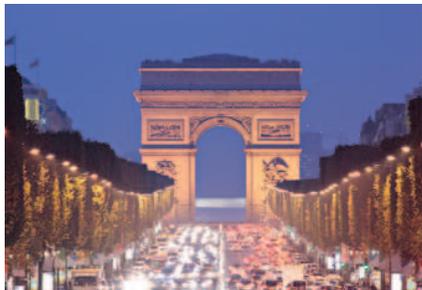


France Takes Action to Fight Climate Change



At home and on a worldwide scale, France is taking measures to fight global warming.

action, temperatures could increase on average up to 6°C by 2050, with certain regions facing higher temperature increases than the average, in particular at the poles. Climate change could then lead to unprecedented consequences, such as droughts, rising sea levels, and a loss of biodiversity. Not only is fighting climate change an international necessity but it provides an opportunity to evolve toward a new model of growth and invest in new technologies, clean energies and low carbon processes as well.

France is strongly committed to acting on this challenge. Since the 1970s, France has implemented its own national policies to reduce its GHG emissions and increase its energy security. France now ranks 8th in Europe in terms of greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions per capita (8.4 CO₂ per capita) and 2nd in terms of GHG emission per unit of GDP. This remarkable performance has been achieved through an energy mix largely based on nuclear energy and more than 10 percent renewable energy, in particular biomass and hydropower, combined with proactive energy efficiency policies, such as low-carbon cars, high-speed trains or waste to energy.

Since 2008, France has taken up the challenge to further "green" its economy with the aim of achieving a sustainable economic growth model compatible with an emission pathway that would limit global temperature increase to 2°C. To that end, France launched the "Grenelle de l'Environnement," a nationwide consultation process involving scientists, NGOs, policymakers and other stakeholders to develop an all-

"For the first time, we have to decide, not for our countries, not for our regions, not even for our continents, we have to decide for the planet," French President Nicolas Sarkozy resolved firmly before the United Nations General Assembly in September.

Climate change is one of the most challenging global issues the world has had to face. Science reveals that, without

encompassing strategy currently being transferred into laws and regulations.

France has also played a leading role, along with other member states, to craft bold and comprehensive European policies to address climate change. Under the French presidency in 2008, the European Union was the first regional entity to adopt an economy-wide regulation of greenhouse-gas emissions for post-2012, when the Kyoto protocol will end. The 27 member states passed a series of legislation to reduce their overall greenhouse-gas emissions by 20 percent by 2020 compared with 1990 levels. Furthermore, pending an ambitious international agreement, the European Union would be ready to commit up to a 30 percent reduction by 2020.

Today, the European Union represents only 14 percent of the worldwide greenhouse gas emissions while its share of the global GDP is 30 percent. The E.U. can only fight climate change efficiently if the major emitters join it and also adopt enforceable national policies that result in greenhouse-gas emission reductions, taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developing and developed countries.

The Embassy of France recently launched a new Web site that aims to provide information and facts on French national climate policies and French positions in the International negotiation process. It will be regularly updated in the time leading up to the Copenhagen summit to provide insights into the French contribution to the national and international debate on climate change. For more information, please visit: www.ambafrance-us.org/climate.



News From France Special Edition: Living the Green Life

This special edition of *News From France* focuses on France's participation in the upcoming Copenhagen Climate Summit 2009, recent sustainable development legislation and innovations in green technology. To read more, please turn to pages 4 and 5.

France Advances Employment Opportunities for Youth



President Nicolas Sarkozy meets with young professionals in support of *Le Plan jeune*.

for those who are not. The French president outlined three essential goals: education, professional training, and civic engagement for young people. The fruition of a campaign promise made two years ago, the several-fold approach prepares this demographic to meet the demands of today's economy by cultivating its potential to drive that of the future.

A central component of the plan reinvigorates the *Civis*, a contract between the state, candidate, and local recruiters to find employment for young people in difficulty. Additionally, *Le Plan jeune* mobilizes the effort to promote employment opportunities for

French President Nicolas Sarkozy announced on September 29 an initiative to stimulate employment opportunities for young people between the ages of 16 and 25. Speaking in Avignon at a school specializing in hotel management, President Sarkozy unveiled *Le Plan jeune*, a program that both acknowledges the merits of those who are currently employed and takes measures to create prospects

this age group in the civil service by planning to hire approximately 10,000 employees between the ages of 16 and 25 by the end of the year. The plan also introduces an apprenticeship program that offers incentives for employers to train members of this prospective work force. Any business hiring young workers by June 2010 will be exempt from payroll taxes. Further, those with less than 50 employees that hire a young apprentice will receive 1,800 euros.

By complementing these efforts with additional social benefits, such as increased health-care benefits and additional academic scholarships, France aims to facilitate employment and extend a support structure to advance opportunities for this area of society that has been significantly affected by the downturn in the global economy. For more information on this program, please visit: www.premier-ministre.gouv.fr.

INSIDE

- 2 Current Events**
A Soaring Friendship
- 3 France & America**
Normandy in Louisiana
- 4 Special Climate Issue**
Fighting Global Warming
- 5 Special Climate Issue**
French Green Initiatives
- 6 Society**
Diplomacy by the Pencil
- 7 Culture**
French Teen Sensation
- 8 France in America**
France Magazine

YOUNG AMERICAN STUDENTS OFFER FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON FRANCE



Californian Amanda Keller Konya takes another look at the Biarritz shoreline.

For 10 days this fall, eight lucky American art students flew to six different locations in France and Tahiti with just their cameras and an eye for beauty. The students, who were competitively selected from five American universities and institutes, traveled October 9 - 19 to capture their region's contemporary lifestyle and unique *joie de vivre* on film. The all-expenses-paid artistic voyage is part of the educational project *Jeunes Talents* (Young Talents), now in its fourth year, which aims to display American perceptions of modern French life. The students were supervised by eminent photography curator Tim Wride, who provided insight into French life and helped students familiarize themselves with their destination. Speaking about the goal of the project, Mr. Wride stated, "Students will be given free rein to interpret the daily life of the city where they are assigned. The result is expected to be a radical departure from the traditional imagery of France."

Destinations included the region of Provence, northern France, and Tahiti. Following their time abroad, the students will prepare their artwork for three exhibitions curated by Mr. Wride, the first of which will be displayed in Los Angeles from March 31 - April 14, 2010. If they are anything like those in the past, these exhibitions promise to impress their audiences: "The collection of *Jeunes Talents* photographs has been impressive year after year... Students bring back with them the kind of startling perspectives that can only be captured by fresh talent," stated Benoit Chollet, Director of ATOUT France in the Western U.S.

Jeunes Talents is sponsored by ATOUT France, a French Tourism Development Agency, in cooperation with the Los Angeles French Cultural Services and France Los Angeles Exchange.

Current Events

French Pilots Take to the Skies to Honor French-US Friendship

The famous French Air Force acrobatic team *Patrouille de France* (French Acrobatic Patrol, or PAF) visited the United States on October 7 - 8 in honor of the historic French-American alliance during the American Revolution. After a successful South American tour performing in Brazil, Chile and Argentina, the PAF landed at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, D.C., on October 7. The next afternoon, the *Patrouille de France* headed for Yorktown as part of the 228th commemoration of the Battle of Yorktown at which the American colonies achieved victory over England with the support of thousands of French troops. The French pilots flew in formation over the Monument for Alliance and Victory, leaving trails of red, white, and blue smoke hanging in the deep blue sky. The first of its kind in the history of Yorktown, the PAF's flawless flyover left the crowds mesmerized. The *Patrouille de France* then headed back to Washington, D.C., where they were greeted by enthusiastic fans.

The precision flight team is composed of nine highly seasoned fighter pilots united by a common passion for flying, chosen for their positive personal characteristics and their talent.



France's Acrobatic Patrol participated in the 228th commemoration of the Battle of Yorktown.

Dinosaurs Leave Their Mark in Eastern France



The largest dinosaur footprints ever discovered have a huge impact on paleontology.

when the sea was low. Scientists hypothesize that, because these footprints are spread throughout the region, "more important excavations will be led in the following years and could reveal that the site of Plagne is one of the most vast [in terms of findings] in the world," stated the CNRS. These excavations could reveal up to hundreds or even thousands of additional footprints.

During the Late Jurassic period, dinosaurs known as sauropods — intimidating herbivores weighing 30 to 40 tons and measuring about 25 meters — roamed what is now the Ain department in Eastern France, according to a recent discovery. In April, researchers from Lyon unearthed what could be the largest known fossilized footprints in the world at the site of Plagne in the Jura Mountains. The footprints "are of a very large size, perhaps reaching 1.2 to 1.5 meters in total diameter," according to the French National Center of Scientific Research, or CNRS. The footprints will help scientists learn more about the sauropods' behavior, speed, size, and methods of mobility.

When the footprints were initially preserved in a layer of calcium, the mountainous area was covered by a warm and shallow sea. The sauropods that left these footprints grazed the region during a time of transformation

Legion of Honor Awarded to U.S. Chief of Naval Operations

The Chief of Staff of the French Navy, Admiral Pierre-François Forissier, visited the United States on October 5-8. During his time in the nation's capital, he presented the medal of Commander of the French Legion of Honor to his American counterpart, Admiral Gary Roughead. The ceremony took place at the Residence of France and brought together a large audience of distinguished guests from the US and French Armed Forces.



Admirals Roughead (left) and Forissier (right) gather at Ambassador Vimont's (center) residence.

During his speech, the French admiral underscored the enduring ties of cooperation and friendship between the two navies, dating back to the Revolutionary War and extending into current operations in Afghanistan and the Indian Ocean. One major event in the fledgling country's quest for sovereignty that set the tone for centuries of Franco-American cooperation to follow was the Battle of the Chesapeake in September 1781. The French fleet, under the command of French Admiral Count de Grasse, defeated the British fleet, making possible the victory at Yorktown and paving the way for US

independence. Admiral de Grasse's contributions were recognized by the United States Navy in 1978 when a Spruance class destroyer was named after him. Since the ship was decommissioned in 1998, Admiral Forissier expressed his hope for the legacy of the revolutionary figure to be symbolically re-commissioned in the form of another ship.

Before leaving the country, Admiral Forissier participated in the 19th International Seapower Symposium. Established in 1939, the forum is held every two years at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. This year's theme was "Connecting Navies, Building Partnerships" and united representatives from over 100 countries, including over 90 chiefs of Navy and Coast Guard. Six countries — Cambodia, Guyana, the Maldiv Islands, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Russia and Vietnam — were first-time participants in the event.

The Memory of Normandy Alive in New Orleans



The Normandy Liberty Bell is a symbol of the French-American alliance during World War II.

Admiral Brac de la Perrière, Commander of the French Legion of Honor and President of *Normandie Mémoire* (Memory of Normandy), visited New Orleans on Armistice Day, November 11, to commemorate the Franco-American alliance during World War II. *Normandie Mémoire* is an association dedicated to preserving the memory of the sacrifice

made by American soldiers to liberate France in World War II. At the ceremony in Louisiana, Admiral Brac de la Perrière unveiled the Normandy Liberty Bell, a replica of the Liberty Bell of Philadelphia, as a gift from *Normandie Mémoire* to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. Cast in France, the bell rings as token of gratitude to the United States for its courageous efforts on behalf of the French people 65 years ago.

On this momentous occasion, Admiral Brac de la Perrière also bestowed the French Legion of Honor Medal, a coveted distinction honoring outstanding services to France, upon several American veterans. All from Louisiana, Mr. Daniel Farley, Mr. Raymond Gilbert, and Mr. James Cronan Egan were thanked for their military service aiding France in World War II, as were Mr. Jean Broussard and Mr. Ralph Bourgeois, posthumously.

The admiral was accompanied by several French diplomats, including: General Maire, head of the French Military Mission to the U.S.; Mrs. Anne de la Blache, political advisor to the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.; along with Mr. Damien Regnard, elected member of the Assembly of French Living Abroad and representatives of the *France Will Never Forget* association and *Normandie Mémoire*.

Strong French Presence at Annual ACTFL Conference

In mid-November, the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) united teachers from across the world and the United States for its annual Convention and World Languages Expo hosted in San Diego, California. The event is the largest gathering of language educators in the United States, drawing approximately 10,000 participants each year. The 2009 convention featured 600 educational sessions over a three-day period addressing such topics as curriculum, techniques, research, culture, and the role of technology in the classroom. This year's theme, *Speaking Up for Languages... The Power of Many Voices*, hopes to promote ACTFL's primary goal to "engage local and state communities in discussions on the importance and benefits of world language education" in creating a new generation of global citizens, according to president Janine Erickson.

French was the most represented European language at this year's expo, with more than 20 booths dedicated to its instruction. On November 21, ACTFL will host a special luncheon for 200 French-language teachers and educators presided over by French Ambassador to the U.S. Pierre Vimont. To add a creative edge to the event, two Francophone poets will compete in a "slam challenge," an improvised showdown of poetic prowess.

French Film Takes the Stage in Philadelphia

Excitement filled the lobby of the Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia on September 30 when over 150 people gathered to attend the inaugural event of Philadelphia Cinema Alliance's (PCA) monthly French film series *La Cinémathèque: New French Films*. The event began with a wine tasting, freshly made crêpes, and the chance to discuss shared interests in French cinema and culture. The food and wine were just a taste of the French cultural experience that the audience would savor later that evening with Philadelphia's premiere of the comedy *Les beaux gosses* (French Kissers, 2009) by Riad Sattouf.

Inspired by the success of Philadelphia CineFest's French movie series last April, the PCA developed this year-round program of French films through a dynamic partnership with the Embassy of France and the French-American Cultural Foundation. Beyond showing Philadelphians the most recent works of French cinema, PCA Development Director Thomas Cardwell is excited to encourage the city's film-goers to "connect across cultural boundaries and experience firsthand contemporary French culture." To further the goal of cultural dialogue, the Embassy of France launched *La Cinémathèque*, a free-membership "cineclub" based in Philadelphia. In addition to informing its members of upcoming events, the club hopes to foster a community for all those interested in French cinema. Members were enthusiastic about the October 22 screening of *Eden à l'ouest* (*Eden is West*) where the director of the film, well-known Costa-Gavras, made an exclusive appearance.

For more information about the film series, visit: www.phillycinema.org. To become a member of Philadelphia's *La Cinémathèque*, please e-mail: [phillycinematheque\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:phillycinematheque[at]gmail[dot]com).



Director Costa-Gavras presents his film *Eden à l'ouest* at Philadelphia's inaugural CineFest.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE UNITES FAMILIES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC



A message in a bottle fostered friendship across the ocean.

Survivors of shipwrecks tossed bottles out to sea containing an SOS or a final letter to their loved ones across an endless expanse of waves. But for one woman from Park Forest, Illinois, her dream was to have a message of friendship reach exotic places. In celebration of her birthday in 2003, Ann Hernandez and her partner Alan Tomaska hurled a note in a champagne bottle into the ocean from an island off Rockport, Massachusetts, following their tradition since 1991. Six years later, the bottle was retrieved by a surprised French couple in the coastal town of St. Gilles Croix-de-Vie, 3,000 miles away. Michel and Daniele Onesime quickly wrote back to Ann at her home address in Illinois, but were sad to discover that she had died earlier that year. However, for Tomaska, the discovery of Ann's message brought the warmth of her memory back into his life. "It's like someone was pulling the strings up there on everyone down here on earth, saying Ann is still there somewhere," he explained. The Onesimes hope to travel to the United States to meet Tomaska and Hernandez's family who have become their newfound friends.

MAYORS UNITE FOR DIVERSITY

Cultural dialogue was the binding theme at the most recent conference of the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) in early October, as over 500 elected officials traveled to Paris to celebrate AIMF's 30th anniversary. Along with developing new ideas to promote cultural diversity, AIMF inducted new cities into the foundation, notably Lafayette in Louisiana. Lafayette is the first American city to become a part of the organization, and its membership signifies the United States' commitment to a stronger relationship with the Francophone world. Founded in 1979, AIMF's goal is to unite mayors of French-speaking cities around the world to share ideas, discuss municipal responsibilities, and promote cross-cultural dialogue. AIMF's presidency is currently held by Bertrand Delanoë, mayor of Paris.

France Leads Charge for Climate Change Cooperation



President Sarkozy addresses the U.N. General Assembly.

"In Copenhagen, we have a rendez-vous with history," French President Nicolas Sarkozy underscored in an interview with a Swedish daily earlier this year, setting the tone for the U.N. Climate Change Summit. Building on the framework of the Kyoto Protocol, 192 countries will convene in Copenhagen December 7-18 for a series of talks to advance a new global treaty on climate change. The French delegation will be at the forefront of the fight against climate change,

reduce emissions of greenhouse gases is feasible, and could serve as a model to a similarly coordinated effort on a global scale.

The European Climate and Energy Package establishes the following ambitious targets for 2020: cutting economy-wide greenhouse-gas emissions by at least 20 percent of 1990 levels by 2020 and increasing the use of renewable energy (wind, solar, biomass, etc.) to 20 percent of total energy production by 2020.

The E.U. Emissions Trading System (ETS), the largest multinational emissions trading scheme in the world, which covers all the major industrial emission sources, foresees a shift towards a system in which carbon permits will be auctioned rather than given for free. Binding national targets will comprise sectors not covered by the ETS such as transport (except aviation, which will join ETS in 2012, and maritime transportation), farming, and waste and households. Similarly, renewable energy will account for 20 percent of the E.U.'s total energy production by 2020.

The package also seeks to promote the development and safe use of carbon capture and storage (CCS), a suite of technologies that allow carbon dioxide emitted by industrial processes and power plants to be captured and stored underground where it cannot contribute to global warming. French multinational conglomerate Alstom, a world leader in energy and transportation infrastructure, is one company pioneering such technology. Sharing its developments abroad, Alstom teamed up with US partners the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and We Energies to launch a pilot carbon capture project in Wisconsin in 2008. To date, the process has been successful in trapping 90 percent of greenhouse gases produced by a local power plant. Alstom recently entered a new phase of carbon-capture technology, working with the Mountaineer power plant in West Virginia to explore the process of storing carbon dioxide in the earth, known as sequestration.



French companies are developing technology to capture carbon dioxide and store it underground.

encouraging industrialized and developing nations alike to unite in this struggle.

The 15th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change aims to assemble the majority of the world's governments in the Danish capital to establish larger, more ambitious global climate change agreements than the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. The goal of the Summit is to address three central concerns: the level to which industrializing countries will reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, the contribution of developing countries to limit their emissions, and the financial contribution of developed nations in the reduction of the emissions of developing countries and the management of these contributions. Further themes to be addressed include specific technical issues such as forestry and technology transfer from developed to developing countries.

France has an aggressive agenda for the December Summit. In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly on September 22, President Sarkozy asserted that, "We are, regardless of the differences between us, the last generation that can take action. For the first time, we have to decide, not for our countries, not for our regions, nor even for our continents; we have to decide for the planet." In Copenhagen, France will take a strong stance on four principles it believes would make the Summit a success. First, President Sarkozy wants global greenhouse-gas emissions reduced by an average of 50 percent by the same year. For developed countries, he proposes an even higher standard of at least 80 percent reduction in emissions by 2050. France acknowledges that for emerging nations, reducing the growth of emissions will come at a financial price and that industrialized nations should demonstrate solidarity with the most vulnerable countries. To manage this commitment, France supports the Mexican proposal for a nearly universal contribution to aid developing nations, a cost which the European Council acknowledged last month to be 100 billion euros by 2020.

In addition, France hopes to address the issue of deforestation, particularly in Brazil and the Congo Basin. President Sarkozy noted in his September 22 speech that "20 percent of emissions are due to the destruction of forests." The French delegation also strives to create a special initiative to aid African countries to get access to sustainable energy, while a disproportionate amount of people have no access to primary energy yet.

The French president also advocates the Summit's agreement on the creation of a single world environmental organization to manage the decisions undertaken in Copenhagen. "Let's face up to our responsibilities," President Sarkozy urged U.N. representatives in the weeks before the Summit, "not in speeches but in action, France and Europe are determined to do this." Such an organization under the auspices of the U.N. would foster ongoing debate and negotiation on climate change and environmental issues.

A Model for Sustainability

Last December, while France held the rotating presidency of the European Union, the latter adopted the European Climate and Energy Package which consists of measures aiming to reduce the carbon footprint of the European Union's 27 countries. The package demonstrates that the European Union is determined to be a driving force in fighting climate change and illustrates the feasibility of a multinational effort to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. This initiative reveals that a multinational effort to

Sustainable Development on the National Level

At home, France is taking steps to harmonize domestic incentives and efforts between actors in public and private industry. In early September, France unveiled a fiscally neutral scheme which includes a carbon tax of 17 euros per ton of emissions to encourage energy conservation. The mechanism — discussed in more detail on the next page — will come into effect next year, affecting the consumption of fossil fuels by households and SMEs and encouraging them to adapt to more environmentally-friendly methods. Through this initiative France will become the largest economy to introduce such a measure.

The carbon tax is accompanied by a "clean cars" program that will promote the use of zero-emission vehicles in France. The government already offers up to 5,000 euros in bonuses to citizens who buy energy-efficient cars and aims to build an extensive power-supply infrastructure to support the increasing number of electric vehicles. For more information on the Electric Car Plan, please see Page 5.

While these measures focus on current initiatives to reduce emissions, President Sarkozy's plan for a greener France extends into the future through his *Le Grand Paris* project (see NFF 09.03). The new initiative will transform the capital city and surrounding suburbs into a competitive and sustainable metropolis by 2030. The new architectural layout of the City of Light will adhere to the environmental objectives established by the Kyoto Protocol, and will improve the balance between nature and the urban environment. The reorganization of public transportation through the development of a new high speed rail, an underground station at La Défense, and the extension and renovation of existing metro lines, strives to reduce traffic congestion and the city's carbon dioxide emissions.

For more information on France's participation in the Copenhagen Summit, please visit: www.ambafrance-us.org/climate.

Interview with Brice Lalonde, Ambassador for Climate Negotiations



Brice Lalonde will represent France in Copenhagen.

Why must all countries invest in Copenhagen?

To achieve an agreement in Copenhagen, the whole world, the entire planet, must be involved. All countries must therefore be involved, since it concerns everyone — everyone will suffer the effects of climate change — and because the solution cannot come from a single country, not only because this would be completely unfair, but because a lot of effort is being made in some countries, while others are free-riding, don't make any effort and then benefit economically because they don't apply any restrictions to combat climate change, and at the same time have a negative effect on climate change because they do nothing. It is therefore very important that everyone take part and that we reach an agreement in which the interests of 170 countries are pretty much included and represented.

What is France's diplomatic strategy in these negotiations?

France is part of the European Union, so this is an important point and so it applies European decisions. However, it does have a special strategy since it must take the African continent into consideration, and it believes that it would certainly be wrong to suppose that the negotiation will only involve the major polluters, that it will only concern China, the United States, Europe and a few others. We should not forget that we need a majority and that African countries, the Small Islands, all those that really need the agreement

should form an alliance with those that are in favor of the agreement, for example, Europe. This alliance that we are trying to build between Europe, Africa, and the Small Islands may give the major polluters — the United States and China — a push in the right direction and force them to make an agreement.

What sectors is France focusing on in particular in the negotiations?

France is actively involved; it has an extremely active policy towards all parties to the negotiations. Firstly, there is a major French diplomatic network; there is extremely active collaboration involving teams from France's development agency (AFD). We are very involved with regard to the issue of forestry, since we have teams in the Congo Basin, in Brazil, in Indonesia and we have French Guyana; France is one of the rare countries to have tropical forests. We are also very involved in agriculture in dry and arid countries, and we have tried to invent a form of agriculture that takes climate change into account. In particular, because in the years and months to come, the issue of agriculture and forestry will play an increasingly important role. We have realized that if we change farming methods then it's possible to capture carbon dioxide, and prevent it from entering the atmosphere, so this will play an increasingly important role. And then we have our own initiatives. The Minister of State Jean-Louis Borloo insisted on visiting African countries to suggest that they come to Copenhagen with a number of strategic proposals, in particular with regard to their development and access to energy. We will be able to come to Copenhagen with a proposal for 25 years of access to energy for all Africans. This is a very important proposal for the Minister of State since he believes that it may help in some way to break the deadlock in the negotiations.

Adjustment Mechanism to Fight Climate Change

To further promote the reduction of carbon emissions, President Sarkozy proposed a border carbon adjustment mechanism that will complement domestic objectives for an environmentally-friendly industry. The border adjustment mechanism ensures that goods from countries without climate protection measures do not benefit from a trade advantage at the expense of the earth.

Because the domestic carbon market implies that energy-intensive products will be slightly more costly, goods from firms based in countries with less stringent environmental standards gain an artificial advantage. The purchase of cheaper foreign products ultimately encourages the relocation of companies and condones unnecessary pollution. President Sarkozy called for a mechanism at French and E.U. borders to safeguard the competitiveness of their industries while championing environmental reform. This new instrument will be discussed at the EU level after Copenhagen if it fails to address the carbon leakage issue.

The French president noted that border adjustment measures are perfectly compatible with the rules of the World Trade Organization, and are therefore essential in developing a fair and equitable agreement in which everyone will share responsibility for the earth. A border carbon adjustment mechanism emphasizes that any short-term gain acquired from less expensive but unsustainable imports is not worth the irreparable long-term damage to the environment.

Carbon Tax Incentivizes Energy Efficiency

The E.U. approved a Climate and Energy Package in December 2008 to reduce economywide greenhouse-gas emission by 20 percent by 2020. The package's regulations include a revision of the cap-and-trade-directives implemented in 2003, national emission reduction objectives in areas such as ground transportation and agriculture, and national renewable energy goals.

To reach its national target of reducing emissions from small emitters by 14 percent between 2005 and 2020, France will implement the "Carbon Tax," a fiscally neutral scheme aimed at placing a levy on above-average carbon intensive energy use. To avoid placing additional burden on French citizens, the scheme is accompanied by the lowering of other taxes for small- and medium-sized enterprises and a fixed rebate for households. Sweden's experience with a similar program demonstrates that such a plan is compatible with economic growth: Swedish industry has grown 44 percent since the tax was instituted in the early 1990s. This tax will target transportation, build-

ings, and small emitters. In a speech on the fight against climate change at the U.N. General Assembly last month, French President Nicolas Sarkozy discussed the Carbon Tax: "This new tax will only have one goal: to encourage households and companies progressively to modify their behavior and cut consumption of fossil energies which emit carbon dioxide. This tax will stimulate energy savings, reduce the oil and gas bills of both the country and families and create an incentive to step up development of green technologies."

The French Carbon Tax aims to comply with E.U. regulations and follows in the footsteps of the 2007 fiscal scheme, which aimed to drive demand towards low carbon dioxide emission passenger cars. These and other environmentally-directed measures highlight France's commitment to fight the processes that effect climate change and work towards a better, cleaner world.



Renault's concept cars Twizy, Zoe, Kangoo Z.E, Fluence Z.E Concept, may drive demand for energy efficiency.

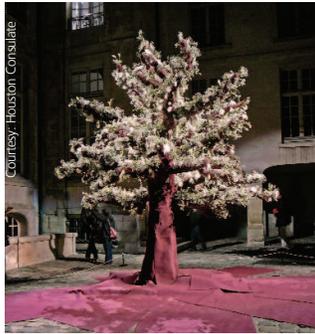
Determined to be on the cutting edge of zero-emission vehicle technology, French President Sarkozy has announced a state-funded \$2.2 billion plan to not only increase demand for electric cars but also create a national power-supply infrastructure in partnership with automaker Renault and French utility group EDF. One of the most daunting concerns for customers considering going electric is the lack of plug-in points catering to zero-emission cars. The French plan hopes to eliminate this problem by creating one million power-supply points across the country by 2015. The government also aims to produce two million battery-powered cars by 2020.

The plan emphasizes cooperation between many sectors of the economy to create an efficient jump-start to the electric car industry. "No one can take the risk [of investing in zero-emission technology] alone. But if everyone takes the risk at the same time, it will work," says Jean-Louis Borloo, French Minister for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Seas.

In that spirit, the government has collaborated with companies from the French automotive sector, local authorities, and power infrastructure companies to facilitate the popularization of electric cars. The new legislation will also mandate the construction of battery-recharging points in the parking lots of new apartments and office buildings beginning in 2012 and will offer tax breaks to encourage the installation of power-supply stations in existing buildings. To encourage the supply of electric cars, the plan will fund the establishment of a battery manufacturing-plant run by Renault which will produce over 100,000 electric car parts annually.

According to French Industry Minister Christian Estrosi, these measures will generate 15 billion euros in business by 2030 and will substantially reduce France's energy imports. Through this comprehensive plan, France hopes to set the bar for the entire industry by demonstrating that the success of green technology is within reach through a conscientious collective effort.





Artist Vincent Olinet's tree in carpet, called "I love you all," amazes visitors at the Marais.

Mentioning a sleepless night to anyone over 18 will probably evoke stressful images of midnight coffee runs and late library visits, but the ambiance was very different in Paris on the night of October 3. For the eighth year in a row, Paris hosted its *Nuit Blanche* (literally, white night or sleepless night), a celebration of contemporary art lasting into the early hours of the crisp Sunday morning. Seventy varying art projects, including video projections, light shows, and large-scale installations, added a cutting-edge feel to the already artistic French capital. The works of art were displayed to the public free-of-charge in theaters, universities, courtyards, swimming pools, and parks in the north, center, and Latin Quarter of Paris. *Nuit Blanche 2009* was not confined to Paris proper, however — the festivities extended to several suburbs, including Nanterre, Saint-Denis, and Arcueil.

Though the temporary galleries opened at 7 p.m., most visitors opted to wait until midnight to begin their viewing experience. The highlight of the artistic *fête* was composer Jean Michel Jarre's giant green laser beam pointing into the sky from the 14th *arrondissement*, which could be spotted for 3.4 miles around Paris.

At its inception in 2002, the festival included 20 venues and attracted an impressive crowd of 500,000. Two years later, the crowd had doubled and the number of venues exploded from 20 to 100. This year, Deputy Mayor of Paris Christophe Girard expected around 1.5 million art lovers.

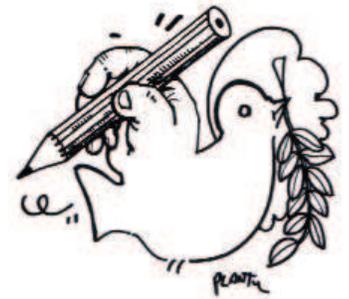
Though *Nuit Blanche* is relatively new, the trend is spreading on the international scene, with renditions in Montreal, Canada; Lima, Peru; Madrid, Spain; and Leeds, England, spicing up otherwise quiet weekend nights. For the first time this year, Tel Aviv, Israel, will host a *Nuit Blanche*.

Cartoonists Draw Together in Support of Peace

The drawing was a turning point in history. For the first time the signatures of a Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and former Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, appeared on the same document, a year prior to the 1993 Oslo Accords. But it was not a statesman or political lobbyist that brought about this momentous occasion; it was a French cartoonist by the name of Plantu.

Jean Plantureux, known as Plantu, has been publishing daily cartoons in leading French daily *Le Monde* since the early 1970s. After uniting Arafat and Peres around a single drawing, Plantu realized that cartoonists can act as activists in the world rather than only spectators and commentators. He wanted to create a medium of dialogue between cultures using a language accessible to everyone, the language of drawing. This idea became the project titled *Cartooning for Peace*, which brings together cartoonists from all over the world in a series of events to support peace and acceptance. The first event was a conference in the fall of 2006 at the United Nations headquarters, where former secretary general Kofi Annan suggested the unifying theme of tolerance. The movement has since traveled across every continent as cartoonists attend exhibitions and debates, display their caricatures, and provide insight in support of human rights, tolerance, and freedom of opinion. Says Plantu's fellow cartoonist, Belgian Michel Kichka, "We want to put an end to [cartoons being used to foster hatred] and show that it is possible to use cartoons for positive things — to build bridges between people, rather than burning bridges."

For more information on upcoming events, please visit <http://peace2.unric.org>.



French cartoonist Plantu illustrates the mighty effects of diplomacy by the pencil.

Cultivating a French Appetite

In the heart of Paris' 16th *arrondissement*, a team of 300 professional chefs gathered in the open air around a luscious birthday cake. The cause for celebration was no normal birthday, but rather the 20th anniversary of *La Semaine du Goût* (Week of Taste), a national event encouraging children to participate in their French culinary heritage by honing their sense of taste. French Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fishing Bruno Le Maire organized this year's event from October 12 - 16 around the theme *Le goût pour tous* (Taste for all). In an effort to educate French youth on their gastronomical heritage, the *semaine* featured the fine foods for which the French are renowned. A series of 6,000 taste lessons taught in elementary schools and hospitals across the country helped bring the central goal to fruition. In one classroom in Paris, Michel Roth, the chef

of the famous Ritz Carlton Hotel, treated the children to one of his most famous dishes: scallops with roasted citrus fruit.



La Semaine du Goût shares the "delicacies" of French cuisine with everyone from children to the retired.

Additionally, 500 restaurants offered specially priced menus so citizens of all ages could take a bite of France's appetizing food culture. The organizers emphasized that "eating well is not a luxury and should be a part of daily life."

In the quest to translate France's affinity for its culinary heritage, the French Library (www.frenchlib.org) and Cultural Center in Boston, Massachusetts, is doing its part to bring *La Semaine du Goût 2009* to the United States. American children

can now also participate in a *leçon de goût*, or taste lesson, presented in both French and English. For adult Francophiles wanting to explore their French heritage, founder and Director of the Boston Wine School Jonathon Alsop led a bilingual lecture on October 15 explaining the role of science in the art of wine tasting.



FRESH FOOD IN A FLASH!

Pressed for time and wondering what to make for dinner? The blog *Délices en 20 minutes* (delicesen20minutes.over-blog.com) or "Delights in 20 Minutes" has all the tips and tricks necessary to prepare a savory, dinner in just 15 to 20 minutes. With recipes that will leave anyone craving more, these quick gourmet dishes taste just like those that require an afternoon spent over the stove. These easy meals

require minimal appliances and are perfect for preparation in smaller kitchens.

Délices en 20 minutes has something to satisfy every palate, including a creamy fish and asparagus soup, leek tarts, autumn salad, sushi, and chocolate mousse. The majority of the recipes adhere to the basic principles of French cooking, using only fresh and healthy ingredients. Accompanying each recipe are notes from the anonymous chef that sug-

gest how to best prepare the dish as well as ideas for how the recipe could be improved. Pictures allow the reader to see the final results as well as how to present their cooking — a great asset for dinner party preparations. Users can also add their own comments to the recipes.

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From Paris to *Gossip Girl*, the Plastiscines Rock

Two years ago they were a young band of four innovative French girls, fresh from the release of their debut album *LPI* and unsure of their future. Now the Plastiscines are rocking the American music scene with a famous producer, a nationwide tour, and even an appearance in the popular television series *Gossip Girl*.

The Plastiscines began playing in Paris as part of the "bébé rocker" phenomenon, during which waves of French adolescents began storming cafés to play rock and roll. Not willing to be dismissed as just a group of teenagers playing guitar, the Plastiscines looked to perform and promote their music beyond France. They got their big break when Marvin Scott Jarrett, editor-in-chief of *Nylon Magazine*, signed the band as the



Fresh from their US tour, the Plastiscines are poised for popularity.

After the conclusion of their summer American tour, the Plastiscines hope that their success on this side of the Atlantic will help them increase their popularity in their native France.

first group on his new music label, Nylon Records. The Plastiscines then flew to Los Angeles to record songs with famed producer Butch Walker and release their second album *About Love*, with songs in both French and English. Their unique musical style, blending rock and pop elements with a garage twist, has made them extremely popular with American audiences. Catching the ears of the producers of *Gossip Girl*, the Plastiscines appeared as guest stars in two consecutive episodes, working with the regulars on the New York set

New Film Pays Homage to Chanel's Rise to Fame

Known for her elegant menswear-inspired designs and named one of TIME Magazine's 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century, Gabrielle Bonheur Chanel, known as "Coco Chanel," has left her mark on the fashion world. Of modest roots, Gabrielle earned her famous nickname from a song she sang as a waitress before her interest in fashion had truly blossomed. After a few false starts, she styled her way to fame and became one of the most recognized fashion designers of our time.

To commemorate this impressive businesswoman and unique figure in *haute couture*, French director Anne Fontaine has immortalized Coco's life before her rise to fame in her new film *Coco Avant Chanel* (Coco Before Chanel). The scope of the movie reaches far beyond fashion in an attempt to capture the humble beginnings of the French icon and her professional development. French actress Audrey Tautou, most famous for her roles in *Amélie* and *The Da Vinci Code*, portrays Coco Chanel as a determined, strong-willed



Published in *Harper's Bazaar* in 1937, this photo of Mlle. Chanel was the first advertisement for N°5.

woman who is able to view women's clothing with a fresh perspective. She took clothes that were constraining and uncomfortable and created modern wear highlighting her simple but daring fashion philosophy. Her liberating styles, suggests *Coco Avant Chanel*, strongly contributed to the 20th century "emancipation" of women's fashion.

Jazz Festival Pulsates French City of Nancy



Sun Ra Arkestra performs at the Nancy Jazz Festival.

As syncopated beats from saxophones, trumpets, and trombones sailed through the sky, the Nancy Jazz Pulsations festival enchanted the Lorraine province with its avant-garde and eclectic jazz from October 6 - 17. Some 100,000 adults and children danced at jazz-infused events as hip hop, pop-rock, traditional French, and electric music added a well-rounded twist to the usual mix of jazz, blues, and gospel tunes. Originally only in

Nancy, this year the performances of the festival's 120 ensembles expanded to include the Lorraine, Haute-Marne and Bas-Rhin regions.

The smooth sounds of the Pulsations festival reverberated not only in concerts but in educational forums as well. Five conferences analyzed jazz through terminology and themes to provide insight into the originality of the genre. Middle school students in Nancy received special permission to attend the events, underlining the importance of music education. Furthermore, the series was extended an additional week for the merriment of locals and students. For those who were unable to attend, Nancy Jazz Pulsations held concerts in hospitals and nursing homes.

The largest event of the festival, *Le Pépinière en Fête*, rocked Pépinière Park with simultaneous concerts attended by 20,000 people on October 11. Blues artist Marc-André Léger and world musician Pierre Lapointe, both Canadians, set the tone for the afternoon with their opening acts.

BENEFIT CONCERT SWEEPS VEGAS



Musicians from all over the world will gather at the Sahra Benefit Concert on November 21 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas to celebrate Universal Children's Day. The concert will include events from over 100 performers and presenters hailing from France and 22 other countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and Europe. Sahra will showcase international musicians and dancers with proceeds going to children's charities focusing on the Middle East and North Africa. Headlining the concert will be French-speaking international sensation Cheb Khaled. The Algerian-born Khaled is renowned in the music world as the king of rai music for introducing his electrifying take on traditional folk music with his 1991 song *Didi*, the first chart-topping rai hit in France. Khaled topped the charts again in 1998 with his smash hit *Aicha*. November's event is another landmark for the singer as he is the first North African artist to open a concert in Las Vegas, performing songs from his latest album, *Liberty*. The new album, produced in France, hopes to both bridge and fuse the cultures of the Francophone and Arab worlds. The concert will also feature a wide range of performers from the U.S. such as India Arie and Grammy winner K.C. Porter.

MINISTER KOUCHNER LAUNCHES NEW INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

France's Minister of Foreign and European Affairs (and co-founder of Doctors Without Borders), Bernard Kouchner, formed the *Association des Internationalistes* on October 9 to promote greater international networking and understanding. As part of a Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs reform effort, the association aspires to establish a "French school" of international relations to fortify French strategic thought nationally and abroad. To help achieve a greater degree of international study, Mr. Kouchner assembled international relations experts, educators, and specialists as well as economists, geographers, historians, and legal and political scholars to assist forming and teaching at the *Association des Internationalistes*.

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