



**ORAMIP**  
OBSERVATOIRE RÉGIONAL  
DE L'AIR EN MIDI-PYRÉNÉES

Press release

7<sup>th</sup> November 2012

## The first INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ON AIR - CLIMATE - HEALTH Toulouse – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November Air pollution, climate change and their impact on health

Delphine BATHO, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, will be meeting air quality actors

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November, the Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, ATMO<sup>1</sup> France, the regional council for the Midi-Pyrénées area and ORAMIP<sup>2</sup> will be holding the first International Meetings on Air - Climate - Health aimed at **raising awareness regarding the impact of air pollution on people's health.**

<sup>1</sup> - Atmo France: a federation that brings together approved regional associations devoted to monitoring air quality in France.

<sup>2</sup> - ORAMIP: member of Atmo France – approved association devoted to monitoring air quality throughout the Midi-Pyrénées.

### 42,000 PREMATURE DEATHS EVERY YEAR: AIR QUALITY IS A PRIORITY ISSUE IN TERMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Whereas the quality of the products we eat and the water we drink is a daily concern, who really worries about the quality of the air we breathe?

Our daily air consumption amounts to 15,000 litres of air per person per day, yet World Health Organization studies estimate that urban air pollution is responsible for 1.3 million deaths every year throughout the world... Excessive micro-particle threshold values are thought to be responsible for 42,000 premature deaths a year in France, to be compared with 3,963 which is the number of people killed on French roads in 2011... Experts are now assessing the benefits related to improving air quality in terms of the number of months that can be added to human life and how many billions of euros can be saved: 20 to 30 billion a year for France alone.

### EMERGENCY MEASURES NEED TO BE TAKEN: POLITICIANS AND EXPERTS MEET TO AGREE ON SHARED OBJECTIVES

The fight against climate change related to rising energy consumption is a major challenge for our societies. Improving air quality is a real **public health issue at local, national and international levels.** For this reason, political and economic decision-makers, environmental associations as well as members of the general public are invited to join the discussion and submit their own ideas for action on the 28<sup>th</sup> November next.

The speakers will be presenting the assessment of the impact of air pollution on health and the economy and will be putting into perspective the strategies and positive actions deployed throughout Europe:

- **international experts**, the World Health Organization, the European Commission, the Accounts, Sustainable Environment and Energy Commission, the World Bank, the Swiss Public Health Institute, the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, the French Ministry of Health and Social Affairs,
- **politicians**, including Corinne LEPAGE, at the origin of the law on air quality, MP Gérard BAPT, Hélène MANDROUX Mayor of Montpellier, Senator Fabienne KELLER, **researchers** such as Paolo LAJ, **and doctors, scientists and pollution and climate experts as well as film maker** Agnès MOREAU,
- **associations:** France Nature Environnement<sup>3</sup> and ASEF, the French Association for Health and the Environment, etc.

<sup>3</sup> - FNE: a federation that brings together 3,000 associations devoted to nature conservation and environmental protection in metropolitan France and its overseas territories.

At the close of the day's events coordinated by **Denis CHEISSOUX** (writer and journalist for French radio station *France Inter*), concrete proposals shall be submitted directly to **Delphine BATHO**, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy.

## THE ISSUES

In view of European disagreements and the public health issue, what actions need to be implemented to reduce air pollution?

What air-climate-energy strategies need to be deployed?

How can we assess the impact of air pollution on health? How can we reduce its cost for society?

What are the new legal measures?

What would the short, medium and long-term benefits be for individuals and the economy?

What local, national and international policies need to be deployed throughout the territories?

...So many questions to which the International meetings on Air – Climate – Health need to find an answer.

***Prior to a forthcoming new European law on air quality and at a time when France is seeking to initiate changes in its ecology and energy policies, the speakers will be invited to discuss these issues with participants in view of finding new avenues of action.***

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION AND DETAILED PROGRAMME

<http://air-climat-sante-toulouse2012.fr>

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November from 9.30 am to 6 pm – subject to prior registration

The Espace Midi-Pyrénées area at the Hôtel de Région, 22 boulevard du Maréchal Juin in Toulouse, France

### PRESS RELATIONS

**Laurence de Boerio**

[rp@deboerio.net](mailto:rp@deboerio.net) - Tel: +33 (0)6 03 10 16 56

**Patricia Paleyrie**

[patricia.paleyrie@oramip.org](mailto:patricia.paleyrie@oramip.org) - Tel: +33 (0)5 61 15 42 46