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Pact for the Environnement presentation document

**A Nicolas Hulot
Foundation for Nature and Mankind initiative**

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SUMMARY

NICOLAS HULOT INVITES CANDIDATES AND CITIZENS TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR DESIRE TO TAKE ACTION BY SIGNING THE PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT?

We must not wait any longer to prioritise ecological and climate issues. Experts confirm that an unprecedented ecological crisis is looming and this threat is amplifying and accelerating tensions among humans around the globe.

During his term of office, the next French president will have the difficult task of dealing with the changes we face. Employment, economy, solidarity, democracy and the well-being of every one of us depend greatly on his political choices.

Without being vain enough to believe that France can change the global situation, it can play a major role on the international scene and encourage Europe to follow in its footsteps if it places ecological issues at the forefront of its policies.

This is a unique opportunity to create a major economic, social and cultural transformation in our society, by way of mass mobilisation. **Nicolas Hulot and the experts of the Foundation's Committee for Ecological Vigilance propose that this mobilisation be based on an PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT.**

A CIVIL ACTION GOING BEYOND POLITICAL DIVIDES

The goal of the Pact for the Environnement is to place ecological and climate issues at the forefront of future political debates. It aims to:

- Encourage presidential election candidates to look beyond political divides.
- Rally citizens.
- Open public debate by proposing 10 objectives and 5 practical proposals to candidates for incorporation into their programmes.

The Nicolas Hulot Foundation also urges candidates to consider the proposals of other environmental NGOs.

FOR THE CANDIDATES: PLACING ECOLOGY AT THE FOREFRONT OF THEIR PROGRAMMES

Candidates pledge their commitment in two stages:

1st stage – Signing the Pact for the Environnement

A solemn written commitment by which candidates demonstrate their desire to take action and make ecology a national priority beyond political divides.

2nd stage – Responding to the 10 objectives and 5 proposals from the Foundation

Nicolas Hulot asks candidates to express an opinion on the objectives and proposals (details of which are found in the Press kit). This involves reading them carefully, making additions, even adapting them or suggesting alternatives.

The Foundation expects a response from each candidate and it will publish these on the Pact for the Environnement web site.

These 10 objectives and 5 proposals are summarised on the pact web site: www.pacte-ecologique-2007.org and detailed in a book entitled "A pact for the Environnement", published by Calmann-Levy (in bookshops from November 8th).

FOR CITIZENS: RALLYING TOGETHER TO BE HEARD

By signing the Pact for the Environnement, citizens have the opportunity to clearly say to candidates that they wish to see ecology placed at the forefront of political issues, and thus become the determining factor behind the decisions made and actions taken, as fast as possible and at the highest national level.

When it is time to vote, citizens will be aware of the candidates' commitments and will be able to make an informed decision.

In order for this mobilisation to succeed, it must come from all levels of society; personalities well-known and well-loved in France have already shown their support for the Pact for the Environnement. Hubert Reeves, Jean-Marie Pelt, Jean-Louis Etienne, Yann Arthus-Bertrand, Jane Goodall and Boris Cyrulnik have all volunteered to spread the word. A support committee will be launched on November 7th; the aim of the latter is to unite all those willing to take action in order to build the necessary impetus.

The Pact for the Environnement is available to everyone:

- **On the web site www.pacte-ecologique-2007.org.**
- **In the book "Pact for the Environnement"** (published by Calmann-Levy), available in bookshops.
- **At Nicolas Hulot's conferences** held in various regions throughout France. (List available on the Pact for the Environnement web site).
- **On request, by writing to the Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind**, at the following address:
Fondation Nicolas Hulot - Pacte écologique - 6, rue de l'Est - 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt.

WWW.PACTE-ECOLOGIQUE-2007.ORG: PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT INTERACTIVE WINDOW

The web site enables everyone to understand what the Pact for the Environnement is about and to appreciate the importance of ecological and climate issues in the presidential campaign.

It also enables everyone to:

- sign the Pact for the Environnement online.
- find out about the 10 objectives and 5 proposals, which are summarised there.
- express opinions in the forum.
- **find out at any time the positions of the various candidates and their responses to the 10 objectives and 5 practical proposals.** All candidates have their own space to respond and express their opinions. They also have the possibility of posting a summary of their environmental programme on the site, which may be downloaded by anyone who so wishes.

WHY PROPOSE AN PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT?

In Chinese, the word “crisis” is written using two ideograms: danger and opportunity. The Pact for the Environnement is a unique opportunity to transform our society.

In a world hit by unemployment, financial uncertainty and exclusion, ecological problems are not necessarily perceived as the most serious of threats. And yet...

- **Experts agree and confirm** that we face an unprecedented ecological crisis: climate change, extinction of species, exhaustion of natural resources, depletion and contamination of water, pollution, emerging diseases, etc. The entire human race is at risk and the most deprived populations are the first to suffer.

- **All the factors of the ecological crisis amplify existing tensions and create new ones:** health and social insecurity, increasingly fragile economies, international migrations, conflicts over access to resources... Ignoring the importance of ecological matters or treating them as secondary issues is tantamount to leaving social problems and global inequalities to deteriorate further still.

The future of this planet and its inhabitants now depends on us: either we decide to make the actual changes called for, or we suffer the blows head on without being able to gradually control them. This is a unique opportunity to bring about a major economic, social and cultural change in our society, by way of mass mobilisation.

Nicolas Hulot and the Foundation’s Committee for Ecological Vigilance propose that society be guided by a “Pact for the Environnement”: a contract between the people of France and their future President to change direction.

OPEN LETTER TO THE FUTURE FRENCH PRESIDENT

To the candidates for the French Presidency,

At a time when France is about to make a major political choice in appointing its new President, the country is about to determine its future. The human race faces the threat of an unprecedented ecological and energy crisis amplifying and accelerating existing tensions among humans around the globe. How can we avoid this? We have no other choice but to bring about a major economic, social and cultural change in our society, by way of mass mobilisation. I propose that this mobilisation be based on an "Ecological pact". A new contract for a new situation.

It is the hour of truth and time for action

The future of this planet and of its inhabitants now depends on the way our society acts. It is essential that we transform the way we produce, work, consume, eat, dwell and heat those dwellings, travel, etc. Employment, economy, solidarity, democracy and the well-being of everyone depend on this. What do you propose today? Will you be making ecological issues a national priority? Candidates, it is time to take action at last. Our very future depends on the choices you make.

A world-wide state of emergency

Disruptions linked to climate change and a shortage of resources are already occurring. All scientific observations confirm this. The entire human race is in danger. The most deprived populations have been the first to be hit by the many terrible droughts, floods and cyclones that we are now accustomed to seeing on our television screens. This is the fundamental reason behind the urgent need to join forces and act.

The ecological crisis amplifies other economical and social crises.

In a world hit by unemployment, financial uncertainty and exclusion, ecological problems are not necessarily perceived as the most serious of threats. Yet all the factors of the ecological crisis amplify existing tensions and generate new ones: health and social insecurity, increasingly fragile economies, international migrations, conflicts over access to resources. Far from ignoring social issues and global inequalities, ecological demands take these into account and avoid making them worse. It is not a priority, but the priority.

Neither left-wing, nor right-wing, but over and above

Because the ecological crisis is unprecedented and on such a huge scale, it raises questions and suggests answers going beyond political divides. This is no longer a question of electoral strategy. This is a shared cause.

The ecological challenge, a unique opportunity

Progress has turned into a threat to humankind, but this threat is an opportunity. We have the tools. We have the technical abilities at our disposal to react. We know how to save energy, produce cleanly and recycle. The time has come to take action on a grand scale. The necessary measures, as constraining as they may seem today, will yield a fantastic level of industrial creativity tomorrow, will boost scientific research and will open up new sources of employment. The ecological "revolution" will bring new activities, a new economic and social era and improve the conditions of human life.

There is growing awareness. There are more and more signs of encouragement: our *Défi pour la Terre* (Earth Challenge) campaign has already united 600,000 people; 52% of the French want environmental



protection to feature among the future President's priorities. The message could not be clearer! Now it is up to you to take action, to encourage a joint movement to transform the very structures of society and the actions of each and every one of us.

Sign the Pact for the Environnement

The first step to take, as future President of France, is to trigger a general momentum, uniting all those who, whether left-wing, right-wing or otherwise, have decided to take up the biggest challenge facing us today. The Pact for the Environnement can be signed and followed by anyone who so desires. It is not an agreement between political structures, nor is it a government programme, but a declaration of common intent going beyond political conflict. This is the first stage in mass mobilisation.

Nicolas Hulot
President of the Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind

WHAT IS THE PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT?

The aim of the Pact for the Environnement is to place ecological and climate issues at the forefront of future political debates.

The Pact for the Environnement is intended for all candidates, and goes beyond political divides. It aims to:

- **Encourage presidential election candidates to make ecology the priority of the future French President.**
- **Rally citizens because the choice is theirs.**
- **Open the debate by proposing 10 objectives and 5 practical proposals to candidates for incorporation into their programmes. These are bases for reflection that are open to public debate.**

The Nicolas Hulot Foundation also urges candidates to consider the proposals of other environmental NGOs.

THE PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT

I hereby sign the Pact for the Environnement to place ecological and climate issues at the forefront of the 2007 presidential election debates

and I undertake to (if I am a presidential election candidate)
/ and I ask candidates to (if I am a citizen):

- Consider ecological issues as a shared priority that goes beyond political party divides and enable France to become an exemplary country in terms of sustainable development.
- Make biodiversity preservation and the struggle against climate change the determining factors behind public action.
- Provide the financial, legal, technological and educational tools to adapt or reduce our consumption according to current and future ecological and social requirements.
- Immediately initiate a fundamental revision of energy, transport and agricultural policies.
- Express my position (if I am a candidate) / Express their opinion (if I am a citizen) on the ten objectives and the five practical proposals to change direction, as presented in the book "A Pact for the Environnement" and summarised on the web site [HYPERLINK "http://www.pacte-ecologique-2007.org"](http://www.pacte-ecologique-2007.org)

AN INITIATIVE TO ENABLE CANDIDATES TO PLACE ECOLOGICAL AND CLIMATE ISSUES AT THE FOREFRONT OF THEIR PROGRAMMES...

The next French president will have the difficult task of dealing with the many ecological and climate challenges and their consequences in terms of production methods, consumption, employment, eating habits, health, solidarity, public funding, national planning & development, transport, housing, education, etc.

It is therefore essential for ecological and climate issues to be incorporated immediately into presidential election candidate programmes.

The Pact for the Environnement is a transpolitical civil initiative, intended for all presidential election candidates.

It is a two-stage commitment:

1st stage - Signing the Pact for the Environnement

A solemn written commitment by which candidates demonstrate their desire to take action and make ecology a national priority beyond political divides.

2nd stage - Responding to the 10 objectives and 5 proposals from the Foundation

Nicolas Hulot asks candidates to express an opinion on the objectives and proposals (details of which are found in part II). This involves reading them carefully, making additions, even adapting them or suggesting alternatives.

The Foundation expects a response from each candidate that it will publish on the Pact for the Environnement web site.

All presidential election candidates will receive the Pact for the Environnement and the book "A Pact for the Environnement" by post. **They are invited to sign the pact and express their opinion on the 10 objectives and 5 proposals.**

Their responses will be available on the web site: HYPERLINK "<http://www.pacte-ecologique-2007.org>" www.pacte-ecologique-2007.org.

A CALL TO RALLY CITIZENS

Nine out of ten French people believe that it is essential to undertake major changes to deal with the ecological threat and 52% want environmental protection to feature among the future President's priorities*. The message could not be clearer.

In order to be heard, citizens are also invited to sign the Pact for the Environnement.

In doing so, they demonstrate their desire to place ecology at the forefront of political concerns, so that they may become the determining factor behind decisions made and actions taken as fast as possible and at the highest national level.

The Pact for the Environnement is available to everyone:

- On the web site www.pacte-ecologique-2007.org.
- In the book "A Pact for the Environnement" (published by Calmann-Levy), available in bookshops.
- At Nicolas Hulot's conferences held in various regions throughout France. (List available on the Ecological pact web site).
- On request, by writing to the Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind at the following address: Fondation Nicolas Hulot - Pacte écologique - 6, rue de l'Est - 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt.

These 10 objectives and 5 practical proposals are summarised on the Pact for the Environnement web site:

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* Survey conducted by Institut LH2 – Louis Harris on a sample of 800 people July 19, 20 and 21, 2006

10 OBJECTIVES AND 5 PROPOSALS: BASES FOR REFLECTION OPEN TO DEBATE

We have the technical abilities at our disposal to react to the ecological and climate crisis. We know how to save energy, produce cleanly and recycle. The time has come to take action on a grand scale.

From constraint to opportunity

The necessary measures, as constraining as they may seem today, will yield a fantastic level of industrial creativity tomorrow, will boost scientific research and will open up new sources of employment. The ecological transformation will bring new activities, a new economic and social era and improve the conditions of human life.

Acting rather than suffering the consequences

It is not too late to create this transformation together rather than suffer the catastrophic consequences. Tomorrow it will be too late.

10 OBJECTIVES to change direction

Through the work and the experts' reports of its Committee for Ecological Vigilance, the Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind has identified ten priority objectives.

These are bases for reflection covering most of the major areas of public policy.

These objectives, which are open to debate and to response from everyone, have been drawn up with the aim of providing candidates with the means to identify the main environmental problems and are proposed as the bases for a plan of action, to help them find the appropriate solutions.

The 10 objectives are coherent but are not exhaustive.

Objective No. 1 Economy: the quest for sustainability

In other words: designing industrial products to last, to be repaired or recycled in order to reduce the quantity of materials, waste and fuel.

Objective No. 2 Energy: working towards reducing consumption

In other words: working against global warming by massively reducing petrol, gas and coal consumption in order to decrease our greenhouse gas emissions fourfold by 2050.

Objective No. 3 Agriculture: producing differently

In other words: combining agricultural production with environmental protection, rural work, quality produce and health.

Objective No. 4 Land use: containing periurban expansion and relocating human activities

In other words: conserving natural and rural areas, ceasing to increase the number of infrastructures and “artificialise” surfaces, working against the urban sprawl by shortening the distance between the workplace and the home.

Objective No. 5 Transport: moving past road travel

In other words: reducing modes of transport using high quantities of petrol and producing high levels of greenhouse gases (lorries, cars and planes), increasing the availability of less greedy and cleaner methods (trains, public transport, river transport, cycling).

Objective No. 6 Taxation: establishing the true price of nature's services

In other words: taking into account the real economic cost of human activities, ceasing public subsidies leading to environmental deterioration, steering the budget towards sustainable development.

Objective No. 7 Biodiversity: incorporating nature into land policies

In other words: incorporating the conservation of natural heritage into the overall sustainable development strategy, by creating a national ecological network connecting all protected species and protecting their ecological functions.

Objective No. 8 Health: prevention is better than cure

In other words: assessing the share of the overall cost of a disease attributable to environmental deterioration, implementing a policy based on prevention, particularly regarding diet, use of pesticides and GMOs.

Objective No. 9 Research: making the environment a driving force behind innovation

In other words: making research compatible with plans for a sustainable society; fostering links among the different research areas.

Objective No. 10 International politics: taking the initiative

In other words: making the ecological challenge and the threats weighing on global security a diplomatic priority.

Objective No. 1

ECONOMY, THE QUEST FOR SUSTAINABILITY

On the one hand, our economy system guzzles up massive quantities of non-renewable natural resources. On the other, it shamelessly throws out greenhouse gases and waste. **80% of all products manufactured in France are only used once.** All the while, the risks of depletion, pollution and general destabilisation are increased.

The aim should therefore be to move towards a “**circular economy**” where the goal is no longer to produce just for the sake of producing, but to reduce the quantity of materials and save energy.

- By exclusively producing goods or waste that are recoverable, restorable, recyclable, reusable or biodegradable.
- By turning non-usable waste into resources and usable waste into raw materials.
- By changing manufacturing processes according to ecological impact.
- By networking and sharing production units.

By manufacturing sustainable rather than disposable goods, the entire reasoning behind the economy is transformed.

These new manufacturing methods are accompanied by the creation of a “**functionality economy**”. The latter consists in replacing the sale of a product (good or service) by the sale or hire of its use (e.g. a company may hire the use of a photocopier rather than purchasing one).

These two changes will result in **the conversion towards thrifty production** of raw materials and energy and in product design innovations. At the same time, this does not undermine the industrial tool as it offers another way of producing and consuming. It also **stimulates employment**. For example, many local jobs will be necessary to handle the maintenance, restoring and recovering systems.

Objective No. 2

ENERGY, WORKING TOWARDS REDUCING CONSUMPTION

Our generation must anticipate and cushion a **double blow**.

On the one hand, petrol, natural gas and coal are the leading factors responsible for the growing level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, increasing the greenhouse effect that threatens to **disrupt the climate and habitability of the planet**; on the other, these fossil fuels will become increasingly scarce, thus posing a threat to economic development and related living standards.

Fossil fuels have become such an important part of human activities that would appear impossible to replace them, in equal volumes, by alternative resources. **No new energy supply is likely to meet our needs** if they remain the same, whatever progress is made in terms of energy efficiency.

We must therefore come to the following conclusion: if we want to prevent a climatic catastrophe and avoid depleting fossil fuels entirely, there is no other solution but to **massively reduce global energy consumption**. In order to do this, we propose introducing a permanent progressive tax on petrol, gas and coal (see proposal No. 2) while introducing an ambitious plan to save energy and develop renewable energy.

If we do not negotiate plans to voluntarily reduce energy consumption, we will expose ourselves, before the end of the century:

- To a sharp decrease in consumption and regulation caused by shortages.
- To a major climate threat.

I remind those who feel that reducing energy consumption goes against social policies that nothing would be more inequitable than the chaos we would otherwise face.

Objective No. 3

AGRICULTURE, PRODUCING DIFFERENTLY

“Industrial agriculture” is both **destructive for the environment and incompatible with humans**. It is based on untenable practices: massive artificialising of agricultural systems and camouflaging real costs with ongoing subsidies. These practices eventually lead to **diminished fertility**. There are a great number of farmers who are unable to remain competitive and therefore forced to give up their land.

Specialised cultivation systems, the use of high powered motor-driven machinery and the growing use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers all increase petrol consumption. **Agriculture has thus become one of the biggest sectors contributing to the greenhouse effect**. It has only become profitable with the use of pesticides that pose a threat not only to the health of the farmers but also to consumers.

The profitability of farming systems should be evaluated not only taking into account monetary costs of production, but also considering the natural heritage value, energy effects, ecological costs and social, nutritional and health effects (good and bad) on society as a whole.

This is why we propose (contrary to policies supporting intensive production), **encouraging sustainable quality farming** (organic or certified products), by opening up a market through the redeployment of European agricultural subsidies to collective catering, via an initiative to encourage local production from this type of farmer (see proposal No. 3).

Objective No. 4

LAND POLICY, CONTAINING PERIURBAN EXPANSION AND RELOCATING HUMAN ACTIVITIES

Current land policy continues to artificialise spaces to the detriment of landscapes and ecosystems. It perpetuates spatial organisation based on **periurban expansion encouraging more cars on the road and more greenhouse gas emissions**. The increase in the number of residential areas devours the land and inevitably results in the construction of further infrastructures and roads.

The aim should be to establish land zones that preserve ecosystems and do not encourage incessant mobility. This means **breaking away from the race for more infrastructures and from the tendency of a continuous urban sprawl**.

Will elected representatives ever understand that their job is not to launch (often extravagant) projects using high-powered equipment, but to introduce sustainable management of the land for which they are responsible?

It is time to:

- **Stop the urban sprawl** and encourage small, dense, urban and rural centres.
- **Implement a policy bringing together, in one space, residential areas and economic, commercial and leisure activities**. In other words, bringing the labour market area closer to people's homes, encouraging local shops and leisure sites within urban areas rather than superstores and peripheral leisure sites.

In doing this we can save natural areas, improve access to public services and reduce motor-driven travel, energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, transport time, road works and the closure of services.

Objective No. 5

TRANSPORT, MOVING PAST ROAD TRAVEL

The number of journeys, whether for the transportation of people or goods, increases by around 5% every year in France. **Road travel accounts for the greatest share of these journeys** (more than 80%) to the detriment of the railway and waterways.

Although a symbol of independence and mobility, road travel is **one of the greatest ecological problems**: cars and heavy goods vehicles account for 65% of France's petrol product consumption (versus 34% 30 years ago); the increase in traffic increases carbon dioxide emissions (around one third of emissions).

In developing a "**global system**" based on mobility, road travel is plunging society into a catastrophic vortex. It is therefore essential to change the transport system as a whole:

- **By limiting engine power**. Limiting engine power to comply with speed limits would reduce their consumption and carbon dioxide emissions by around 20%.
- **By prioritising rail travel**. Trains use less space and energy and pollute less. Developing rail travel means extending tracks, increasing the number of destinations and providing regular regional express trains.
- **By encouraging the use of public transport and environmentally friendly travel**. Increasing attractive, efficient collective (public transport) and individual (walking, cycling) travel possibilities that are adapted to urban hours.
- **By taxing vehicles that pollute the most**. The cost of transport per heavy vehicle must include indirect costs and the biggest gas guzzlers and vehicles causing the most pollution should be subjected to the polluter-payer principle.

- **By changing land policy.** Relocating economic activities, bringing services closer together, creating small, denser urban units, shortening distribution channels.

Objective No. 6

TAXATION, ESTABLISHING THE TRUE PRICE OF NATURE'S SERVICES

Due to our increasing needs, the invaluable services offered by ecosystems now come at a price. **The “hidden costs” of a wide range of activities must now be accounted for**, failing which we put the health of the population, economic activities and social stability at risk.

A price should be placed on access to a given resource, service or collective product of natural origin by using financial instruments: taxes, standards or quotas.

The State budget must therefore be revised to incorporate a global forward-looking prevention plan based on two notions:

Funding of infrastructure policies:

- Helping companies, households and authorities to manage the necessary land policy changes.
- Changing transport methods.
- Introducing a mileage toll on heavy vehicles.
- Encouraging alternatives to fossil fuels.
- Imposing the environmental quality standard “HQE” on all new constructions.
- Undertaking to renew heating appliances in all old buildings.
- Reintroducing the annual *vignette* (road tax), according to the vehicle's carbon dioxide emissions.
- Actively reintroducing sustainable farming (see proposal No.3).

Funding of employment and solidarity policies:

- Helping individuals and professionals burdened by the increase in the price of hydrocarbons.
- Assisting low income households with the rising cost of fuel.
- Reducing direct income taxes and replacing them by ecological taxation on activities consuming natural resources and excessive levels of fuel (see proposal No. 2).

Objective No. 7

BIODIVERSITY, INCORPORATING NATURE INTO LAND POLICIES

French land is still occupied mostly by agriculture (59%) and forests (30%). However, **the land is being increasingly artificialised**. The deterioration of environments and landscapes due to human activities reduces the ability of animal and plant species to move and interact, causing demographic depletion, the extinction of rare species, genetic erosion and more fragile ecosystems.

“**Ordinary nature**” everywhere, in towns and the countryside, is also affected. There is a decrease in the number of common species, the depletion of wetlands and a decrease in fauna, flora and fish populations.

This erosion of biodiversity is an economic threat to society. It may weaken and break the chain of “free” goods and services that ecosystems offer humans, supplies as vital as water treatment, protection against natural disasters or mineral resources.

Henceforth, nature conservation matters must be incorporated in a sustainable development strategy rather than being dealt with separately. We propose changing the current scale of landscape protection:

- **By interlinking protected nature reserves by means of a “national econetwork”** to establish continuity between rich and less rich environments and landscapes.

These regional plans would be incorporated into all land and urban planning projects, tools and documents.

- **By creating a national natural heritage body**, with branches for each ecoregion, in metropolitan France and in the overseas departments, responsible for this new “shared possession”.

Objective No. 8

HEALTH, PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE

It is essential that France assesses the environmental factors leading to the risk of a deterioration in public health. We feel that there are three priorities:

- **Diet.** Pollution of the environment and the food chain, (massive use of pesticides, water and air pollution) and the deterioration in the quality of food contribute to an increase in cancer (+62 % in twenty years) and allergies (doubled in 20 years). There is an increasing level of obesity and diabetes. The rise in both these diseases **calls for a change in agricultural production systems and dietary habits.**
- **Pesticides.** France is the 3rd biggest pesticide consumer. These biocides contribute to the extinction of species and pollute the environment. They can cause allergies, neurotoxicity, immunosuppression, cell mutation, cancer and endocrine disturbances (fertility problems, malformations), even in low doses. It is up to the authorities to **undertake to reduce the use of pesticides, to support the REACH project to identify chemical pollutants, specify their toxicity, reconsider their authorisation and develop training to produce without pesticides.**
- **GMOs.** Is it normal to find these experimental products in fields and on our plates when we have only limited knowledge of the risks of genetic manipulation and gene interaction? We highly recommend that **French legislation faithfully transposes the European directives to ensure controlled dissemination of GMOs in the environment.**

Objective No. 9

RESEARCH, MAKING THE ENVIRONMENT A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND INNOVATION

Unprecedented efforts in fundamental research and technological innovation are essential if we want to maintain a sustainable relationship between man and the environment.

However, in France, environmental research, particularly regarding biodiversity, renewable energy or chemical pollution, **suffers from a severe lack of funding and human resources.** It is as if ecology had not evolved since the time when it was a descriptive science. The general view seems to be that the only tools ecology researchers need are pen and paper.

Changes must be made to the way in which decisions are made and to the entire approach to science.

- **Reinforcing political decision-making.** Politicians can no longer merely submit wishes that research authorities then choose whether or not to carry out. Specific commitments must be made in biodiversity, the weak link in fundamental research.
- **Revising the role of the ministry for research.** Rather than simply reflecting scientific lobbies, the ministry must change the structure of its departments to be able to develop a multi- and cross-disciplinary approach.
- **Redeploying human and financial means.** This involves redirecting research support (grant allocations, national research body decisions, distribution of means among public institutions and universities) towards knowledge and technological innovations in environmental matters.
- **Adjusting training priorities.** Ecological education must be introduced into all disciplines and into the very basis of all teaching (see proposal No. 5).

Objective No. 10

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, TAKING THE INITIATIVE

None of the major environmental disruptions – climate changes, fuel shortages, biodiversity erosion, depletion of resources and soil, pollution, desertification, depletion of primary forests, ocean acidification, explosive urbanisation, emerging diseases – will be contained within national borders.

France must therefore make sustainable development on a planetary scale its primary European and international policy:

- **By working towards the creation of a United Nations Organisation for the environment** in order to place the environment at a level of concern and decision-making at least equal to that of the economy and trade.
- **By becoming considerably more actively in favour of conservation and sustainable biodiversity management.** For example, it could develop a network of marine protected areas or contribute to building a network of protected primary forests and ecologically viable areas representing their biological diversity.
- **By proposing, with Europe, to put a stop to agricultural export subsidies and better customs protection** against agricultural imports thus offering the rural populations of southern countries the means to remain on their land rather than suffer forced exodus.
- **By contributing to tightening European measures against the greenhouse effect** by proposing a gradual decrease in quotas to make the latter increasingly constraining.
- **By increasing its Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 1% of GDP.**
However, these funds should be subject to ecological conditions to serve, first and foremost, to develop sustainable production and consumption.

5 PRACTICAL PROPOSALS

To assist candidates in their initial actions, Nicolas Hulot and the Committee for Ecological Vigilance propose five practical measures to incorporate into debate. They are technically and legally applicable from the start of the new French President's term of office.

Proposal No. 1

A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development concerns all areas: the economy, social matters, the environment. It conditions our jobs, our diet, our travelling, our towns, our homes, our taxes, our roads, our leisure activities, etc.

If it is to become, as we propose, the determinant of public policy, this new policy must be given the necessary **institutional means**, at the very heart of the government.

Hence, we recommend creating the position of Deputy Prime Minister for sustainable development, i.e. the responsibility of ensuring that the notion is incorporated **into all political decisions**. As the government's deputy leader, the Deputy Prime Minister's role will be to compile and monitor each ministry's road map to ensure that all actions taken work towards sustainable development.

With his or her dedicated team, the Deputy Prime Minister will have clearly defined prerogatives to **plan, spur on and coordinate another kind of politics to bring a long term perspective of society within the government:**

- He/she will chair the Interministerial committee for sustainable development, which will meet quarterly.
- He/she will present, annually, the national sustainable development strategy and an overview of actions taken before Parliament.
- He/she will submit all bills to a "Sustainable development" impact study.
- He/she will compile the five-year schedule of governmental action objectives in this area.
- He/she will steer new environmental indicators.
- He/she will coordinate the work of different committees and institutes for long-term planning: Centre for strategic analysis, Land policy office, etc.
- He/she will have authority over Prefects in order to enjoy local representation and additional means to carry out his/her work.

Proposal No. 2

INTRODUCING A GRADUALLY INCREASING TAX ON CARBON EMISSIONS

In order to stabilise the level of carbon emissions in the atmosphere and avoid a climatic disaster, **by 2050 global emissions must be half of** what they were in 1990, i.e. a quarter of what they are in industrialised countries. We therefore must **decrease our consumption of petrol and natural gas in France fourfold**.

The European quota system will not suffice as it only limits the emissions of major manufacturers and energy industrialists. Technological progress will not suffice. No other source of energy, no new technology is capable of replacing the quantities of hydrocarbons consumed; the latter currently account for over two thirds of our fuel consumption (85% worldwide).

We also face another threat: **the future depletion of hydrocarbons**. If the latter is not anticipated and forestalled, it will inevitably lead to a massive increase in the price of hydrocarbons, which in turn will no

doubt result in major conflict and social problems (unemployment, financial uncertainty, exclusion etc.).

It is therefore essential to introduce a **carbon dioxide tax to provoke a decrease in carbon emissions and consumption** of fossil fuels before we are brutally forced to do so. This tax, applicable to petrol, gas and coal, would be gradually increased until emissions are quartered. The tax would apply to the government, companies and households alike. It would enable the organisation of our economy and transport to evolve, by encouraging a change in habits and the use of other energy sources.

These taxes would be offset by compensatory measures for the most fragile economic sectors and households.

Proposal No. 3

STEERING FARMING SUBSIDIES TOWARDS HIGH QUALITY AGRICULTURE

The significant subsidies (9.5 billion Euros out of Europe's CAP budget and 2.5 billion Euros out of the French budget) paid to farmers are unable to maintain a sufficient level of activity for rural inhabitants and are unable to provide quality produce. They are a heavy burden on Europe, the government and taxpayers. They make producers completely dependent and contribute to encouraging a kind of agriculture that is incompatible with environmental protection.

We propose that **farming subsidies should be gradually transferred towards high quality agriculture** that is certified, organic and carries a designation of origin, **by opening up the collective catering market**: canteens in schools, companies, universities, hospitals, retirement homes, charities... 2.6 billion meals every year and around 10 million meals each working day. This market would be structured according to product specifications **based on criteria regarding quality and local production**.

This type of redistribution **would reintroduce the demand for quality produce**, thus enabling farmers to be paid for their work and creating jobs required for this kind of farming. It would reduce transport costs and fuel consumption, boost local jobs and give those with a low income access to quality food.

In order to do this, the French government must undertake to renegotiate the CAP to gradually redirect producer subsidies to collective catering. In the meantime, **France can begin to apply this system** by transferring the CAP's first pillar direct subsidies.

Proposal No. 4

SYSTEMATISING PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY PROCEDURES

One of the best ways for democratic countries to take responsibility in the ecological crisis is to spread democratic expression. We propose using participatory democracy procedures (citizen panel meetings or open public debates) **systematically submitting all major national decisions concerning sustainable development to the public beforehand** so as to clarify the choices made by elected representatives and give the society more responsibility.

In the few participatory democracy experiments conducted so far (particularly citizens' conferences), it was apparent that informed citizens have no trouble assessing problems and proposing responsible solutions. Public debates result in arguments. But the legislative or executive power **must be made to publicly respond to these arguments, in order to**

incorporate or reject them.

Again, we propose traceability and transparency from the point at which a bill is voted in to the adoption of implementation decrees.

Under these conditions public debate would encourage democracy, give responsibilities both to politicians and citizens and contribute to **determining what is in the general interest.**

The application of the notion of sustainable development should always be preceded by public debates organised by the National commission for public debate (CNDP).

All bills expressly concerning sustainable development, or considerably affecting any of its aspects, **would automatically be referred to the CNDP.** Open debates would enable consultation “from the bottom up” on proposals concerning all citizens and constituting the principle current issues. The executive and legislative powers would then be able to make **informed decisions.** The final decision would always be made by the politician, the key factor of democracy.

Proposal No. 5

INTRODUCING A MAJOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS POLICY

To ensure that society works towards sustainable development and changes its habits, it is essential that it benefits from the appropriate level of information and awareness. **We therefore propose introducing a large scale ecology and sustainable development education policy**, which, alongside conventional school education, includes information, communication, training and awareness.

This initiative would be directed at current and future policymakers, teachers, pupils and students, members of society with a determining impact on the balance of nature and all fellow citizens, **as nothing will be possible without the participation of one and all.**

With this in mind, **the entire curriculum**, from primary school to the end of secondary school, as well as higher education courses, **must be gradually reformed** to include, where appropriate, basic knowledge of ecology and sustainable development. This does not mean creating a new subject or course, nor does it mean increasing school hours; **the idea is to incorporate this knowledge into all subjects** similarly to spelling or grammar.

At the same time, a Higher education institute for ecology and sustainable development will be created to train specialised staff for the government and private firms.

For the sake of public opinion, the government will regularly launch **national information and awareness campaigns** through television, radio, the internet and written press.

It could also invite civil servants and professionals at all levels to develop local education and training policies for ecology and sustainable development.

PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT TOOLS

A WEB SITE: WWW.PACTE-ECOLOGIQUE-2007.ORG

Posted online on November 7, 2006, the Pact for the Environnement web site is designed to be an interactive window to monitor and assess the importance of ecological and climate issues in the presidential campaign.

CITIZENS AND CANDIDATES ALIKE CAN READ ABOUT THE PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT ON LINE AND UNDERSTAND THE PURPOSE OF THIS INITIATIVE.

The site enables you to:

- find out about the 10 objectives and 5 proposals, which are summarised there.
- sign the Pact for the Environnement online.
- respond in the forum.
- find out at any time the positions of the various candidates and their responses to the 10 objectives and 5 practical proposals.

CANDIDATES, VOICE YOUR OPINIONS!

Candidates are invited to express their opinion on the 10 objectives and 5 practical proposals. For clarity purposes, **all candidates have their own space to respond and express their viewpoint**. They also have the possibility of posting a summary of their environmental policy on the site, which can be downloaded by anyone who so wishes.

A BOOK: "FOR THE PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT"

In the spring of 2006, Nicolas Hulot suggested that the Nicolas Hulot Foundation's Committee for Ecological Vigilance work with him to try to construct the bases of a pact for the Environnement between French citizens and their new President.

This collaboration resulted in a plan of action comprising 10 priority objectives and 5 practical proposals. Details of the pact are given in the book "A Pact for the Environnement", published by Calmann-Levy.

PUBLIC CONFERENCES

From November onwards, Nicolas Hulot will hold public conferences in several regions in France, to explain the reasons for the initiative.

A list of these conferences can be found on www.pacte-ecologique-2007.org.

APPENDIX 1

THE NICOLAS HULOT FOUNDATION FOR NATURE AND MANKIND MISSION

The Pact is a Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind initiative. The Foundation, an NGO without any political or religious affiliation, created in 1990 and state-approved in 1996, strives to develop environmental education. This is an educational, scientific and cultural commitment to serve the natural heritage of the human race.

For the purpose of its “Pact for the Environnement” initiative, the Foundation is involved in politics as a part of everyday life. Its goal is to rally candidates and citizens to contribute, by way of the Pact for the Environnement, to preserving life on Earth, which is the basis of its mission.

The Foundation contributes to spreading knowledge about the ecological state of our planet and uses all the means at its disposal to convince as many people as possible of the need to take action to reduce the impact of human activities on the environment.

For the Foundation, this means contributing to changing people’s habits to work towards a new form of society and culture based on sustainable development.

The Foundation works on all issues related to the environment, and particularly on three: the struggle against climate change, protecting biodiversity (plant and animal species), and water protection.

APPENDIX 2

COMMITTEE FOR ECOLOGICAL VIGILANCE (CVE)

Since 2000, the Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind has been working with the help of a committee of scientists and experts: the Committee for Ecological Vigilance.

Comprised of scientists and key figures with acknowledged expertise in environmental and ecological matters, the role of the Committee for Ecological Vigilance (CVE) is to use this expertise to support the opinions expressed by the Foundation and its president. The CVE members may be asked by the Foundation to represent the latter to address the public.

CVE MEMBERS WHO HAVE WORKED TO CREATE THE PACT FOR THE ENVIRONNEMENT

Roland Albignac Zoologist, University Professor Emeritus, Franche-Comté University, Besançon.

Robert Barbault Ecologist, University Professor, director of the Ecology and National Natural History Museum Biodiversity management, CNRS-Pierre et Marie Curie University.

Jean-Paul Besset Journalist.

Dominique Bourg Philosopher, University Professor, director of the Institute for Land Management Policy and the Human Environment (IPTEH), Faculty of Earth Sciences and Environment, University of Lausanne, Switzerland.

Patrick Criqui Director of Energy and environmental policy at the Institute of energy policy and economics (LEPII); CNRS-UPMF, Grenoble.

Nicole D'Almeida University Professor of information and communication, University of Paris-Sorbonne.

Philippe Desbrosses Farmer, PHD in environmental science, European Union consultant.

Christian Dubois Project engineer, councillor for environment and town planning.

Marc Dufumier Agriculturalist, Professor at the Agronomic National Institute of Paris Grignon (INA P-G).

Pierre-Henri Gouyon Agriculturalist, geneticist, ecologist, Professor of the National Natural History Museum, Systematics and evolution department.

Alain Grandjean Consultant economist (sustainable capitalism).

Alain Grimfeld Paediatrician, Professor of the University of Paris VI, head of paediatrics and pneumology, Armand-Trousseau children's hospital, Paris.

François Guéroid Ecologist, Professor, functional ecology, Ecotoxicity – Environmental health, CNRS-University of Metz.

Jean-Marc Jancovici Consulting engineer, energy and climate.

Lylia Le Goff MD, consultant-trainer in Environmental health and diet; France Nature Environnement's "Biotechnology" mission leader.

Yvon Le Maho Ecophysiologicalist, CNRS director of research, member of the Science Academy.

Thierry Libaert Information science and company communication teacher, Communication lecturer at Paris's Institute for Political Studies and University of Paris IV; Scientific Director of the International Crisis Observatory (non-profit association).

Philippe Marzolf Eco-consultant and specialist in participatory democracy; vice-president of the national commission for public debate.

Marie-Antoinette Mélières Climatologist, lecturer at Joseph-Fourrier University, Grenoble.

François Moutou Veterinary surgeon, epidemiologist, mammalogist.

Pascal Picq Paleoanthropologist at the Collège de France.

Jean-Pierre Raffin Ecologist, former lecturer, University of Paris VII - Denis Diderot.

Martine Rémond-Gouilloud University Professor, maritime law, environment and risks, Marne-la-Vallée University.

Jacques Weber Economist and anthropologist, director of the French Biodiversity Institute (IFB)