate period and the presentation of the alternatives; establish a calendar for public debates on particular problems.
- **Association with all draft legislation** of an impact study to be carried out in advance on sustainable development, and of a system for evaluation and consultation in relation to sustainable development for draft legislation, with justification of decisions and consultation of the rapporteurs of legislation when it comes to decrees of application.
- **Environmental evaluation of tax laws and measures. Reform of impact studies**: bringing them into compliance with European law; better consideration of impact studies in decision-making and when extending the scope of plans and programmes for which environmental assessments must be made
- **Systematic evaluation of the environmental impact of existing economic instruments**, whether public aid, subsidies, tax expenditure or grants to local and regional authorities. Gradual generalisation of the application of environmental conditions to public aid
- **Establishment of the production of environmental information and guaranteed access to this information as a genuine public policy** (spotting emerging phenomena, partnership to share the information). **Development of a pluralist national expertise framework** (public, private, charities, international, interdisciplinary) for sustainable development. Reorganisation of public expertise into major centres open to governance by partnership. Possibility of players from civil society consulting the expert bodies.

- Creation of an **independent high authority for mediation** in conflicts on expert assessments and environmental warnings. Its powers and operating procedures should be specified within the framework of a parliamentary taskforce. This authority could constitute an "appeal body" in the event of conflicting expert assessments and could back up the issuing of warnings.
- **A High Council for Expertise** would guarantee the transparency, methods and ethics of expert assessments

4.6 Ecologically-responsible governance for economic and social players

This objective requires: the involvement of managers and employees, the assumption of liability by management and supervisory boards, the establishment of an open dialogue with external stakeholders, the expansion of the role of institutions representing staff and changes to the issues that can be collectively negotiated by sites and companies; and measures adapted to the types and sizes of companies.

- **Inclusion in annual reports** of information concerning sustainable development policies and ESG (environmental, social and governance) risks and the provision of information on these issues to management boards and shareholders' meetings during AGMs; adaptation to the size of small and medium businesses. During the French Presidency of the European Union, making sure the issue of companies' responsibility for environmental and social matters abroad is taken into account within the European framework.
- **Making sure** companies already involved assume their social and environmental responsibilities fully as part of the full application of the **NRE law**. Extending the reporting obligations under this law to the consolidation of accounts. Including subsidiaries in these reports. Increasing the number of companies subject to the reporting obligation in accordance with limits to be defined. Extending this to public companies. Taking account of the specific nature of small and medium businesses.
- Encouraging the use of sets of social and environmental **indicators** (four to six), in line with the type of company and sector, which tie in with the European and international framework. Making changes to corporate accounting in this vein. Organising a joint study with French MPs and other players concerned on the issue of social and environmental indicators and corporate accounting, with a view to transposing the environmental liability directive.
- **Integrating sustainable development into forums for dialogue and negotiation within companies and their sites**, and defining procedures for accessing expertise on environmental matters. Introducing the environment and sustainable development into the work of the CHSCTs and Works Councils on terms to be negotiated with the social partners; adaptation to the size of small and medium businesses. Involving staff representation bodies in preparing sustainable development reports and encouraging the setting up of sustainable development committees. Establishment by companies, on the themes of risks, the environment and sustainable development, of a dialogue open to employees, the local community, local authorities, associations, and government departments (citizens' advisory panel or local information committees model). Organisation of a procedural framework for dealing with warnings subject to conditions protecting the issuer of the warning.
- Giving more space to environmental issues (including the link between health and the environment) in **company training plans**
- **Developing environmental and social labelling for products**, sector by sector, on the basis of rigorous and transparent reference systems established by a variety of accredited experts (including expertise from environmental and social partners and consumer associations), consistent with the Community framework
- **Introducing "responsible company" labels for SMEs**, issued by independent, accredited certifying bodies on the basis of reference systems consistent with international reference systems. This labelling will be accompanied by certain benefits, particularly tax benefits.
- **"Synergy centres"**: by voluntary contract between the government and local or regional authorities, creation of employers' groups in business parks, recruitment of an environment

manager for the communal management of these areas

- **Promoting socially responsible investment** through information campaigns and incentive schemes (similar to the save-as-you-earn scheme in the NRE law)

4.7 Responsible citizens and consumers: education, training and information

4.7.1 Education on the environment and sustainable development

Additional work was considered necessary

See to the importance of linking education, training and information about the environment and sustainable on the issues of meaning and values. As well as educating in environmental citizenship and ecological awareness, a link should also be made between these and policies for the city and its deprived areas.

- **Developing and strengthening education and awareness training in ecology and sustainable development, including health and the environment.** Extending teaching on ecology and sustainable development to every curriculum (primary and secondary schools, sixth form and training colleges, apprenticeships, universities, engineering and design institutes, post-graduate centres, teacher-training colleges, etc.), regardless of specialist subject.
- **Integrating sustainable development into the strategies of universities**
 - Drawing up a "green plan" for campuses and certifying universities and 'grandes écoles' on the basis of sustainable development criteria (energy efficiency of buildings, access by public transport, environmental footprint, carbon audit, etc.).
 - Combining the student card with a public transport card
- **Making sure the natural sciences are taught at all levels:** from primary school to the 'grandes écoles', in professional training, whether initial or continuing, and raising awareness using every means available to the public authorities; strengthening teaching programmes in the natural sciences, including biology and ecology, in primary, secondary and higher education, with the inclusion of field work and outdoor lessons.

4.7.2 Professional and continuing training

- **Improving the teaching of agricultural science in agricultural secondary schools,** and ensuring there are strong links with research in continuing training to guarantee the rapid spread of methods developed experimentally. Introduction of "agriculture and biodiversity" modules in agriculture, agricultural science, horticulture and park management courses. **Target of 20% of farmers to have undergone training linked to new environmental techniques by 2012** (new low-input farming methods)
- **Promoting initial and continuing training for health professionals** and environment professionals (engineers, architects, etc.). Including **health and environment awareness in training for primary and secondary teachers.**
- **Setting up lifelong training initiatives to support job transitions** linked to sustainable development, and using them with the environmental and eco-design sectors.
 - For the construction professions (architects, heat engineers, electricians, contractors, project managers, construction technicians)
 - For public and private decision-makers: developing continuing training at a very high level in ecology and sustainable development with an arrangement similar to the

senior defence college, but for the environment and sustainable development. This national initiative could take the form of sustainable development chairs in the regions.

- o "Universities of the environment" for practitioners from all sectors to study the environment
- o Annual training plans, advance planning of jobs and skills, validation of lessons drawn from experience, in-work training and the individual right to training can all benefit the environment, though this should not be to the detriment of essential traditional training. Environmental concerns should be introduced into all existing roles, and new jobs should be developed, particularly to foster the spread of eco-design and life cycle analysis for all products.
- **Developing continuing training within public administrations:** Training for civil servants working for central government and the local and regional authorities in ecology and sustainable development and also strategies for protecting against natural risks (avalanches, floods, fire, etc.) and health and technological risks must be increased and updated throughout their career. Senior officials could be made to take a training course before assuming regional management or organisational functions... Encouraging the involvement in this training of approved training and environmental awareness-raising associations
- **Improving training for experts in certain subjects where capability is lacking** (toxicology, ecotoxicology, epidemiology, ecology, etc.)

4.7.3 Providing information for citizens and consumers

Consumers must be players in environmental change.

- **Supporting media efforts** at education and raising awareness to the environment, and placing certain obligations on public television and radio channels in their broadcasting terms

4.7.3.1 Improving and making the use of sustainable development indicators more widespread

- Quickly developing a **set of sustainable development indicators** such as green GDP and natural public capital (INSEE, IFEN, etc.)
- Introducing and explaining to Parliament and the general public a **dashboard of sustainable development indicators for France**. This dashboard should correlate with the national sustainable development strategy.
- **Indicators:** national conference with the support of specialist institutes to completely revise public and private indicators for all levels (from experts to private individuals, including the financial community), to provide a picture understood by everyone and monitor changes in the environment, biodiversity and pollution. Government commitment: report for all its departments in 2010.

4.7.3.2 Giving environmental information on products and services

- **Generalising environmental information on products and services:** energy label applied to all high energy consumption products, with a single reference system; development of eco-labels; support for voluntary approaches to giving information on ecological impact, with the gradual introduction of compulsory information; study of the **general introduction of the 'environmental price'** (a second price ticket telling consumers the environmental cost of the goods they are about to buy), eventually leading to a joint environmental tax
- **Making environmentally responsible actions and purchases more favourable** in the public domain as well as the private domain.

4.7.3.3 Promoting responsible advertising

- **Imposing stricter rules on advertising with regard to sustainable development and the environment**, to put an end to the misuse of environmental claims or advertisements showing behaviour that goes against the need to protect the environment: official quality marks; media specifications; information campaigns; existence of economic information on sustainable consumption; legal liability of the media in cases of misinformation
- **Developing the current self-regulation policy (BVP) into a policy of joint regulation of advertising** with a more open, collaborative body, for better assurance of environmentally friendly advertising.

4.8 Pushing for the necessary changes in Europe and internationally

As part of its Presidency of the European Union in the second half of 2008, France must take the initiative in Europe once again. The work of the groups has identified a number of concerns in this regard, including:

- Promotion by the French Presidency of **forests/biodiversity as one of the pillars of the post-Kyoto provisions**. Within this framework, active support for the introduction of innovative finance schemes to prevent deforestation.
- **Fight against the illegal timber trade** and development of alternatives to the destructive exploitation of forests, in the form of management of these areas. Attention will be given to the Congo basin.
- Increased mobilisation of resources (particularly financial and diplomatic resources) to bring the French initiative of the International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (**IMOSEB**) to completion. Biodiversity needs its own scientific and intergovernmental mechanism similar to the one for the climate, the IPCC.
- Making increasing international support for the creation of a **United Nations Environment Organisation (UNEO)** a priority of French diplomacy.
- Taking account systematically of the **environment/biodiversity pillar in development policy**, particularly when programming and evaluating action by the French development agency (AFD). In particular, taking care to integrate targets for reducing poverty and protecting biodiversity (10% of development aid projects should include a biodiversity section).
- Promotion by France of **environmental criteria** (particularly biodiversity) to the World Trade Organisation (**WTO**), the **World Bank** and the European Investment Bank (**EIB**).
- Establishment from spring 2008 of a platform of partners for the **French Presidency** in the **biodiversity and natural resources** sectors; particularly on issues in the 2010 objective, overseas areas and invasive species; creating a special post at the French permanent representation in Brussels for the protection of biodiversity, natural resources and monitoring international conventions on these subjects.
- **Inclusion of the green belt in the pan-European network**
- **Pilot Mediterranean programme** for the joint management of biodiversity
- Initiation of an **Arctic Treaty** during the French Presidency
- Launch of a study of the **inclusion of external costs** when revising the Eurovignette in future
- **Review of expert opinions**, particularly on GMOs, and nano- and biotechnologies;
- **Support for research programmes** on the environment **and for European initiatives** concerning energy and rail infrastructure (making market liberalisation work for the environment);
- Strengthening DG Environment
- **Inclusion of REACH in an international framework** that goes beyond Europe

- **Consideration of sustainable development criteria** and synthetic input reduction potential when evaluating seed varieties for registration;
- Revision of the **CO₂ standards for vehicles** (target of 120g or less)
- Linking of tax proposals with European timetables