Implementation of the Environment Round Table: Ambitious Objectives to Stop Climate Change, p. 4

Policies and Measures: All Sectors are Affected, p. 8

Adapting to Climate Change: Four Major Conclusions and a National Strategy, p. 23
In Copenhagen, leaders of 192 countries will meet in an attempt to seek a climate agreement to follow of the Kyoto Protocol. The objective is to limit temperature increase to 2°C maximum, a threshold beyond which the world would enter a period of strong climactic uncertainty.

To achieve this, we must have precise objectives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions over the short, medium and long terms. France is thus campaigning, on the basis of research conducted by scientists at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, for a reduction in developed countries' emissions of between 25% and 40% by 2020 and a 50% reduction in world emissions by 2050. France, which is already one of the only countries in the world to comply with the Kyoto Protocol, has chosen, in the framework of the Environment Round Table (Grenelle), to set an example by planning a 75% reduction in its carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.

For more than two years and by mobilising all sectors, France is intensively investing in a new green growth model based on restraint in carbon and energy consumption: almost unanimous adoption of the “Grenelle 1 Act”, 800 million euros in assistance for building 50 public transports projects in 38 metropolitan areas in France, creation of an ecological loan at zero percent with already more than 50,000 energy-efficiency improvements made by private individuals, a request for proposals for building at least one solar power plant per region by 2011, cutting by half within two years the time for connection to the electricity grid for solar energy, passage of an ecological bonus for automobiles, launch of a clean vehicle plan, etc.

The first results are in! According to commonly accepted projections, the Environment Round Table should reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22.8% between 1990 and 2020, thus complying with the objectives set in the energy-climate package adopted during the French presidency of the European Union.

Month after month and thanks to the involvement of all stakeholders and all business sectors, we are respecting our commitments while providing our country with the infrastructure it will need over the next decade.

Beyond this, and while some governments still hesitate to commit themselves, the Environment Round Table illustrates an undeniable reality: sustainable development is not only possible on a national scale, but is also a source of well-being, quality of life, growth and jobs. By its example, France demonstrates almost every day that the bet on green growth is a winning bet: winning for workers, businesses, health, regions and our children.

Finally, because it knew how to take the first step, France can today propose a new project for the planet in the context of the Copenhagen conference. A project of reconciliation: reconciliation between north and south, between growth and solidarity and between progress and the future.

Jean-Louis Borloo
As on the double realisation of the risks related to the planet's degraded state and the need to act to fight this degradation, the French president wished, by calling for the Environment Round Table (Grenelle) in 2007, to bring together all players involved in sustainable development on a daily basis around the same table: the State, local governments, trade unions, business people and environmental protection organisations.

This novel joint effort led to a strong consensus on ambitious objectives for France in the fight against climate change. Implementing the commitments of the Environment Round Table is under way. It should reduce France's emissions to 437 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) in 2020, or a reduction of 21.8% of France's greenhouse gas emissions in 2005 (558 million tCO₂e) and a reduction of 22.8% from 1990 (565 million tCO₂e). These evaluations were confirmed in a study conducted by the Boston Consulting Group.
This strong decrease in France's emissions will come primarily from:
- residential and service sectors: -55 million tCO₂e between 2005 and 2020, or a decrease of 56% over the period\(^1\). This decrease results from implementation of the Environment Round Table (Grenelle) building plan, which includes widespread use of low consumption buildings by 2012 and positive energy buildings by 2020, reducing existing building energy consumption at least 38% by 2020, renovating the most energy inefficient public housing by 2020, beginning renovation of all State buildings by 2012 and mobilising the sector's leaders to respond to the challenges of recruiting, training, qualification and developing industrial channels;
- industrial sector\(^2\) covered by the European ceiling and trading system for greenhouse gas emission quotas (or approximately 1,400 industrial facilities): -47 million tCO₂e between 2005 and 2020, or -31.4%; this decrease results from strengthening the measure decided during adoption of the energy-climate package;
- energy industry: -31 million tCO₂e between 2005 and 2020, or a decrease of 42%. This decrease results from voluntary measures provided by the Environment Round Table for energy efficiency, development of renewable energy, as well as modernising the fleet of thermal generation plants (half of coal-fired plants will be closed);
- transport: -15 million tCO₂e between 2005 and 2020, or a decrease of 11%. This decrease results from an extensive alternative transport infrastructure programme provided by the Environment Round Table and the reduction of vehicle emissions, which has been accelerated by implementing the European regulation on CO₂ emissions for private vehicles and with national incentives (bonus-malus, kilometre ecotax for heavy vehicles, etc.).

\(^1\) Only direct emissions (excluding indirect emissions related to electricity use).
\(^2\) This includes a share of energy industries.
Emission reduction will also come from implementing the carbon tax, which will help France direct household consumption to products with less carbon and stimulate innovation in green technology.

In the energy-climate package which was agreed to in December 2008 during the French presidency, France has committed itself to a 14% reduction in its emissions between 2005 and 2020 in sectors not subject to emission quotas. This effort may possibly be reviewed since the European Union is committed to speeding up the reduction of its greenhouse gas emissions from 20% to 30% between 1990 and 2020 in case of an international post-Kyoto agreement. Table 1, which shows an estimate of change in France’s emissions by sector, whether or not they are subject to emission quotas shows, that the objectives that France has set for itself in the framework of the Environment Round Table will bring it into compliance with European commitments, and exceed them.

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>-22.8</td>
<td>-21.8% compared with an objective of -15.9% for France*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sectors not subject to emission quotas (residential and service, transport, etc.)</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>-18.3% compared with an objective of -14% for France and an EU objective of -10.5%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial and energy facilities subject to emission quotas</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-31.4% compared with an EU objective of -21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>5564</td>
<td>5144</td>
<td>4451</td>
<td>-20%</td>
<td>-13.5%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

France already has one of the least greenhouse gas-emitting industrialised economies, measured both by emissions per resident and per unit of GDP. Its emissions per resident are 16% less than the European average. With 2007 emissions 5.6% less than the ceiling set by the Kyoto protocol, France is also one the rare industrialised countries whose emissions are already below its international commitment.

France has resolutely chosen, with the almost unanimous approval of the Environment Round Table by Parliament, to go even further and accelerate its transition to a society and an economy that consume low levels of energy and carbon.

France's objectives also fall within the scope of the European Union's goal to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30% between 1990 and 2020 in case of an international agreement.
Following France’s European Union presidency, during which a historic agreement was reached on the energy-climate package, and whilst the Copenhagen conference is approaching, France has demonstrated its intention to play a leading role in the worldwide plan to fight climate change. Actually realising these ambitious results nevertheless depends on numerous points of vigilance. In particular:

- actual pace of existing building renovation;
- maintaining strong incentives to sustain the pace of renovation;
- actual ability of channels and sectors to adapt (innovation, technological breakthroughs, etc.);
- mobilisation level for all players and efficiency of support system (training, changing behaviours, etc.).

Even if it causes a short-term reduction in emissions, the current economic situation could lead to an increase in emissions over the medium term if Environment Round Table (Grenelle) measures were not strictly implemented. The recovery plan also emphasises measures to protect the environment. The Environment Round Table is putting in place a new kind of growth that respects the environment.
The building sector is the largest energy consumer among all economic sectors in France. It currently consumes around 68 million tonnes of oil equivalent (toe), or 42.5% of final energy consumption. This is equal to more than a tonne of oil equivalent consumed by each person in France. This generates 123 million tonnes of CO₂, or 23% of national emissions. These emissions have increased by 15% since 1990. Each person in France releases approximately two tonnes of CO₂ into the environment. The annual heating bill represents on average approximately 900 euros per household, with large disparities that tend to increase with a rise in energy prices: annual expenses can also vary from 250 euros for a "low-consumption" house to more than 1,800 euros for a poorly insulated house.

Large-scale implementation of the Environment Round Table's programme to reduce energy consumption will lead to sustained reduction in energy expenses and resulting inequalities, improve household buying power and contribute to reducing CO₂ emissions.

**PRIMARY MEASURES**

**New Energy Efficiency Regulation**

Beginning in 2012, all new construction must demonstrate primary energy consumption of less than an average of 50kWh/m²/year.
This requirement has been moved up to the end of 2010 for public and service buildings, as well as for constructions carried out in the framework of the national urban renovation programme. From 2020 on, all new construction must have primary energy consumption that is less than the quantity of renewable energy produced by these buildings (positive energy).
Impact: -2.2 million tCO₂e in 2020 compared with implementing current energy efficiency regulation (RT 2005) for residential buildings only.

**Sustainable Development Tax Credit**
The measure has been improved to speed up small energy-efficiency renovations: the tax credit has been extended through 2012 and now covers rental housing, as well as labour expenses for certain work; it focuses on the most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly equipment and materials.
Impact: -3.78 million tCO₂e in 2020 compared with ceasing to enforce the measure at the end of 2008 and 10.34 million tCO₂e for the measure since 2005.

**Zero Percent Ecological Loan**
The zero percent ecological loan is one of the primary measures of the Environment Round Table. All individual homeowners may benefit for projects on their principal residence, including co-owned and rental units. Lasting for 10 years, which the bank can extend to 15 years, it can be used to finance up to 30,000 euros for work to improve the residence's energy efficiency. It can be combined with other support measures, including the sustainable development tax credit (depending on resources), assistance from the National Home Improvement Agency (ANAH) and regional governments, energy saving certificates and zero percent loans set aside for renovation acquisition operations. The zero percent ecological loan is a complete financing solution for energy efficiency renovation.
Impact: -4.10 million tCO₂e

**Renovation of Government Buildings**
All State and public institution buildings will be subject to an energy performance analysis by 2010.
Renovation of these buildings will begin in 2012 and should reduce energy consumption by at least 40% and greenhouse gas emissions by 50% within 8 years.

**Social Housing Renovation**

The 800,000 most energy inefficient social housing units will undergo renovation by 2020. For this effort, an initial group of loans at a special rate of 1.9% was made available for 2009 and 2010 to renovate 100,000 units (40,000 in 2009 and 60,000 in 2010). The social housing renovation programme has the goal of renovating 70,000 units per year between 2011 and 2020. This renovation programme, along with the European Regional Development Fund's expanded coverage of expenses related to energy efficiency and renewable energy for low-income housing and the creation of a fund to combat unfit housing and energy expenses as part of the recovery programme, will strengthen the fight against energy insecurity.
Transport

Transport represents 26% of final emissions in France, or 138 million tCO₂e in 2007, with a strong increase between 1990 and 2001 (+22%) followed by stabilisation. Road transport is responsible for 95% of emissions, including 54% for private vehicles alone.

**PRIMARY MEASURES**

**Development of Alternative Modes of Transport**
Modernisation and in some case new infrastructure is planned to encourage the use of rail, inland waterways and the seas for freight transport. For passenger transport, 2,000 kilometres of high-speed rail lines will be built by 2020 and a second programme of 2,500 kilometres will be outlined; a programme will be implemented for a total of 1,800 kilometres of dedicated mass transit lanes (outside Île-de-France) by 2020 with State reimbursement and financing of 800 million euros for local governments. A stepped-up mass transport programme will be implemented in Île-de-France.

**Private Vehicle Emission Reduction**
The European Union has set a goal of reducing CO₂ emissions of private vehicles to 120gCO₂/km. This goal will be reached by implementing the European regulation on private vehicle emissions, which was agreed to in December 2008, and additional measures adopted in early 2009 in the regulatory framework relating to general vehicle safety.

**Automobile Bonus-Malus**
In place in France since January 2008, it encourages the purchase of vehicles that emit the least amount of CO₂. A rebate (bonus) is paid to buyers of vehicles that emit less than 130g of CO₂/km. Inversely, a tax is imposed on the purchase (malus) of all cars that emit more than 160g CO₂/km. The measure has had a significant effect on new vehicle sales in France: average new vehicle emissions were lowered to 140g CO₂/km in 2008, a 9g reduction from the previous year (compared with an average reduction of 1g per year in previous years).
Impact: -6 million tCO₂e in 2020 for all measures to reduce private vehicle emissions.

**Development of Biofuels**
France has brought forward the date for implementing the European goal of incorporating 5.75% biofuels from 2010 to 2008 and has set new objectives of 7% for 2010 and 10% for 2015. To realise these objectives, an additional levy of the general tax on polluting activities (TGAP) on operators who do not comply with these goals for incorporation and a system of tax exemption on the domestic duty on petroleum products (TIPP) for biofuels have been implemented. Impact: -3.8 million tCO₂e

**Kilometre Ecotax for Heavy Vehicles**
It will be implemented beginning in 2011 for use of the main non-concessionary metropolitan road network. The external costs of road transportation can then be taken into account.
In 2007, industry represented 23% of France's greenhouse gas emissions, or 121 million tCO₂e. Emissions from this sector in 2007 were 18% less than those of 1990.

PRIMARY MEASURES

Review of directive establishing a ceiling and quota exchange system

In effect since 2005, the directive has introduced a "cap and trade" ceiling and exchange system for emissions from primary industrial and energy activity in the European Union. The revision of this directive was adopted by the European Parliament and Council in December 2008 during the French presidency in the framework of the energy-climate package. It extends the scope of application, harmonises facility quota allotment methods and, most significantly, strengthens goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in sectors subject to this directive: at the European level, emissions are to be reduced by 21% between 2005 and 2020. The renewable heat fund, calls to tender for the construction of biomass power plants (see section on energy) and the fund to support industrial demonstrations are all measures to encourage industry to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
Greenhouse gas emissions in the agriculture sector reached 106 million tCO₂e in 2007, or 19.8% of France's total emissions. The share of these emissions, which is higher than other European countries, is related to the size of the agriculture sector and the lower use of fossil fuels in other sectors in France.

Forests are a very significant CO₂ sink, 72.3 million tCO₂e in 2007, which has been increasing constantly since 1990.

**PRIMARY MEASURES**

**Energy performance plan for farms**

It is based on three types of action: reduction in energy consumption (tractors, livestock buildings, greenhouses, etc.); development of renewable energy (agricultural methanisation, biomass, etc.) and evaluation of energy consumption and development of the energy consultancy.
According to Environment Round Table research, this plan would reduce energy consumption in the agriculture sector and greenhouse gas emissions by 10% over the period 2008-2013 (or 1 million tCO$_2$e).

**Objective Lands 2020 Plan**
Introduced in February 2009, it provides for development of farming practices that will have a positive impact on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (developing grassland systems, revival of legumes, hedge planting, etc.).

**Forest Mobilisation**
The work of the Forestry Convention and of the Environment Round Table (2008) chose the option of mobilising an additional 21 million m$^3$ of wood per year which will be used both as material and energy.

**Environment Round Table Commitments**
The main commitments of the Environment Round Table in the agriculture sector aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to farm energy consumption, with a goal of 30% of farms with low energy dependency by 2013 as well as a goal of developing organic agriculture (increase from 6% of useful agricultural surface area in 2010 to 20% in 2020). The agriculture and forest sectors will be mobilised to achieve the objectives of the Environment Round Table for renewable energy. Environment Round Table commitments include guaranteeing that the development of each of the renewable channels takes environmental requirements into account. An exhaustive and open analysis will be made of the ecological and energy assessment of first generation biofuels; the wood supply chain will be revived while protecting ordinary and special forest biodiversity.
Carbon dioxide emissions produced by the power industries (electricity generation, urban heating and refining) totalled 74 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in 2007, i.e. 13% of all emissions produced in France.

**PRIMARY MEASURES**

### Energy Saving Certificates

Launched in 2006, this scheme, based on an obligation to save energy imposed on the major power suppliers (electricity, gas and domestic fuel oil suppliers, etc.) is to be substantially extended. In particular, it will now apply to automotive fuel suppliers, and initiatives aiming to promote innovation, training and information will now be eligible.

Impact: -2.9 million tons of CO₂ equivalent in 2020 before factoring in the measures planned by the Environment Round Table.

### Implementation of the eodesign directive

A first series of measures was adopted under France's Presidency of the European Union:

– the withdrawal of incandescent light bulbs: 100W in 2009, 75W in 2010, 60W in 2011 and the remaining bulbs in 2012. An even more proactive schedule has been set in France;
– the standby mode limit applicable to all electrical appliances for home or office use for which maximum consumption is limited to 1 watt (or 2 watts depending on function) by 2010 and 0.5 (or 1) watt from 2013 on;
– limit on consumption of simple digital decoders: their consumption will be limited to 1W from 2010 on, and 0.5W in 2012;
– improved performance of electrical chargers and external power supply devices: by 2010, manufacturers must align their products with the most efficient products currently available on the market and must have reviewed their product design by 2012;

Impact: -1.60 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent in France due solely to the withdrawal of incandescent light bulbs.
Developing renewable energy sources

In November 2008, France presented its plan for developing renewable energy sources resulting from the Environment Round Table. The aim of this programme is to increase the share of renewable energy sources to 23% of total power consumption by 2020, thanks to an increase of 20 million tonnes of oil equivalent (TOE) in the annual output generated by renewable energy sources.

It includes 50 operational measures, encompassing all the different sectors - bioenergy, wind power, geothermal, hydroelectric power, solar power and energy from the sea, etc. The objective is a complete change in scale: double the production of renewable energy in 12 years, double the production of wood-energy, multiply the production of geothermal energy sixfold, of urban heating networks twelve-fold and instrument a major transformation in photovoltaic energy, with production multiplied by 400.

The Renewable Heat Fund: this programme provides for a renewable heat fund to be set up, providing one billion euros for the period 2009-2011, in accordance with one of the Environment Round Table commitments. The fund is intended to be used for stepping up development of heat generation in the tertiary sector and industry, and for improving and diversifying heating sources in collective housing, using renewable sources such as wood, geothermal and solar power.
The fund will serve to increase funding for such energy sources four-or five-fold. The first call for projects was launched immediately in December 2008 in the industrial and agricultural sectors, for a volume of 100,000 TOE. This call for projects, which will be renewed annually, provides for 500,000 tonnes of biomass to be recycled a year.

**Tax measures:** the sustainable development tax credit, which mainly supports the acquisition of renewable energy equipment by private individuals – solar water heaters, heat pumps and photovoltaic panels, etc.– has been extended to 2012. In addition, new powerful incentive instruments introduced to support energy-efficiency renovation for buildings, zero-percent interest rate eco-loans now available from banks and property tax exemptions, among other measures, will also encourage the deployment of renewable energy sources.

**Biomass:** a new "Biomasse 3" call for tender was launched in January 2009 to build, by 2012, electricity-generating power plants fuelled by biomass, to provide total output of 250MW following the success of the last call for tender which resulted in the approval of 22 projects for total output of 300MW.

**Geothermal power:** increase geothermal power generation six-fold by 2020, by installing heat pumps in 2 million homes and relaunching large-scale programmes in the Île-de-France, Alsace, Aquitaine, the Midi-Pyrénées and in the Centre region.

**Wind power:** in the case of wind farms on land, the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea has, first, confirmed the purchase tariff and, second, started to an initiative aimed at improving regional planning, regulatory supervision and the local consultation process, with a view to avoiding uncoordinated development across the regions and limiting the impact on the landscape and local residents' property and quality of life; the development of wind farms at sea will be made easier by simplifying procedures and setting up a consultation and planning body, in liaison with all the stakeholders involved, for each portion of the coastline.

**Solar power:** France's objective is to play a world-leading role in the technological revolution expected in the solar power sector. To boost growth on the French market, step up research and build a solid solar power industry in France, the following measures have been announced:

- a call for tender for the construction of at least one solar power plant in every French region by 2011, for a total output of 300MW, plus the development of a simplified tariff support system affording long-term visibility;
the setting of a tariff at 45 euro cents/kWh to encourage deployment of photovoltaic panels on commercial buildings (supermarkets, industrial buildings and large-scale farm buildings, etc.);

- drastic reduction of administrative procedures for private individuals and abolition of all tax procedures provided the surface area of the panels does not exceed 30m²;

- extension of the income from the resale tariffs for electricity produced using renewable sources to all local authorities. Public buildings, including primary and secondary schools, etc. can thus have photovoltaic panels installed;

- reform of the urban planning code: building permits can no longer refuse the installation of systems to produce renewable energy on buildings, except in areas that require protection (protected sectors, listed buildings and heritage sites, etc.);

- the Model State: the energy-efficiency renovation plan for publicly-owned buildings includes the installation of photovoltaic panels on roofs wherever possible. The French Ministry of Defence is also conducting an ambitious pilot project at the military base in Istres.

**Hydroelectric power:** the primary renewable source of power in France (12% of French electricity output), existing facilities will be modernised and upgraded in line with an approach geared to sustainable development; opening up the hydroelectric power concession sector to competition will provide an opportunity to select operators on the basis of the highest energy efficiency criteria and ambitious measures to restore water quality.

**Research:** unprecedented funding is to be granted for research on renewable energy solutions, thanks to the additional sum of one billion euros allocated for research in the area of sustainable development, 450 million euros of which is allocated to a fund to support industrial demonstration programmes. A call for projects will be launched in 2009 in the field of solar power, followed by another in the field of energy from the sea (underwater turbine generators, etc.).

**Introduction of a carbon tax:** to encourage low-carbon emitting behaviour, the introduction of a carbon tax on energy products sold, used or intended for use as fuel or fuel oil is provided for in the draft Budget Act for 2010. This tax will apply to all households and companies, with the exception of facilities subject to a greenhouse gas emissions quota trading system. The tax has initially been set at €17 in 2010. This tariff will gradually increase to the target value of €100 in 2030, the value required if France is to meet her commitment to fight global warming. The carbon tax will not cause a rise in tax deductions in France. For companies, local business tax on investments will be abolished. For households, revenue from the carbon tax will be redistributed in the form of an income tax rebate.
Emissions relating to waste management amounted to 10 MtCO$_2$e in 2007, representing about 2% of total greenhouse gas emissions in France (compared with 12 MtCO$_2$e in 1990).

Waste-related emissions come from three main sources: anaerobic fermentation at landfill sites, incineration of fossil waste and emissions from composting.

**PRIMARY MEASURES**

**Tax changes concerning waste disposal and incineration facilities**

The general tax on polluting activities (TGAP) will be changed to encourage preventive measures and waste recycling. It will also be modulated according to the environmental and energy-saving performance of each facility.

**Introduction of compulsory charges to finance the removal of waste**

Within the next five years, the fee for the removal of household refuse (REOM) and the tax on the removal of household refuse (TEOM) must incorporate a charge that may vary with the type, weight or volume of refuse or the number of refuse collections.

**Reinforcement of awareness raising campaigns**

The credits set aside by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) for waste management will be doubled in 2009, increasing from €55 million in 2008 to €259 million in 2011. Priority will be given to prevention and, more especially, to a new system of financial support for local authorities which define local prevention plans and programmes. The year 2009 will also see the launch of a new three-yearly national public information campaign.
PRIMARY MEASURES

The regional planning part of the climate policy put forward by the Environment Round Table is based on:
– regional climate, air and energy schemes set up to ensure that the climate- and energy-related activities of local authorities are mutually consistent and to line up regional objectives with national objectives;
– regional climate-energy plans, which will be made compulsory for all authorities with more than 50,000 inhabitants.

The notion of "State as model" will be reinforced by a number of measures, concerning routine purchases and measures to promote the State's environmental responsibility and social responsibility in particular. The circular of 3 December 2008 sets out the Prime Minister's decision to set up an interministerial fund to promote the idea of compensating for non-reducible CO₂ emissions induced by government activities.

Environment Round Table Commitments

The Environment Round Table includes provisions for setting up a new legal framework for local authorities in the areas of town and regional planning, emphasising the significant part they must play in curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Regional climate plans will be generalised and made compulsory. Adapting to climate change and controlling energy will be added to regional planning objectives.
PRIMARY MEASURES

Awareness-raising campaign in support of the Environment Round Table
The ADEME’s budget has been boosted to support the environmental transformation of French society and promote concrete measures stemming from the Environment Round Table. For example, a new three-year action campaign to promote energy-saving was initiated in 2008, while the new national public information campaign on waste prevention will be launched in 2009.

Carbon balance
Private legal entities with more than 500 employees and public legal entities with more than 250 employees, regions, départements, urban communities, urban area communities and municipalities or communities of municipalities with more than 50,000 inhabitants must provide a balance of their greenhouse gas emissions. This will make all parties concerned aware of the impact their activities have and of what they can do at their level to improve matters.

Charter for environmentally responsible advertising
The charter was signed on 11 April 2008 by members of the advertising business and the “Ministre d’État”. The charter proposes to take stock of the current situation and suggest ways of improving advertising messages based on environmental arguments.

CO₂ labelling
Energy labelling, which was initially developed for domestic appliances and light bulbs, now applies to other areas as well: in the housing and services sector, an energy performance diagnosis must now be obtained by anyone wishing to sell or rent out a property and real estate professionals have signed an agreement with the State to include details of energy performance in property advertisements; in the transport sector, the CO₂ label has been compulsory for all sales of new vehicles since 10 May 2006. Transporters will also have to provide details of their CO₂ emissions.
Even if we consider the most optimistic scenario, the temperature increase expected in France by the end of the century will far exceed the rise already observed over the last century; it is expected that the average temperature will rise by another 2°C at least by the year 2100 if human society actually succeeds in drastically reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Any climate policy must therefore be built on two pillars: reducing greenhouse gas emissions and anticipating the most likely climate changes.

With this in mind, the French Government approved a national strategy for adapting to climate change on 13 November 2006. The strategy defines four major goals: taking action to safeguard public health and safety; acknowledging social aspects and inequality with regard to the risk; limiting costs and exploiting any advantages to the full; preserving our natural heritage.

An interministerial group was set up in November 2007 to assess the impact of climate change. Its first report, submitted in the summer of 2008, set out the method for defining impact priorities based on likelihood of occurrence and on severity. The report also outlined some initial steps to be taken. The group continued its activities and handed in its second report in the summer in 2009.

Further to the Environment Round Table (Grenelle), a vast consultation plan on adaptation will be initiated before the end of 2009 with a view to preparing a national adaptation plan by 2011. Local authority action relating to adaptation has also been stepped up as a result of the Environment Round Table and adaptation is now taken into account in State-Region project contracts (CPERs). Regional climate, air and energy schemes (see section on government and local authorities) will have to include a section specifically devoted to adaptation, while regional climate plans will have to include measures concerning both attenuation and adaptation.