

# le Grenelle Environnement

## The first Environment Round Table Act



### An unprecedented drive p.2

A new dialogue process.  
An emphasis on  
teamwork in  
the drafting activity.

### The first Environment Round Table act p.3

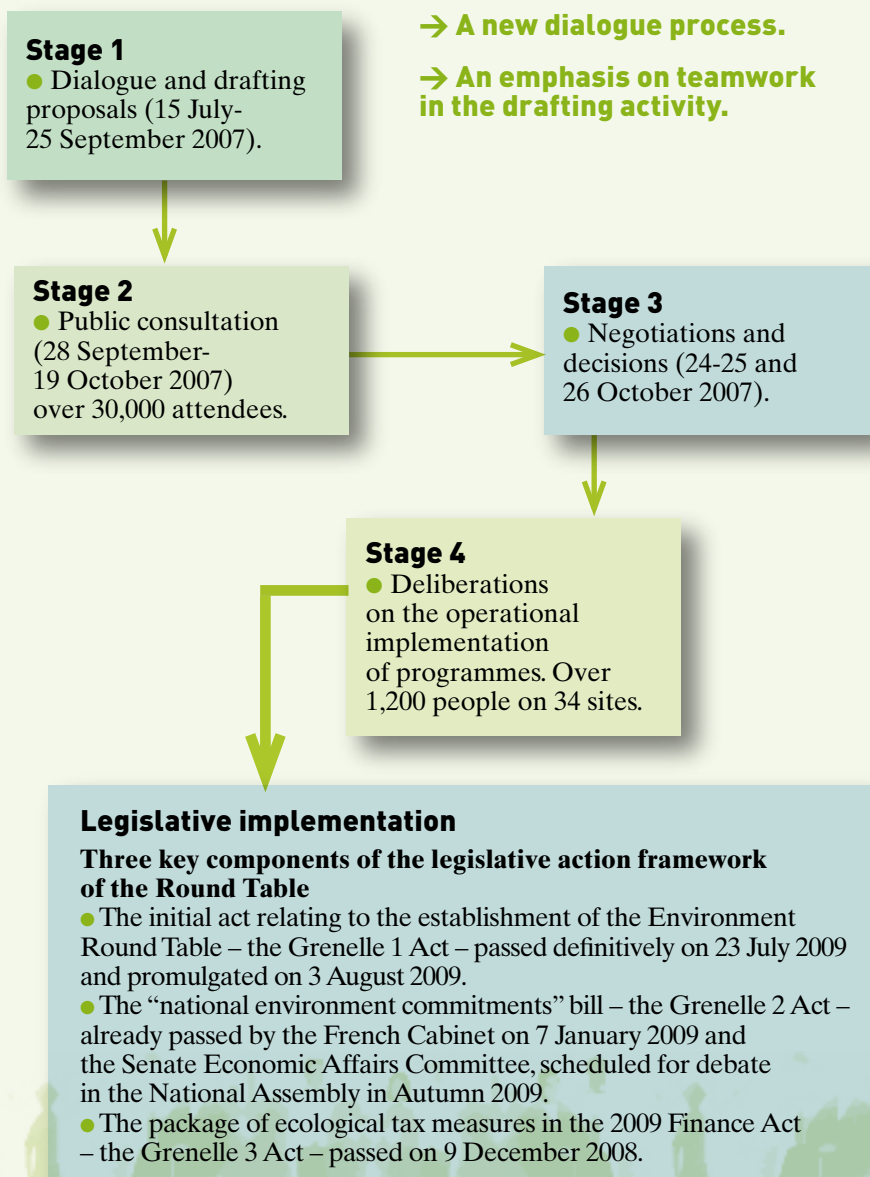
A law passed  
almost unanimously  
on 23 July 2009,  
and promulgated  
on 3 August 2009.

# The 13 fields of action p. 4 to p.19

Act 2009 - 967 relating to  
the establishment of the  
Environment Round Table.



## An unprecedented drive towards sustainable development



# The first Environment Round Table Act

► An Act passed almost unanimously on 23 July 2009

## Two key dates

- Public presentation by Jean-Louis Borloo of the bill setting out the commitments of the Environment Round Table (April 2008).
- Presentation to the Cabinet and submission to the National Assembly (11 June 2008).

## An ongoing process

- A bill that faithfully reflects the commitments of the Round Table.
- A record number of votes on the first reading in the National Assembly on 21 October 2008 (526 for, 4 against) and in the Senate (312 for, 0 against). This near-unanimity was repeated on the second reading in Parliament, before definitive adoption on 23 July following a report by the joint multi-party Commission. The Act was promulgated on 3 August 2009 and published in the french *Journal Officiel* on 5 August 2009.
- This vote bears witness to the French Parliament's approval of the results of the collective proposal initiated in Summer 2007.

## The main principles include

- The common acknowledgement of the urgent necessity for action in order to protect the environment and ensure sustainable competitiveness.
- The need for new long-term governance: the perpetuation of the Round Table supervisory committee, an annual presentation to Parliament on the progress of the national sustainable development strategy, etc.
- The reversal of the burden of proof: liability for public decisions likely to have a significant impact.



# 1 Buildings

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

## ► Buildings must be the main priority in the battle against climate change

- Apply the “low-consumption building” standard (under 50 kWh/mkWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year) to all buildings erected after 2012 (end of 2010 for service sector and public buildings).
- Adjust this threshold to encourage a decrease in greenhouse gases or if allowance needs to be made for the location and/or use of a building.
- Cut energy consumption in older buildings by 38 % by 2020.
- Set out an ambitious thermal renovation programme for buildings: 400,000 full renovations per year beginning in 2013, with reduced deadlines for public buildings.
- Launch a specific plan for the 800,000 local authority-owned dwellings with an annual energy consumption of over 230 kWh of primary energy per m<sup>2</sup> and the 180,000 local authority-owned dwellings in areas covered by the national urban renewal programme.
- Develop financial incentive tools.
- Promote agreements with banks and the insurance sector to finance increased investment in energy saving.
- Encourage improved basic and continuous training.
- Orientate the emergency young people’s job creation plan towards disciplines connected with the environment, particularly building.



# 2 Town Planning

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

**► Orientation and planning documents must be harmonised, particularly those relating to built-up areas**



- Combat the decline in agricultural and natural areas and urban spread.
- Investigate reforming local taxes and introducing possible incentives to limit the expansion of built-up areas.
- Establish a link between population density and public transport levels.
- Accelerate the calendar for developing eco-suburbs and modifying town planning laws.
- Prepare a plan to bring nature back into built-up areas with a view to preserving biodiversity and adapting towns to climate change.
- Ensure that town planning rules and regulations do not hinder work to improve the energy performance of buildings.
- Land tax: local and transport authorities may use a new method of financing public transport projects – a tax on the increase in value of land and buildings beside a new infrastructure.







# 3 Transport

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

**Greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by 20% by 2020 and the sector's dependency on hydrocarbons must also be reduced**

### **End "road only" goods transport**

- Develop motorways of the sea and rolling motorways to Spain, Portugal and Italy.
- Introduce an eco-tax on heavy goods vehicles from 2011 to finance alternative transport infrastructures.
- Increase non-road and non-air transport from 14% to 25% by 2022.
- Increase non-road and non-air freight by 25% by 2012.
- Improve rail and waterway links to ports.
- Restore, modernise and extend the river network, particularly by constructing the Seine-Nord Europe canal.

### **Passenger transport : prioritise public transport**

- State to invest an initial tranche of €2.5 billion by 2020 to develop dedicated public transport lanes in urban areas.
- Launch 2,000 km of high-speed railway lines by 2020.



- Do not sacrifice the improvement and modernisation of existing infrastructure to the development of the network.
- Renovate Ile de France RATP and SNCF networks, providing real time information to the public.

### **Pay attention to reducing noise pollution from air transport**

- Set objectives for 2020 for air transport (50% reduction in fuel consumption per passenger and per kilometre travelled and 50% reduction in perceived noise level).

### **Other measures**

- Prioritise public transport and modes of transport other than roads.
- Seek innovative solutions for financing transport infrastructure, equipment and services.
- Pay particular attention to the possibility of rehabilitating disused railway lines for freight and/or public transport.
- Investigate changing motorway tolls to reflect time of travel and the energy efficiency and occupation rates of vehicles.
- Submit an updated national plan for new transport infrastructures to Parliament once in every parliamentary term.





# 4 Energy

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

## Climate-energy

- Encourage regional authorities to draw up action plans known as “regional climate-energy plans” before 2012.
- Prepare a national climate response plan for the various activity sectors by 2011.
- Actively promote the protection of the Arctic.

### **Contribute to the aim of dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions**

- Change energy consumption standards for products.
- Bring energy labelling of products into general use.
- Progressively withdraw products, processes, appliances and vehicles with the highest energy consumption levels.
- Support the withdrawal of incandescent light bulbs at Community level as from 2010.

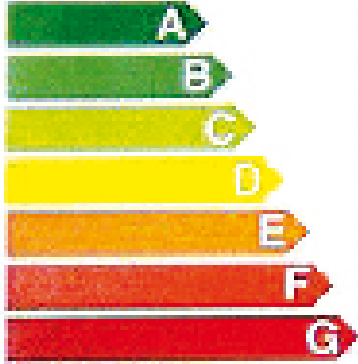




## Énergie

Fabricant  
Modèle

Économie



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- Expand the energy saving certificate scheme.
- Bring energy and greenhouse gas checks into general use for all legal entities with over 250 employees.
- Diversify the energy package with the aim of achieving a minimum of 23% renewable energy by 2020.
- French State to support the expansion of new sectors in the European greenhouse gas emission quota exchange system.
- Investigate the possibility of establishing a climate-energy tax.
- Equip new coal power plants with a system for capturing and storing carbon.
- Improve the generation and management of hydro-electric power.
- Define a renewable energy plan in each region.
- Adopt a more technical terminology for biofuels derived from agricultural activity.
- Create a fund to support the development of production and distribution of heat derived from renewable sources.
- Support heat networks that are more than half-fuelled by new renewable energies.
- Municipalities to exempt business buildings from land tax for five years if they are connected to a waste processing unit which they use to supply some or all of their heating requirements.
- Ensure consistency of policies relating to air quality and adapting to climate change.





# 5 Biodiversity

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

## ► Biodiversity must be maintained and developed

- Draw up green- and blue-belt systems to link the main regional conurbations by 2012. These must be managed regionally in conjunction with local authorities and other interested parties, within a consistent framework defined by the State.
- Strengthen the national biodiversity strategy.
- Set up protected marine areas encompassing 10% of the waters under State control.
- Set up conservation or restoration plans within five years to protect the 131 plant and animal species in danger of imminent extinction.
- Establish new governance for the integral management of the sea and coast.
- Incorporate regional nature conservation areas in law.

### Other measures

- Introduce compulsory compensation for damage caused to biodiversity when there is no other solution.
- Confirm the principle of the enhancement of benefits derived from biodiversity.
- Propose to correct within six months clauses in the tax system that might result in damage to biodiversity.
- An audit to be carried out by the end of 2009 will define the ways in which green- and blue-belt systems are to be recognised in town planning documents and infrastructure plans, and in the local tax system.
- State to support the structuring of the beekeeping industry.
- Public sector to acquire 20,000 hectares of wetlands to preserve them from being built up.
- Support the establishment of an international group of scientific experts on biodiversity based on the model of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).
- Support the establishment of an international scientific commission on the Arctic.
- Protect 10% of France's overseas territorial waters within five years.





## 6 Water

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

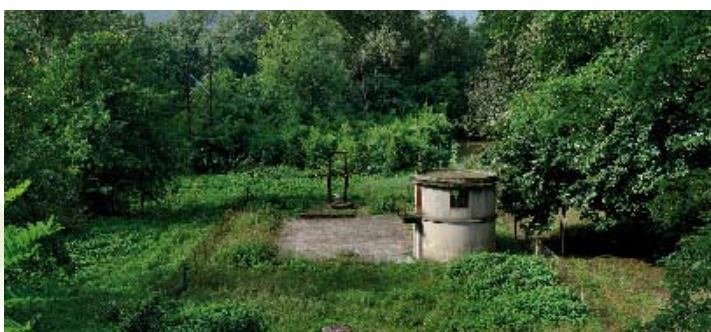
**▶ Sound ecological status and potential for all masses of water, both fresh and saline, must be attained or maintained by 2015**



- Double the quantity of water masses in good condition by 2015.
- Prohibit the use of phosphates with effect from 2012.
- Define action plans by 2012 to protect the 500 most endangered drinking water catchment areas, taking into account the issue of plant protection products.
- Give priority to organic farming methods and farming methods using few inputs around drinking water catchment areas.
- Accelerate the standardisation of water purification plants.
- Improve the recovery and reuse of rainwater and waste water whilst complying with health regulations.
- Set priority goals on reducing the presence of dangerous substances in aquatic environments.
- Investigate altering or eliminating serious obstacles to fish migration.
- Strengthen monitoring of aquatic environments and provide the public with environmental data.

### **Other measures**

- Set an objective for the State: to promote activities aimed at limiting the removal and consumption of water.
- Launch a specific action countrywide to detect leaks in networks and programme the necessary work.
- At sea, step up the fight against the emptying of fuel tanks and ballast tanks and the appearance of invasive exotic species – not only in ports, but in all bodies of water, particularly the most fragile (ecological protection areas).





# 7 Agriculture

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

## ► The transformation of agriculture must be initiated and accelerated

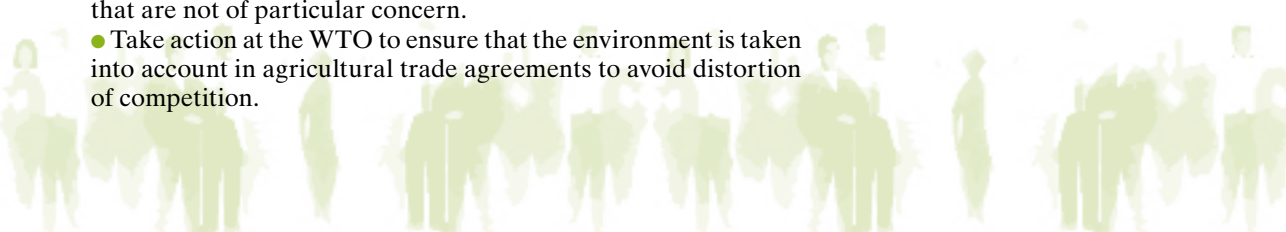
- Develop organic farming (objective: 6% of the useful agricultural area to be organic by 2012, and 20% by 2020).
- Double tax credits for organic farming from 2009.
- Draw up an environmental certification procedure for farms (50% of farms in 2012).
- Bring more sustainable farming practices into use countrywide (withdrawal by the end of 2010 of the 40 substances of most concern currently present in plant protection products).
- Forbid air spraying of plant protection products, unless by special dispensation.
- Progressively introduce a voluntary scheme for the inclusion of environmental recommendations in official origin and quality marks.
- Support the maintenance and restoration of meadows and pastures, the aim being mainly to feed livestock.

### Other measures relating to forests

- Incorporate measures to combat climate change in forestry policy.
- Promote the use of wood in construction.
- Define the main certification principles for sustainable forest management with a view to their recognition by the State, particularly for Public Sector purchases.
- From 2010, use only wood that is certified or derived from sustainably managed forests in Public Sector works.

### Other measures

- Extend the catalogue of seeds, particularly in respect of old varieties.
- Base the emergency bee plan on an independent toxicological assessment (effects of all chemical substances on bees).
- Define a tax credit linked to the farm energy assessment.
- Facilitate procedures for bringing to market natural preparations that are not of particular concern.
- Take action at the WTO to ensure that the environment is taken into account in agricultural trade agreements to avoid distortion of competition.



# 8 Research

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

## ► The national research effort will focus on :



- Renewable energy.
- Energy storage.
- Fuel cells.
- Managing the capture and storage of carbon dioxide and the energy efficiency of buildings.
- Land, sea and air vehicles and transport systems.
- Second- and third-generation biofuels.
- Biodiversity.
- Understanding ecosystems.
- Analysing behavioural and economic factors that have a decisive influence on the environment.
- Observing and understanding changes in the climate and adapting to these changes.
- Integrating ecotoxicology and life sciences in the work of multidisciplinary units researching environmental health.

### **This objective will result in:**

- Additional State expenditure of 1 billion on research into sustainable development by 2012.
- Expenditure on research into clean technologies and preventing damage to the environment being brought into line with expenditure on research into civil nuclear energy by 2012.
- Increased networking between research laboratories, the establishment of test platforms and the creation or strengthening of centres of excellence at Community level.
- Support for eco-responsible innovations, particularly through the mobilisation and coordination of environment-related centres of competitiveness.
- Courses on research being developed in various educational establishments and professional circles.

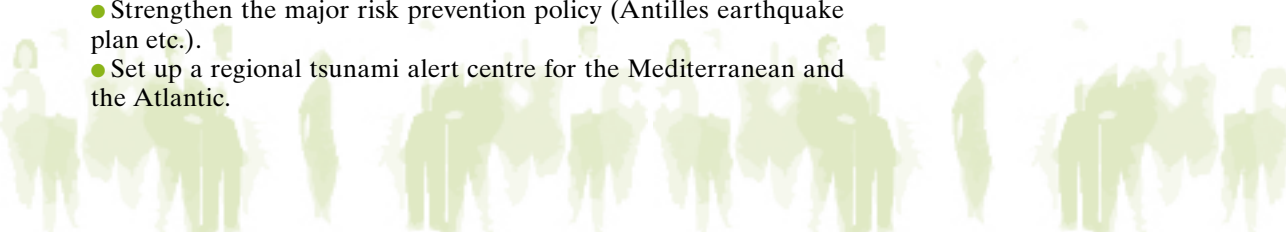
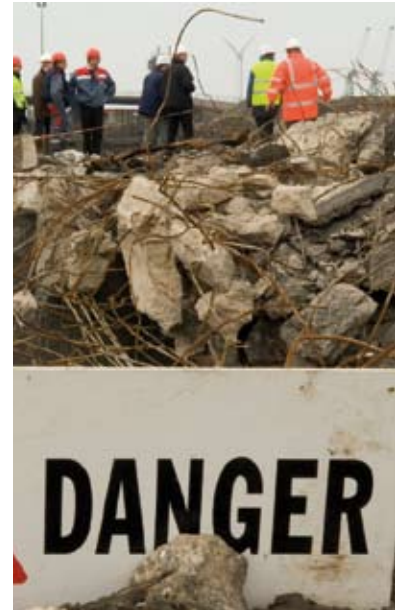


# 9 Risks, health and the environment

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

## ► Environmental policy must be incorporated into the health policy

- Draw up a second national environmental health plan to better understand, control and reduce the use of harmful substances; this should include concerns linked to trichloroethylene, perchloroethylene and endocrine disruptors, as well as young children and the impact of pollutants on prenatal health.
- Introduce employee health reports before 1 January 2012 to track exposure to dangerous substances during their working life; also plan trials of this system in respect of the substances of most concern (in consultation with unions and management).
- Draw up a plan to reduce particles in outside air: objective 10 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> of fine particles of under 2.5 micrometres (PM 2.5).
- Label construction and decoration products to show emissions and volatile pollutant content.
- Create posts in each french *Département* to advise on the indoor environment.
- Investigate extending labelling to other categories of widely used products.
- Make an inventory of noise blackspots and resolve those giving the most concern within seven years.
- Set up a system run by accredited independent bodies to monitor and measure electromagnetic waves.
- Present Parliament with a summary of scientific studies relating to the effects of electromagnetic fields on health before the end of 2009.
- Control and limit artificial light emissions.
- Launch a public debate on the use of substances in nanoparticulate state before the end of 2009.
- Notify the public and consumers about the compulsory declaration relating to the quantities and use of substances in nanoparticulate state.
- Complete the inventory of potentially polluted sites by 2010.
- Strengthen the major risk prevention policy (Antilles earthquake plan etc.).
- Set up a regional tsunami alert centre for the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.



# 10 Waste

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

## ► The waste reduction policy must be strengthened



- Reduce the production of domestic waste by 7% per head every year for the next five years.
- Increase recycling of materials and organic matter: 35% of domestic and related waste by 2012 (45% by 2015), 75% of domestic packaging and general business waste by 2012.
- Limit the quantity of waste incinerated or stored: 15% decrease by 2012.

### **These objectives will result in:**

- Priority being given to reusing, sorting, recovering materials and recycling as methods of managing waste.
- Priority being given to energy recovery for the processing of residual waste.
- Eco-design being used to reinforce waste reduction policy.
- The taking into account of eco-design criteria to modulate the levies paid by manufacturers to eco-organisations.
- Increased taxation on storage and incineration installations to reduce waste production and encourage recycling.
- The introduction of variable charges and taxes for collecting domestic waste within a period of five years.
- A broadening of the producer's area of responsibility, resulting in the improved management of certain waste flows.
- The introduction of a State observer in all eco-organisations as a result of the broadening of the producer's area of responsibility, and the establishment of secure management of finances.
- Particular attention being paid to reducing overpackaging to a minimum.
- Bulky waste from furnishing and DIY must be subject to an appropriate regulatory, economic and organisational framework.





# 11 Model state

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

► Like any public authority, the State must take account of the effect on the environment of the decisions it makes

## Environment-friendly public procurement

- From 2009, vehicles purchased by the State must emit less than 130g of CO<sub>2</sub>/km, unless there is no alternative.
- From 2010, use only wood that is certified or derived from sustainably managed forests.
- Significantly reduce paper consumption in the Public Sector and introduce general recycling of paper used therein by 2012. With effect from 2012, only paper that is recycled or derived from sustainably managed forests must be used.
- Use organic products for public catering services: 15% of orders by 2010 and 20% by 2012.
- Develop the use of information and communication technology and videoconference installations.

## Measures to promote sustainable development

- Produce a report on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions for all public authorities (buildings) no later than 2009.
- Introduce a plan to improve energy efficiency by 20% by 2015.
- Progressively revise State aid to ensure that it does not result in environmental damage.
- Increase recognition of the environment in State-financed programmes that support development.
- Introduce training in sustainable development for State officials by 2012.
- Draw up sustainable development indicators in line with the national sustainable development strategy (SNDD) by 2010.



# 12 Governance, information and training

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

**► New forms of governance must be established, the public must be better informed and training in sustainable development must become widespread**



- Create a regime of rights and duties for associations and foundations protecting the environment (criteria set by the Council of State).
- Reform national and local bodies handling environmental issues.
- Consolidate the basic role of regional authorities in relation to the environment and sustainable development. Link community groups to the national consultative body responsible for dialogue with regional authorities in respect of the environment and sustainable development.
- Assert the principle of environmental transparency.
- Investigate the creation of a body to be responsible for alert and assessment mechanisms to ensure transparency and provide a consistent methodology and code of ethics for assessments; this may also serve as an appeal body in the event of contradictory assessments and investigate situations giving rise to alerts.
- Extend the social and environmental responsibility of businesses.
- State to create an environmental portal providing general access to information held by public authorities and, in certain cases, to participate in public decisions impacting the environment.
- Notify consumers of the environmental and social nature of the product/packaging pairing to enable them to have comprehensive and objective information.
- Involve businesspeople in drawing up a methodology for assessing the environmental impact of products and service offerings.
- Ensure training in sustainable development is provided within all disciplines.

### **This objective will result in:**

- The introduction of training courses in sustainable development and the protection of the environment for officials in local authorities.
- Consistency in public enquiry procedures and improved public participation.
- The reform of the public debate procedure to better recognise the impact of projects on the environment.
- The launch of a long-term programme to inform the general public about, and raise awareness of, protection of the environment.
- Joint involvement at European level in a number of reforms (harmonisation of sectoral indicators at Community level etc.).

# 13

## Clauses relating specifically to French overseas territories

The Act of 3 August 2009 relating to the establishment of the Environment Round Table

### ► French overseas territories must become regions of environmental excellence

- Step up measures to combat natural risks: earthquakes, floods etc.
- Move towards energy autonomy: 50% by 2020 (excl. Mayotte: 30%) and eventually 100% (increased use of renewable energy).
- Introduce an energy assessment specific to overseas territories.
- Introduce specific power/heat regulations that take the risk of earthquakes into account.
- Introduce a model integrated waste management system combining recycling and economic recovery.
- Create channels for inter-regional cooperation for the management of waste.
- Inventory, preserve and increase biodiversity and the value of aquatic environments (particularly coral reefs and protected marine areas).
- Improve the management of water resources, particularly ensuring the security of drinking water supplies and purification plants by 2015.
- Investigate a programme to create a regional network of dedicated public transport lanes.
- Investigate the creation of a coastal railway line in Guyana.
- Combat climate change: introduce a local strategy to adapt to the consequences of climate change.
- Manage mining activities: produce a mining plan in Guyana in 2009 and ensure sustainable development of the mining plan in New Caledonia.





## le Grenelle Environnement

Website :  
[www.legrenelle-environnement.fr](http://www.legrenelle-environnement.fr)

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