OPINIONS
OF THE ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL
AND ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL

Making a Success of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference

Céline Mesquida
Bernard Guirkinger

April 2015

TOUS ENSEMBLE
POUR LE CLIMAT
cop21.gouv.fr #COP21

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
LIBERTÉ - ÉGALITÉ - FRATERNITÉ
CONSEIL ÉCONOMIQUE
SOCIAL ET ENVIRONNEMENTAL

Les éditions des
Journaux officiels

2015-11
NOR: CESL1500011X
Tuesday 12 May 2015

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE FRENCH REBPUBLIC

Mandate 2010-2015 – Session of 28 and 29 April 2015

MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE 2015 PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Opinion of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council
presented by
Ms Céline Mesquida and Mr Bernard Guirkinger, rapporteurs
on behalf of the
Section for European and International Affairs

Issue brought before the Economic, Social and Environmental Council through a decision by its bureau on 13 May 2014 pursuant to Article 3 of Order No. 58-1360 dated 29 December 1958 as amended, concerning the Organic Law on the Economic, Social and Environmental Council. The bureau entrusted to the Section of European and International Affairs the drafting of an opinion entitled: *Making a Success of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference*. The Section for European and International Affairs, presided over by Mr Yves Veyrier, appointed Ms Céline Mesquida and Mr Bernard Guirkinger as rapporteurs.

MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE 2015 PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE[1]

Summary of the Opinion

In November 2011, the ESEC voted on an opinion entitled, "*International Climate Negotiations and the Durban Conference*". The holding in France, at the end of this year, of the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention (COP 21) provides an opportunity for the ESEC to issue a follow-up opinion.

All of the scientific data points to the same alarming finding: global warming is being exacerbated due to the effects of an unprecedented increase in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Worldwide, the signs of climate disruption are already more than apparent and will continue to intensify if nothing is done about them, as was highlighted by the IPCC.

The outlook for the future is therefore disturbing to say the least, as the lives of current and future generations are at stake if we fail to challenge current modes of production and consumption that are incompatible with limited resources and the fair distribution of wealth.

At the same time, the successive major international climate change conferences have struggled to progress towards an international climate regulatory framework. These conferences are not about the climate alone, but take place at the confluence of contradictory geostrategic, political and economic interests.

Within this context, the goal of concluding a global, fair and ambitious agreement in Paris is a challenge that must be risen to.

Recommendations:

Promote and foster positive initiatives

Initiatives to combat global warming and adapt to rising temperatures are increasing in number at the municipal and regional levels and among small and medium-sized enterprises, NGOs and citizens. Trade unions and major international organisations are also playing a highly active role and are helping to mobilise civil society and political leaders.

Some examples are the closure of a household refuse tip due to selective collection in Mexico, purification stations in Milan combining the treatment of grey water and agricultural irrigation, steps taken voluntarily by major industrial sector companies and many SMEs towards a low carbon society, research in both the public and private sectors in the areas of energy storage, renewable energies and transportation, etc., agricultural programmes by the French NGO *CCFD-Terre Solidaire* in developing countries, actions by the International Trade Union Confederation and the Ocean and Climate Platform, etc.

The ESEC wishes to place climate at the heart of discussions within society and encourages all civil society and local authority actors to continue with and step up their efforts with three goals in mind: reduce energy consumption, produce and

1 **The draft opinion was adopted in its entirety by public vote with 172 votes and 1 abstention** (see annexed voting results).

consume differently by rethinking economic models and foster the development of low-carbon processes and technologies.

Reach a global, fair and ambitious agreement

This mobilisation calls for no less than international regulation among all UN Member States.

Make commitments in accordance with scientific recommendations

The ESEC advocates:

- **Preserving the multilateral framework** of negotiations to deal with a challenge of global proportions.
- **Adopting a global, fair and ambitious agreement**with a dynamic logic that evolves over time.
- **Stepping up European Union climate diplomacy** by promoting its commitments within the international community.
- **Measuring and verifying GHG emissions** through international measurement of compliance with commitments made.
- **Participation and involvement on a proactive basis of civil society and other actors** :
  - A concerted awareness-raising action undertaken by public authorities on climate issues and the fostering of all forms of environmental dialogue;
  - Inclusion within the contributions of the various States of a section on the methods used to inform and involve the public;
  - Full involvement of civil society, particularly [national] economic, social and environmental councils, in preparing for the COP 21 and monitoring the implementation of decisions taken.

Ensure equitable support of the most vulnerable populations

The ESEC advocates:

- **Upholding the financial commitments made in Copenhagen in 2009 for the Green Climate Fund**

In order to ensure that the Fund has at its disposal the envisaged sum of USD 100 billion by 2020, it recommends:

- Implementing an international tax on financial transactions with the broadest possible tax base;
- Contributions by the international aviation and maritime transportation industries through a financial mechanism targeting CO_2;
- The use of International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights (SDR).

- **Efficient and fair use of the Green Climate Fund**

To this end, it insists in particular on the need to:

  - prioritise allocation of funds, by means of transparent criteria, to projects having as their recipients the most vulnerable populations;
  - make it possible for local authorities to apply to the Green Fund directly and more generally to apply for international financing;
  - ensure direct participation by civil society organisations on the Fund's Board.

- **Inclusion of the climate challenge in development assistance policies**

With the prospect of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in September 2015 just months before the COP 21 in Paris, our assembly wishes to underscore:

  - The importance of consolidating links between these negotiations and, more broadly, those associated with the environment (climate, biodiversity and desertification);
  - The granting of technical and administrative support to developing countries in order to establish their own sources of financing.

The pursuit of new development models

Pushing for economic regulation that is able to take on the climate challenge

Our assembly favours:

- **Economic and banking regulation** that is better suited to long-term financing needs.
- **Increased mobilisation of private sector financing and the creation of investment funds** focusing on environmental transitioning.
- **Supporting initiatives that put a price on carbon.**
- **Progressive withdrawal of fossil fuel subsidies.**

Rethinking international governance to support fair transitions

The ESEC is working to prepare and provide support for employees and various activity sectors.

To this end, it recommends:

- **Stepping up social dialogue at the international level** within the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in support of the negotiation of sectoral agreements specifically linked to fair socio-economic transitioning.
- **The development of international framework agreements** to prepare and plan transitioning.
- **The development of a non-financial rating system for businesses** to promote responsible investment.

- **The carrying out of preliminary studies**, by sector and geographical area, on the medium and long-term impacts on employment of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies.
- **The setting in place of vocational transition pathways** for decent, quality jobs in sectors offering social and technological innovation.

Improve provision for the challenge posed by persons displaced by environmental factors

There is a risk that environmental deterioration may give rise to or exacerbate tensions between populations, which may lead to armed conflict.

The ESEC is in favour of more in-depth thinking on the diversity of possible political responses, centred around two points:

- **The use of existing tools for the governance of international migration** (regional or bilateral agreements).
- **Proactive management of displacement** rather than dealing with it as an emergency in a crisis.

Opinion

General Introduction

In November 2011, the ESEC voted on an opinion entitled, "*International Climate Negotiations and the Durban Conference*". Four years on, the holding in France, from 30 November to 11 December, of the 21st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention (COP 21) provides an opportunity for the ESEC to issue a follow-up opinion. It should also be noted that in 2015, two other major international conferences are taking place:

- one is on development finance in Addis-Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015;
- the other is on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in New York, on 25 and 27 September.

These three major conferences form part of a global dynamic focusing on the sustainable development of our planet. These must address SDG, development financing and action on climate change in an interlinked way within a short time-frame.

Our opinion is a distillation of their reflection and recommendations on climate negotiations.

Climate disruption: the time for declarations is over - we face an emergency

The conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), adopted at its last plenary session held in Copenhagen from 27 October to 1st November 2014, point to the same alarming finding: *"Human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history (…) warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia. (…)"*.

Stores of greenhouse gases (GHG) that have accumulated in the atmosphere since the industrial revolution have largely been emitted by developed countries. However, recent GHG emissions are increasingly attributable to emerging countries. These countries now emit 58% of the global total. China, the foremost emitter, accounting for 28% of CO_2 emissions, is far ahead of the United States (18%) although per capita emissions variations remain considerable.

Signs of climate disruption are more than apparent and will worsen unless rapid action is taken to remain below the global warming threshold of 2°C. Experts are no longer ruling out a global warming scenario ranging between 3.7°C and 4.8°C by 2100.

The oceans are warming and becoming more acidic, extreme weather phenomena are becoming more numerous, and the appearance of new infectious diseases can no longer be ignored. The impacts of climate change on a planet populated by 9 billion inhabitants by 2050 may be catastrophic for agriculture and food production.

ALL over the world, considerable disruption is being observed, which may intensify, for example:

- early flowering, such as in the viticulture sector in Alsace, where flowering has been occurring fifteen days earlier since the beginning of the 1980s, whereas prior to that time, they had never changed;
- the recurrence of mega-fires in Australia, such as those that ravaged Adelaide in January 2015, with temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius;
- the increase in the number and intensity of floods across the North-American continent and Asia;
- increased acidification of the oceans, which threatens ecosystems and marine biodiversity all over the world;
- extension of deserts, such as the Gobi desert, which claims a surface area equivalent in size to France every year;
- the major risk of water stress, submersion and erosion in the Mediterranean basin, as attested to by the water shortage that hit Barcelona in 2008, leading to plans to supply the city with water shipped from the port of Marseilles. The city of Alexandria on the Nile Delta and the densely populated rural area surrounding it (1,600 inhabitants per km^2, on average)[2], is significantly threatened by the acceleration in sea level rise.

The most vulnerable and deprived populations are currently the first in developing countries to be exposed to increasing water and food scarcity and to sudden shocks to their livelihoods. **It is also to be feared that the gains made in the fight against poverty, as uneven as these may have been, may for the most part be cancelled out.**

When appearing before the Section for European and International Affairs, **Mr François GEMENNE,** a specialist researcher in the field of environmental migration, spelled out the consequences of 4°C warming: *"A **great many regions would become uninhabitable** in the future and significant population movement is to be expected worldwide. Obviously, this is a discussion that we are not currently prepared to have at all".* He expressed the view in the same interview that between 2050 and the end of the century, over 200 million people could be forced to migrate for climate-related reasons, thereby increasing the risk of conflict and war.

The outlook for the future is therefore disturbing to say the least, as the lives of current and future generations are at stake if we fail to challenge current modes of production and consumption that are incompatible with limited resources and the fair distribution of wealth.

Within this context, the actions of political leaders, all too often centred on the short-term, appear completely out of step with current scientific knowledge concerning the consequences of accelerating climate change which calls for radical measures. This disparity may be explained in part by economic interests which are difficult to regulate so as to align them with the public good, and also by time-frames, particularly electoral time-frames, which are ill-suited to the execution of climate projects which require constancy, continuity and a long-term outlook.

2 *Impacts of climate change on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Mediterranean region.* UNEP – Mediterranean Action Plan – Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas Tunis – 2010.

From Copenhagen to Paris: the difficult road to regulation of the climate crisis

When appearing before the Section, Senator Ronan Dantec was at pains to point out the complex nature of these negotiations and the difficulty of winning over opposition due to the singular nature of the issue itself: *"the approach and analytical standpoint taken is often more of an environmental analysis whereas, at its core, climate negotiation is a pivotal global economic and geostrategic issue (…). Correspondingly, choices made on climate have a global economic impact"*.

In any event, global geopolitical balances will shift as the effects of climate change are felt. **For example, accelerated warming could be viewed by States such as Russia and Canada as being beneficial in the short-term:** the melting of the Arctic ice cap would open up new trade routes, making hitherto unexploitable hydrocarbon deposits more accessible. Although the global challenge posed by climate disruption requires international regulation to drastically limit GHG emissions, **selfish interests, be these national or economic, are all too often what tend to be put first.** Year after year, geopolitical conflicts, economic resistance and political tensions weigh upon climate negotiations. Each new round of collective discussions attests to the difficulty of maintaining an ever fragile balance. It should also be pointed out that the difficulty of Heads of State to reach a global agreement at the Copenhagen Conference in 2009 was a source of profound disappointment for citizens and civil society actors.

In this regard, numerous political, civil society and economic leaders interviewed in order to prepare this opinion make no bones about the risk of despondency on a massive scale should the Paris Conference fail to end in an agreement after over 20 years of negotiations.

In an opinion issued in 2011 in the run-up to the Durban Conference, the ESEC took stock of international climate negotiations. This follow-up opinion now provides an opportunity to recall a number of key steps:

- in Copenhagen in 2009, the States undertook to collectively limit global warming to less than 2 degrees. To aid developing countries specifically, they also pledged to provide these with financial assistance. Subsequently, more than USD 35 billion were granted for the 2010-2012 period;
- in Cancun in 2010, the decision was taken to establish a Green Climate Fund to finance the support of developing countries in order to help these to reduce their GHG emissions and adapt to the effects of climate disruption. The fund will rise to USD 100 billion a year from 2020, and the World Bank has been appointed its temporary administrator;
- In Durban in 2011, the States agreed that a global agreement would be adopted by 2015.

At the Lima Conference in 2014, countries adopted a general framework to formalise their GHG emissions reduction actions by 1st March 2015. A summary of all commitments made is to be prepared by 1st November 2015 by the United Nations Convention Secretariat, which will enable overall efforts envisaged to be assessed. This is a major component of the "Paris 2015" agenda. And as regards the delay, at this stage, in consolidating the various commitments made by the States, the ability to collectively meet the goal of a 2 degree rise is a genuine challenge.

Alongside this, initiatives have been taken by the United States and China, in particular, who on 12 November 2014 signed an agreement at the APEC Summit, with China agreeing to the goal of reducing its GHG emissions after 2030 at the latest, and the United States reducing theirs by between 26% and 28% by 2025, compared with their 2000 emissions levels. With this agreement, an emerging country has acknowledged for the first time that its involvement is needed in order to combat climate change. This realisation is commendable but for the most part falls short of what is to be expected from the two major powers with the means to commit now to transition to low-carbon, natural resource efficient economies. However, these provisions are much too limited to keep global warming below 2 degrees. The United States and India, the 3rd largest global emitter, also concluded an agreement on 25 January 2015 that sets no limits on CO_2 emissions but focuses on increased cooperation in the development of renewable energies.

The European Union, for its part, set out its new climate-energy policy goals at the European Council on 23 and 24 October 2014. It envisages a 40% decrease in its GHG emissions by 2030 compared with 1990 levels. The ESEC adopted a resolution on 14 October 2014 highlighting the importance of setting out an ambitious Climate-Energy Package as a major first step before the Paris Conference.

In addition to the drastic capping of GHG emissions, another central issue continues to be a source of contention in the "Paris 2015" Agenda, which is: **the equitable sharing of efforts to be made surrounding the principles of "common but differentiated responsibilities" and international financial solidarity for developing countries** particularly through the meeting of financial commitments concerning the Green Climate Fund.

In any event, effectively combating climate disruption requires a double leverage effect. Firstly, the adoption of a fair international agreement with equitable sharing of efforts to limit global warming to 2°C would provide a general framework for action for the public authorities at State level. Secondly, the mobilisation of all civil society stakeholders, through their many initiatives, will provide an impetus and ensure that this agreement truly becomes a reality. Indeed, these link-ups between the various levels of action will make it possible to achieve tangible results for each actor.

Recommendations

Promote and foster positive initiatives

Among policy makers, heads of civil society organisations, trade union leaders, business leaders and citizens alike, many have already assessed the gravity of the situation and are investing on the ground. Initiatives to fight global warming and adapt to rising temperatures are multiplying. **These initiatives are a hotbed for ideas that heralds a profound change in our development model.**

In this regard, Mr Nicolas Hulot, when appearing before the section, put it this way: *"This is perhaps what I find most inspiring about (…) the many visits that I have undertaken: climate constraints have already been factored in, firstly, in some cases, in the economic sphere, by engineers, research centres and at the risk of repeating myself, the tools do exist. Sometimes they are still at the research stage, and sometimes they are all but ready to be applied in industry. At any rate, it can be seen that these constraints have generated a profusion of innovations and that there are an enormous number of practices, be these in the field of agriculture, energy, energy efficiency or intermittent energy storage, that are already operational - on a limited scale, in some cases - but which are totally reproducible on a large scale"*.

Cities and Regions, a hotbed of initiatives

According to the United Nations, urban conurbations emit more than two-thirds of all greenhouse gases. All over the world, municipalities, local governments and entire regions have already assessed the environmental issues involved and committed to what are sometimes very ambitious programmes to prevent or adapt to climate disruption.

The city of London has, for example, cut access by private vehicles to the city centre by 20%, thereby reducing CO_2 emissions by the same amount.

Mexico: closure of the Bordo Poniente dump

During the mid-2000s, Mexico City implemented a vast plan to reduce household refuse volumes through the use of selective collection. Organic materials are used to produce natural fertilisers and energy. This policy led to the closure in 2012 of the Bordo Poniente dump, one of the largest landfills in the world. In 2013, the site was fitted with a methane gas collection system which is used to generate electricity. In so doing, the city cut its GHG emissions by 20%.

The city of Rio de Janeiro is developing a number of environmental programmes. One of these, which has received USD 50 million in World Bank financing since 2010, seeks to modernise the handling of waste recycling and set in place the foundations for a local carbon market; another, also financed by the World Bank, which has been running since 1986, is reforesting the *favelas*.

TheState of California, which has felt the full brunt of the effects of rising temperatures since the the 1980s, adopted the *Global Warming Solutions Act* (or *Assembly Bill 32*, AB 32) in 2006, spurred by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the main objective of which

is to bring GHG emissions levels in 2020 down to 1990 levels. This Act, which may be considered first complete set of long-term measures adopted in the United States to fight climate change, is based essentially on tax incentives for local industrial sector companies and the general public (vehicles with lower GHG emissions, solar installations) providing for an energy mix by 2020 that includes one third of energy from renewable sources. It is interesting to note that this policy is supported by the public, since in November 2010, powerful local industrial and oil lobbies failed to garner the support of Californians when they tried to organise a "spontaneous" referendum against the Act.

With the support of the United Nations, in 2010 the *Regions of Climate Action* (R20) initiative was created, uniting the world's major regions to fight GHG emissions, produce locally, create employment and better protect the environment. On 10 and 11 October 2014, the ESEC also hosted the R20 Global Summit. The R20 promotes a range of adaptation and mitigation measures.

A flagship example of R20 action: the "*cool roofs and cool pavements*" programme developed by the NGO Global Cool Cities Alliance:

Roofs and pavements make up around 60% of a city's surface area and generally absorb 80% of solar radiation, which explains why temperatures in urban areas are markedly higher than in surrounding rural environments. The use of light colours, and the choice of more reflective materials, the planting of trees and the installation of solar panels all substantially reduce absorption and therefore the temperatures of homes and cities (adaptation). However, these techniques also reduce energy consumption (air conditioning for example) and thereby CO_2 emissions. These techniques have been used experimentally in Almeria in Spain, Delhi, New York and Toronto (See practical guide on the website of the NGO Global Cool Cities Alliance).

ON a wholly different scale, numerous initiatives are coming into being at city and regional level in China. This nation, which is the world's largest emitter of CO_2 - in China, around 70% of primary energy is generated from coal -, in fact faces increasingly pressing pollution problems (urban and industrial) and the consequences of climate change, such as water stress and the extension of desert zones. And at the same time, the central government continues to be divided between a desire to fuel growth - the aspiration of the middle classes to follow western models of consumption is a powerful one - and the need to take into account environmental and climate factors by lowering its carbon footprint and making use of cleaner energy sources. Substantial efforts have been made to develop renewable energies. In 2011, 18% of electricity was generated from renewable sources and the goal is for 20% of total energy consumption to be renewable by 2020. China certainly benefits from its size, but is nevertheless the largest user of solar thermal collectors (67% of the total installed surface area in the world) and the largest user of wind energy with over 91 GW installed. The government plans to have 200 GW installed by 2020.

Many local authorities, in partnership with businesses, are getting involved in projects in the water sector. The goal is to reduce [water] consumption by the industrial sector and by farmers and individuals and also to develop the use of waste water, a source of carbon, to produce natural fertilisers and energy and to irrigate agricultural areas:

– In the Milan urban area, the Nosedo and San Rocco water treatment plants treat waste water, which then irrigates fertile agricultural land in the Po river plain. Almost 30,000 hectares of crops (wheat, rice, pasture land, etc.) are irrigated using 90 million m^3 of treated waste water;

– In Southern California, the Edward C. Little Recycling Facility, a waste water treatment station run by the West Basin Municipal District (a public agency providing water to Los Angeles county), supplies homes, the industrial sector (BP, Chevron, Exxon) and farmers. Some of the water treated in this way is returned to the soil to protect underground water tables from salt water intrusion. Launched following the major droughts of the 1980s and 1990s, this local plant reduces the need for major new desalination and transportation infrastructure to be built and cuts greenhouse gas emissions.

However, initiatives must also be encouraged to radically change those models of agriculture and industry that are directly concerned by the challenge of climate change in terms of the qualitative and quantitative management of water resources.

Within this general context, both public and private-sector **research**, is of strategic importance due to the potential for innovation that it offers in the reduction of GHG emissions and sustainable land use. The fields under study are numerous and include energy storage, transportation, reduction of energy needs in construction (better insulation and materials with low environmental footprints), renewable energies (wind, solar, biomass).

Examples may be found in the Airbus A350 assembly plant that is able to meet its own energy needs through photovoltaic panels and a biomass power plant boiler, or the A380 assembly site which has used a natural reed bed water filtering system for 10 years. PSA's Hydole project and Renault's Eolab project have taken the same type of approach. These have set themselves the goal of manufacturing a hybrid vehicle which will soon consume only two litres per 100 km, and ultimately only one litre, at an accessible price point. Beyond this, however, what must be promoted is a cultural revolution in vehicle use that prioritises joint usage policies, slower forms of transport and sustainable land use.

In the United States, the *National Renewable Energy Laboratory* (NREL) in Denver employs over 2,000 researchers and has an annual budget of €380 million for research on renewable energies such as wind, solar and biomass.

Response by businesses

Businesses are taking action to reduce their carbon footprint within the framework of their Social and Environmental Responsibility (SER) policies, particularly by investing in technologies that are newer and more efficient in their use of energy and raw materials.

At the global level, the *World Business Council for Sustainable Development* (WBCSD), composed of around one hundred major international companies, is pushing for a low-carbon economy at major international climate summits. It advocates the setting of a global carbon price and is calling for an ambitious political agreement to achieve a drastic reduction in GHG emissions levels in the 21st century (global net-zero emissions). IN this regard, the position of Schneider Electric is noteworthy in that in January 2015 for the 2nd year running it ranked 9th in the 2015 global rankings of the 100 most advanced companies in terms of sustainable development[3].

Certain **major industrial sectors**, such as cement manufacturers, that emit large volumes of CO_2, have undertaken action to improve industrial processes and use substitute fuels such as biomass and sludge from treatment plants, urban waste, plastic waste, coffee grounds, etc.. For example, the Lafarge group, whose Director of Climate Change Initiatives, Mr Vincent Mages, was heard by the section, cut CO_2 emissions per tonne of cement produced by 26% between 1990 and 2013. This example is also illustrative of a trend towards a circular economy. For a low-carbon economy, industrial and household waste must be reused and recovered to produce energy, and minerals such as iron and copper, and plastics, must be reused. Many industrial sector companies are prepared to invest further, subject to regulatory mechanisms offsetting any fluctuations in the costs of energy and raw materials.

Many SMEs have already adopted a voluntary process of innovation towards a low carbon society. For example, in September 2010 the UCAPLAST federation launched a plastics recycling project handling 4,500 tons, i.e. a saving of 4,000 tons of oil. Similarly, UNIC, France's printing and graphic communications union, has supported corporate and small-scale printers in the carrying out of carbon audits. Such actions help to promote paper fibre originating from sustainably managed forests worldwide.

3 "Global 100": the 100 most advanced businesses out of 4,609 listed businesses with a market capitalisation of over USD 2 billion, based on the ratio of turnover generated per unit of energy consumed.

The NGO dynamic

A number of promising experiments are being conducted by NGOs, particularly in **developing countries**, that are most directly affected by the impacts of climate disruption. Bernard Pinaud, Delegate General of the NGO *Comité Catholique Contre la Faim et pour le Développement* (CCFD-Terre Solidaire) and Renaud Bettin, Climate Solidarity Partnerships Director for the Renewable Energies, Environment and Solidarity Group (GERES), highlighted, when heard by the section, exemplary initiatives in the agricultural and forestry sector that merit encouragement:

- in New Guinea (a city of 70,000 inhabitants) in central Nicaragua, after nearly four decades of deforestation and intensive farming that have resulted in an impasse for farmers, initiatives have been launched with the assistance of the government and the National Federation of Nicaraguan Cooperatives (FENACOOP). Thanks to a range of measures (replanting of banana plants and fruit trees, promotion of cocoa production and regeneration of forest cover), revenue per hectare has doubled and farmers have once again been able to take back control of distribution channels;
- In Cambodia, GERES is active in the wood/energy/cooking chain, resulting in the improvement of 3.5 million cooking stoves since 2003, thereby cutting coal consumption (30% lower) and non-sustainable exploitation of forests.

The extensive involvement of trade unions

There is a close link between "social justice and climate justice" as has been demonstrated by the World Day for Decent Work: Justice for workers – Climate Justice". The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) stresses the lack of ambition of political leaders in international climate negotiations. Appearing before the section, Ms Anabella Rosemberg from ITUC was at pains to point out that the trade union movement is ready to "*rise to the challenge in order to radically change patterns of production and consumption*". For the ESEC, no contradiction exists between employment policy and the fight against climate disruption since proactive public policies promoting the emergence of new sources of employment in promising sectors will be implemented. In fact the goal is to be able to mitigate the impact on employees of transitioning to new development models. It is therefore important for employees to be offered opportunities for the future if they are to accept the need to embrace these new models.

The commitment of major international organisations

For their part, **major international institutions** are increasingly issuing alarming reports and continue to mobilise civil society actors and to push political leaders of the major economic powers to assume their responsibilities.

One report issued on 3 November 2014 by the *Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research* called upon the World Bank to highlight the catastrophic effects of climate disruption. Under a warming scenario of 2 degrees over the next 20 to 30 years, the report authors indicate that as a consequence, there would be a sea level rise of 70 cm, which will increase to one meter if global warming reaches 4 degrees between now and the end of the century.

The OECD is also playing a role on this issue and has issued many reports on the fight against climate disruption. We shall cite just two of these, namely the working paper of 6 November 2014 on the role of public financial institutions in the transition towards a low carbon economy and the report of 2 December 2014 on methods for measuring and evaluating climate change adaptation. Along the same lines, OECD Secretary-General, Angel GURRIA, chaired the session "The Economic Case for Climate Action" at the United Nations Climate Summit on 23 September 2014 in New York**, and actively participated in the Lima Conference in December 2014.**

The G20, whose members account for 70% of GHG emissions, most recently set out its climate position at the Brisbane Summit in November 2014, declaring itself in favour of "strong and effective" action and stating its desire for the COP 21 to reach an agreement *with legal force* (…) *that is applicable to all parties*". Close attention will need to be paid to the conclusions of the next G20 summit, presided over by Turkey, to be held shortly before the Paris Conference. More generally, climate issues will need to appear systematically on the agendas of all G20 meetings.

Finally, the United Nations have clearly not been idle and have continued to play a role in many initiatives. For example, the "Ocean and Climate" forum which was established in 2014 out of an alliance between NGOs and research institutes with the support of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. It currently includes scientific bodies, universities, research institutions, non-profit associations and foundations, public sector establishments and associations of companies, with all these actors committed to ensuring that greater importance is accorded to the oceans in climate negotiations. In fact, oceans make up 71% of the Earth's surface and play a major role in climate regulation.

Hearing from intellectuals, philosophers and the religious sphere

Climate issues should be placed at the heart of social debate: what is the relationship between man, the natural world and the animal kingdom? Should we promote a more restrained use of natural resources? Or, as Descartes declared, are humans now "*the masters and possessors of nature*"? What of solidarity between current and future generations? Such debates ought to motivate intellectuals, philosophers and the religious sphere. The level

of debate must be raised in order to view selfish positions from a relativist standpoint and adopt policies that are adequate in order to address the issues concerned.

At any rate, **these initiatives, which also exist in France, all attest to the fact that workable solutions do exist and can be replicated.**

The ESEC encourages all civil society actors and local authorities to continue with and to step up their efforts in order to achieve three goals, namely reduce their energy consumption, produce and consume differently by rethinking their economic models and work to develop carbon-efficient processes and technologies.

Reach a global, fair and ambitious agreement

The profusion of entirely positive initiatives and experiments does not diminish the need for international regulation among all of the UN Member States. This is the goal of the current negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which must end in Paris with the adoption of an international agreement guaranteeing fairness and justice in the distribution of efforts to reduce GHG emissions and honour commitments made.

Make commitments in accordance with scientific recommendations

Preserve the multinational framework for negotiations

Agreements between major emitters, be these bilateral or within the G8 and/or G20, are tending to develop. Faced with the complexity and intermingling of priorities and interests and the evolving nature of economic and geostrategic relations on the world stage, our Assembly takes the view that agreements such as those already referred to between China and the United States, and the United States and India may, by serving as examples, set a favourable dynamic in motion. However, **these agreements cannot relieve States of their UN responsibilities which remain wholly relevant in dealing with an issue that is a major challenge for the entire planet and its survival**. In these negotiations, bilateralism and multilateralism, far from being mutually exclusive, are complementary and it is by making best use of their respective potentials that the international community will be able to make progress towards an agreement.

Adopting a global, fair and ambitious agreement

International climate negotiations have been held year after year for the last 20 years and give the impression, particularly since Copenhagen, of having failed to secure the commitment of the international community. However, there are signs of an increasing level of awareness and a number of States who have previously been reticent and even indifferent are showing signs of major interest.

Nevertheless, there is no denying the difficulties that will need to be overcome in order to reach an agreement. And yet, this must be the goal for the Paris Conference. **The ESEC calls for the adoption of a global fair and ambitious international agreement. This was the conviction it expressed in its Opinion for the 2011 Durban Conference and it now reiterates this conviction with the same force.**

Many discussions have been held on the legal form of the agreement that could be adopted at the Paris Conference. **For the ESEC, the discussion is not a legal one. The primary objective is to sign an agreement that includes reciprocal agreements to cut GHG emissions. The ESEC also considers it vital to frame the Paris agreement in a way that is dynamic and can evolve over time. It must be seen as the first major step along the road, and one that will lead to further steps being taken, particularly for a regular review of objectives.**

Furthermore, as was suggested by Laurence Tubiana when she was heard by the section, and our Assembly shares this approach, these undertakings will find their legitimacy and credibility in the setting out by each State of their action plans detailing all of the measures planned in order to uphold them.

Finally, France, as the holder of the presidency for the Conference, will have a critical driving and mobilising role to play.

Give visibility to the European Union's climate diplomacy

At the European Council in October 2014, the EU adopted its integrated climate and energy policy framework for the 2020-2030 period based around three goals:

- a binding target of 40% reduction in GHG emissions compared with 1990;
- a non-binding target of at least 27% from renewable energies;
- a non-binding energy efficiency target of 27%.

Whatever the shortcomings of these targets compared with scientific recommendations, this framework is an **initial positive signal sent to the international community** which must be capitalised upon. It will be critical that in the interests of setting an example and of efficiency, the various EU policies on agriculture, energy, transport, development, etc. be in step with the commitments set out by the EU in the first quarter of 2015. To this end, our Assembly is in favour of the investment projects submitted by the Member States under the Juncker Plan meeting this consistency requirement.

This is a major concern if the EU is to rise to the occasion at the Paris Conference, when bilateral bargaining continues to increase and many developing countries are asking themselves what its intentions are, particularly as regards the financial transfers that the EU is prepared to grant them. The ESEC, takes the view that **the EU will not genuinely be**

able to affect the course of negotiations unless countries come together. It welcomes the diplomatic offensive launched for the "Paris 2015 road map" unveiled in February by the Commission. Any initiatives that can be taken, particularly in order to forge firm alliances will be welcomed. To this end, our Assembly supports the proposal of a coalition with a certain number of South-American countries such as Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia and Peru.

Measure, verify and report on greenhouse gas emissions.

No quantified, credible and transparent commitments can be made without international measurement of compliance with commitments undertaken. The ESEC stressed the importance of setting in place a measuring and verification mechanism previously in its November 2011 opinion on international climate negotiations and the Durban Conference.

Our Assembly welcomes the fact that as the international conferences have continued, this mechanism has progressively been consolidated despite the resistance of countries such as China and the United States. At any rate, **the stepping up of measuring procedures for increased transparency in the implementation of commitments made is all the more necessary given that the Climate Convention provides for financial payments for developing countries**.

Seek the participation and involvement of citizens

The issues surrounding international climate negotiations are neither abstract nor remote. First and foremost, they concern societies and, actually, each citizen.

This is why, in addition to the on-the-ground initiatives referred to previously, **the ESEC advocates concerted action by the public authorities to inform** each and every individual, ensuring that they are made aware of the climate issues and the COP 21. At a more concrete level, it is in favour of the contributions of the various States including a section on informing and involving the public in the decision-making process.

Furthermore, our Assembly takes the view that it falls to governments, together with associations, foundations, trade unions and employer bodies, to encourage all forms of environmental debate at the grass-roots levelto increase the number and variety of forums for discussion and joint endeavour.

TO this end, **ESC, due to their make-up, can provide added value in terms of a joint approach to all of these climate-related issues and, beyond this, to sustainable development**. Furthermore, our Assembly will participate directly in initiatives that the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) will be implementing in close collaboration with the ESC of the Member States and the ESC of the African continent, in order to create a mobilising spirit among citizens, and to ensure that their voices are heard throughout the preparatory process for the Paris Conference.

CURRENTLY the ESEC finds it regrettable that there is no involvement, or only a negligible degree of involvement, by civil society organisations in preparing the official positions of the negotiating States. In terms of formulating and formally setting out French and European positions, the ESEC in fact takes the view that it has a role to play and that it ought to be a formal stakeholder in the preparation of the COP 21 and in monitoring the implementation of its decisions.

Ensure equitable support of the most vulnerable populations

Central to the founding principles of international climate change negotiations is the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The principle industrialised Nations **have a major responsibility** for the high levels of GHG currently present in the atmosphere. The key to success in the Paris discussions concerns the ability of these States to uphold their pledge to provide financial assistance to the most vulnerable populations to deal with the impacts of climate change in the countries of the Global south.

Uphold the financial commitments made in Copenhagen in 2009

At the Copenhagen Summit in 2009, the States created a Green Climate Fund for the purpose of "providing support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change". They pledged to increase the fund to USD 100 billion annually by 2020. Governance of the Green Climate Fund is already in place, with the World Bank as its financial administrator and, as of the start of 2015, the Fund has a balance of just over USD 10 billion[4].

To ensure that commitments are upheld, the ESEC recommends, in particular:

- The setting in place of an international tax on financial transactions

Eleven EU countries pledged in 2012 to set in place a tax on financial transactions through scaled-up cooperation by January 2016. The ESEC supports this initiative. **It proposes that the base for this tax should be as broad as possible and hopes that the proposal by the President of the Republic, François Hollande, to "use this tax to combat climate disruption"[5] is successful.**

- Securing a contribution from international air and maritime transportation

Cross negotiations between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Maritime Organisation to set in place a financial mechanism on CO_2 have been beset by difficulties. **The ESEC supports the adoption of such an instrument which must imperatively provide financial compensation to the poorest and most vulnerable countries.**

Concerning the international aviation sector more specifically, **the ESEC would like the negotiations that are to commence in 2016 within the International Civil Aviation Organisation to lead rapidly to the implementation of a financial mechanism for CO_2.**

- The use of International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights (SDR).

Following the 2008 financial crisis, the IMF issued several billion dollars worth of SDR which have yet to be converted into currency by their holding countries. **The ESEC is in favour of States considering the use of these SDR for the Green Climate Fund.**

4 Including the following contributions: United States, USD 3 billion and the European Union almost USD 4.5 billion (with France contributing USD 1 billion)

5 France Inter, 5 January 2015.

Making effective and fair use of the Green Climate Fund

In their report presented in November 2013, the French MPs Mr Bernard Deflesselles and Mr Jérôme Lambert analysed operating failures pertaining to initial financial flows between 2010 and 2012: *"Available studies attest to a lack of transparency for the transfers due to the very varied nature of the reporting methods used. They also reveal an imbalance between financing for emissions mitigation (…) and financing for adaptation"*. The ESEC drew attention to this latter point in its Opinion in 2011. To ensure that the Green Climate Fund is effectively implemented, **the ESEC insists that a substantial portion of the available funds be allocated, via subsidies, to projects targeting the most vulnerable populations. Of course, care must be taken to ensure that these funds are additional public funds and not recycled or, as is perennially tempting, deducted from state development assistance programmes**, as the ESEC recommended in its Durban Opinion in 2011.

Additionally, the ESEC is in favour of:

- making it possible for **local authorities to apply to the Green Climate Fund directly** and more broadly for international financing;
- making it possible for the States concerned to **apply to the Green Climate Fund when population displacement related to environmental conditions occurs**. Moreover, this is what was suggested at the Cancun Conference;
- making it possible for developing countries to call upon **the Green Climate Fund to obtain support in the elaboration of public policies that seek to adapt their GHG emissions reduction trajectories**.

As regards governance of the Green Climate Fund, our Assembly takes the view, first and foremost that, in the interests of greater transparency, civil society organisations, potentially *via* the main UN groups, ought to participate directly in the Fund's Board, which is currently composed exclusively of government representatives.

Secondly, the ESEC supports the idea of **transparent allocation criteria** being adopted progressively as the Fund increases in scale in order to sort those projects that are desirable from those that, due to their content, would not be eligible for financing.

Finally, our Assembly wishes to point out that one of the first decisions of the governing bodies of the Green Climate Fund was to facilitate access to the Fund by businesses. **The ESEC would like to see such private sector assistance targeting the local economic fabric first and foremost, particularly in sectors such as renewable energies, energy efficiency and the efficient use or re-use of agricultural land. Furthermore, its allocation conditions ought to guarantee compliance with the stipulations of international Conventions** on human rights, social rights and environmental protection.

Fully integrating the climate challenge into development assistance policies

Climate disruption is exacerbating poverty and deprivation in the countries of the Global South. There is therefore a very close link between international climate and development agendas. This is the logic behind the work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that began at the Rio Summit in 2012. The SDG will be adopted in September 2015, a few months after the COP 21 in Paris. **The ESEC wishes to highlight the importance of consolidating links between these negotiations and broader negotiations on the environment concerning issues such as climate, biodiversity and desertification. This is the logic behind the ESEC's continual recommendation that a World Environment Organisation be created.**

However, at a deeper level, climate and development policy cannot be thought about only in terms of financial flows from developed to developing countries. Considerable leverage needs to be found within the beneficiary countries themselves. **The ESEC is in favour of technical and administrative support of developing countries to enable these, through improved governance, to generate their own sources of financing by themselves. This aid must, furthermore, be part of broader action to combat corruption, fraud and tax evasion, which currently penalises developing countries by between €600 and 800 billion every year, which is over ten times the value of the public development assistance granted to them**[6].

The pursuit of new development models

The drive for international economic regulation capable of addressing the climate challenge

The publication in 2006 of the report by Nicholas Stern on the economics of climate change marked an indisputable turning point in terms of how the fight against climate disruption is viewed from an economics standpoint. It assesses the cost of taking no action in GDP in percentage terms: by 2050, between 5% and 20% of 2005 global GDP every year.

Socio-economic analyses and experiments, which have increased over the intervening period of almost ten years have served to confirm and substantiate this analysis: yes, the environmental transition of our societies is a factor in competitiveness, job creation and wealth.

In the view of the ESEC, an unregulated economic and financial system that is disconnected from the real economy and entirely focused on the short-term makes it difficult to create a landscape favourable to the investment needed to make the transition to a low-carbon economy that uses natural resources efficiently.

At the general level, our Assembly has for a number of years advocated robust regulation of the banking sector in order to put an end to the speculative activities that are carried out

6 Source: estimates by the US think-tank *Global Financial Integrity* (GFI), "*Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries*" 2003-2012.

to the detriment of the real economy. Unfortunately, decisions taken by political leaders and the heads of regulatory authorities remain insufficient.

However, the climate challenge has made it all the more urgent to act and the public and private capital required to finance a new economic model is considerable. **The international financial system is currently ill-suited to the levels of investment required by the climate challenge.** The ESEC pointed this out previously in its 2013 Opinion *"Financing environmental and energy transition"*:

"Investment that is vital in terms of environmental transition does not always offer an immediate return on investment, or one that meets expectations. There are two interlinked issues here: the first is that many of these investments are long-term and provide little or no visibility for private-sector investors; the other is that the demand for very high yields can pose a major obstacle for these types of investments. "

Within this context, **the ESEC would like to see more private sector finance mobilised in support of the climate challenge. The banking system must be encouraged to create dedicated environmental transition funds. TO this end, financial institutions could be led to develop** activities in this direction, particularly through the granting of tax incentives and special refinancing. However, all of these measures must be part of a **framework that is clearly defined** by independent regulatory authorities, **together with measurement and penalty mechanisms** (long-term loans, value of investments, rate supervision).

To promote leverage effects favourable to combating climate change ,the ESEC specifically proposes:

- Supporting initiatives that put a price on carbon.

At the Climate Summit on 23 September 2014, the United Nations Secretary-General, 74 States, 11 regional governments, 11 cities and over 1,000 businesses supported the introduction of a price on carbon through the World Bank's campaign *"Put a price on carbon"*. **Concerning initiatives to put a price on carbon, the ESEC advocates their inclusion within detailed measures provided by States for the Paris Agreement, in order to attain quantified GHG emissions reductions targets.**

It also encourages States and groups of States that have already set [carbon] markets in place to make these more effective, *through* the full and transparent increase in the price of carbon, whilst taking care to avoid windfall effects. It is also in favour of all tax incentives that would make the cost of fossil fuels more expensive. Nonetheless, these mechanisms must always be accompanied by additional public policies for social redistribution, economic competitiveness and environmental relevance.

- Progressive withdrawal of fossil fuel subsidies.

In September 2009, the Pittsburgh G20 adopted a declaration calling for the "*phase out over the medium term of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies*" and in particular of subsidies "*that encourage wasteful consumption, reduce our energy security, impede investment in clean energy sources and undermine efforts to deal with the threat of climate change*". **The International Energy Agency valued these subsidies in 2009 at USD 312 billion.**

Despite the declarations of intent reiterated since 2009, **the ESEC finds it regrettable that this international commitment has been so slow to manifest. It questions, for example, in the aviation sector, the scale of the tax exemptions afforded to kerosene within the European Union and also in France.**

Rethinking international governance to support fair transitions

At the 3rd International Trade Union Confederation World Congress in May 2014, Secretary-General Sharan Burrow declared that: *The threats to jobs and livelihoods include the threat of climate change.* ***For unions, it is simple. There are no jobs on a dead planet.*** *"*

The socio-economic transformations required are very extensive and entail the far-reaching and large-scale change of economic models, practices and investment in traditional sectors such as the chemicals, automobile, fossil fuels and agrifood industries. In this context, it is important for the ESEC to prepare for and support these transformations with two goals in mind:

- **first of all to enable workers and their families, in both the Global North and South, not to find themselves without jobs by setting in place vocational transition pathways for decent jobs and social security systems that secure their positions within a context of socio-economic changes linked to addressing the climate challenge;**
- secondly, to enable those sectors directly involved, and more broadly, all economic sectors, **to be provided with financial and legal incentives to integrate global environmental challenges (concerning the climate and also biodiversity) into their economic model, to envisage their transformation and reconversion and to redefine their place within an economy that of necessity must make more efficient use of natural resources**.

In this regard, there are a number of avenues to be explored beforehand:

- The stepping up of social dialogue at the international level

Clearly, at the European and international levels, there are few places where these transformations are genuinely being planned for and discussed at the macro-economic level and from a medium to long-term standpoint. Although international climate negotiations are ill-suited to the development of social dialogue, **the International Labour Organisation (ILO), with its tripartite structure, is, on the other hand, an appropriate framework for adopting a recommendation addressed to economic actors so as to push them to negotiate sector-specific agreements linked specifically to fair socio-economic transitions**.

In keeping with the recommendations of the ESEC as set out in its Opinion entitled *CSR, a pathway towards economic, social and environmental transition* issued in June 2013, **there is a need to encourage the development of international framework agreements. These agreements may serve as appropriate tools for anticipating, providing for and planning the transformations that are necessary in order to address the climate challenge**. Our Assembly is also pushing for the development of a non-financial rating system for businesses in order to encourage responsible investment on the basis of environmental and social criteria in addition to the usual financial criteria.

- A better understanding of the impacts on employment and the job market

In order to be properly equipped to have these discussions, **the ESEC wishes to stress the importance of first obtaining the relevant socio-economic studies, by sector and by geographical zone, that assess the medium to long-term impacts on employment**

and the job market of potential climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, using a number of different scenarios.

This is all the more **necessary given that emerging economies** appear to be following the same energy-hungry and natural resource consuming path as industrialised countries.

- The necessary transitioning of skills and training

The training of workers in new processes and technologies is vital if the potential of investments fostering transition is genuinely to bear fruit. **Moreover, the ESEC insists upon the need to guarantee decent, quality jobs in new sectors identified as providing social and technological climate innovations.**

Better taking into account the challenge posed by persons displaced by environmental factors

Migratory flows linked to the environment have always existed. **However, climate change is currently radically altering the way in which we view this migration due in particular to its scope. It is still difficult to attribute to climate change** a specific form of environmental degradation. However, three possible types of impact from climate change may be discerned, each of which is behind different instances of population movement:

- **extreme climate events.** According to Mr Gemenne, between 2008 and 2012, these resulted in the displacement of 142 million persons due to natural disasters alone;
- **drought, soil degradation and desertification.** The first consequence is the rural exodus of persons not registered by international agencies and not receiving any form of humanitarian assistance;
- **sea level rise and submersion of land.** These are the forms of population displacement that are likely to be permanent in nature but which can best be planned for.

At any rate, the causes of population displacement are always complex and multiple. **ADDED to environmental causes are economic reasons and poverty, which may be related to conflict.** However, a factor recognised statistically as being environmental in nature may very well be perceived as environmental by the populations concerned (" *I no longer have any land to pursue my livelihood*"). However this may be, **environmental degradation risks generating or exacerbating tensions between populations, which may result in armed conflict**.

AT the international level, this new phenomenon is interwoven with humanitarian and international security issues as well as involving various political agendas. The ESEC will be issuing an opinion specifically addressing international migration.

Although numerous studies concerning the creation of the new international law status of "climate refugee" merit more in-depth attention, the ESEC wishes to stress the need to reflect upon the variety of possible policy responses available:

- by giving priority to **existing tools for the governance of international migration** (regional or bilateral agreements);
- **by ensuring the prevention of distortion and unequal treatment between displaced persons who are victims of climate change, and others;**

– **by addressing this displacement beforehand rather than under the pressure of an emergency in a crisis situation.** This is the case in Australia and New Zealand which have begun to set in place reception mechanisms for migrants from neighbouring islands that have already experienced the phenomenon of submersion. This ought to be a key factor to take into account in terms of adaptation policy.

Most recent publications by the Section for European and International Affairs

- *France's influence on the European and International stages through the promotion of continental law*
- *The European Union at a crossroads*
- *Internet : pour une gouvernance ouverte et équitable [Internet: towards open and fair governance]*
- *International development and solidarity policy guidance and planning bill*
- *CSR: a pathway towards economic, social and environmental transition*
- *The challenges of development: strengthening French NGOs*

LATEST PUBLICATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL (ESEC)

- ***Nouvelles monnaies : les enjeux macro-économiques, financiers et sociétaux [New Currencies: macro-economic, financial and societal impacts]***
- ***Révolution numérique et évolutions des mobilités individuelles et collectives (transport de personnes) [Digital revolution and changes in individual and collective mobility (passenger transportation]***
- ***Sécuriser les parcours d'insertion des jeunes [Ensuring pathways to inclusion of young persons]***
- ***Innovations technologiques et performance industrielle globale : l'exemple de l'impression 3D [Technological innovation and global industrial performance: the case of 3D printing]***
- ***La pédagogie numérique : un défi pour l'enseignement supérieur [Digital learning: a challenge for higher education]***
- ***Le défi de l'insertion professionnelle des jeunes ultramarins [The challenge of professional inclusion for young French citizens from the overseas territories]***
- ***La microfinance dans les Outre-mer [Micro-finance in the overseas territories]***

You can find all our publications at

www.lecese.fr

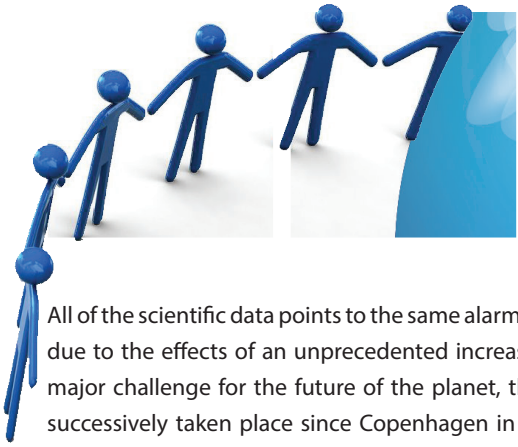
Printed by the Division for Legal and Administrative Information, 26, rue Desaix, Paris (15th arrondissement)
using the documents provided by the Economic, Social and Environmental Council

Serial number: 411150011-000415 – Legal registration: May 2015

Photo credit: 123RF

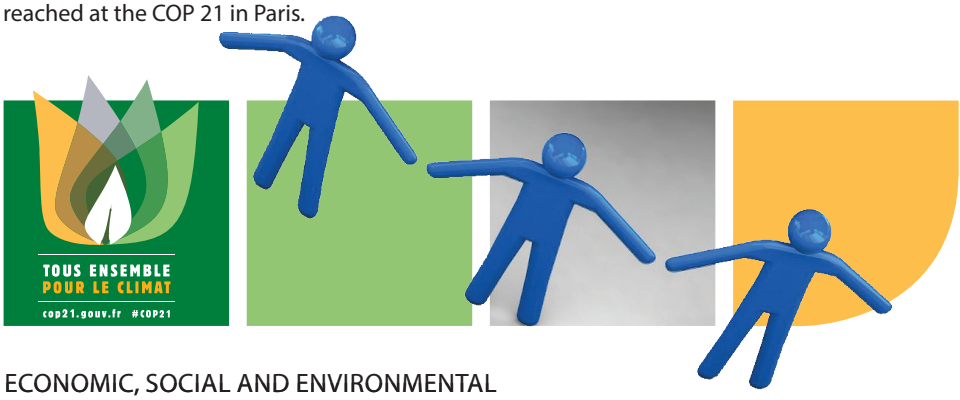
PEFC 10-31-2190 IMPRIM'VERT®

OPINIONS
OF THE ECONOMIC,
SOCIAL
AND ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL



All of the scientific data points to the same alarming finding: global warming is being exacerbated due to the effects of an unprecedented increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Faced with this major challenge for the future of the planet, the major climate change conferences that have successively taken place since Copenhagen in 2009 under the auspices of the United Nations have not resulted in the setting down of an international regulatory framework between all States.

Following its opinion entitled "International Climate Negotiations and the Durban Conference" adopted in 2011, with this follow-up opinion, the ESEC sets itself the task of formulating a number of proposals on the ways and means by which a global, fair and ambitious agreement may be reached at the COP 21 in Paris.



ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL
9, place d'Iéna
75775 Paris Cedex 16
Tel.: +33 (0)1 44 43 60 00
www.lecese.fr

No. 41115-0011 price: €14
ISSN 0767-4538 ISBN 978-2-11-138659-4

9 782111 386594

Diffusion
Direction de l'information
légale et administrative
Les éditions des *Journaux officiels*
tél. : 01 40 15 70 10
www.ladocumentationfrancaise.fr