



GREENPEACE



FONDATION
NICOLAS HULOT
POUR LA NATURE
ET L'HOMME



Press release

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FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE “THE CASE OF THE CENTURY” (“L’AFFAIRE DU SIÈCLE”), THE GOVERNMENT REMAINED SILENT BUT THE CITIZENS WON’T!

NGOS CALL FOR TESTIMONIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS IN FRANCE

On December 18, 2018, Notre Affaire à Tous, the Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind, Greenpeace France and Oxfam France launched the “Case of the Century” (l’Affaire du Siècle), announcing their intention to sue the French State over insufficient climate action. Within a few days, this unprecedented initiative received the colossal support of more than 2 million people, who signed the petition launched on the occasion. In March 2019, the 4 NGOs filed an official complaint before the Paris Administrative Court. A year later, the Government has not responded nor taken significant measures to tackle the climate emergency, despite the many scientific reports published in 2019 pressing for urgent action... According to the four organizations, if the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions observed since 2015 keeps the same pace, France would reach their objectives a third of a century later than the due date! Committed to win their case, the four organizations continue with a broad mobilization in 2020 and have called for citizen’s testimonies to create an unprecedented map of climate change impacts in France.

A year later, call it “the delay of the century”!

Challenged at the end of 2018 on their failure to resolve the climate crisis, the French State pleaded not guilty in February 2019. François de Rugy, then Minister for the Ecological and Solidary Transition, claimed the administration was doing a lot on the matter in a response letter to the four organizations.

The climate emergency has been declared. The Energy-Climate Bill passed in September 2019, established carbon neutrality by 2050 but without raising the target of -40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. No only this is insufficient under the Paris Agreement, but also inconsistent with Emmanuel Macron declaration for a more ambitious target of -55% by 2030 at the European level. **In fact, at the rate of reduction in emissions observed since 2015, France would only reach either of these two objectives a third of a century¹ after the target date :**

- If we refer to the European goal, the reduction of -55% in 2030 would be achieved in France in 2059, that is 29 years behind schedule.
- The carbon neutrality expected in 2050 would be obtained in 2093, that is, 43 years behind schedule.

¹- Delay calculated in an indicative way by projecting the linear reduction rate observed since 2015 over the coming years (from the data of the project of the [second National Low Carbon Strategy by the Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition](#)). Details in the press kit, section “France facing the backwardness of the century”.

This delay is unacceptable, considering the multiplication of climate change evidence: heat waves (absolute record of 46 °C reached in the region of Hérault in France in June 2019), damaged or lost crops, exceptional forests mortality, dry out of groundwater sources, coastal erosion due to rising sea levels, melting glaciers, but also floods, storms and their consequences on populations (death, destroyed habitats, anxiety about the future, etc.).

Citizens called to bear witness with #TémoinDuClimat to build a map of the impacts of climate change in France

Facing the emergency, still awaiting the formal response from the State to the appeal, Notre Affaire à Tous, the Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind, Greenpeace France and Oxfam France will keep mobilizing to confront the State the reality of climate change in France and pressure them to act. On December 18 they are launching a massive call for testimonies which ambitions to build a new mapping of the impacts of climate change in France gathering citizens' point of view.

In fact, according to ONERC (National Observatory on the Effects of Climate Change), 62% of the French population is exposed to a high or very high level of climate risks.

Who can testify? How do you do?

All citizens who witness or are direct victims of climate change are invited to express themselves on social networks with the hashtag #TémoinDuClimat or on the Affaire du Siècle website.

Anybody can share the changes they observe (rising temperatures, multiplication of extreme weather events, coastal erosion, disturbed plants and animals, etc.) and describe how they are impacted (their health, housing, loss of income, daily life and concern about the future, etc.). These testimonies will constitute an unprecedented map of the climate situation in France.

Some of these testimonies may be included in the legal file constituted by lawyers from the Affaire du Siècle (subject to the agreement of the witnesses).

Testify for the Affaire du Siècle:
laffairedusiecle.net/temoin-du-climat

#TémoinDuClimat

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