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1,5°C
NOUS SOMMES
LES TERRITOIRES
QUI SE DÉFENDENT

PRESS KIT June 18, 2019

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#MairesPourLeClimat

#TerritoiresQuiSeDéfendent



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1/ Press Release June 18, 2019

1.5C : 14 Cities and 4 Associations Formally Request Total for Failure to Uphold its Duty to combat Climate Change

Following a meeting with a team from Total and the company's CEO, 14 cities and the organizations Notre Affaire à Tous, Les Eco Maires, Sherpa, and Zea are calling on Total to conform its practices to the law "devoir de vigilance" by taking certain measures necessary to fight climate change.

On October 23rd 2018, the 13 cities and the 4 associations aforementioned above challenged Total after the corporation released a plan of vigilance that failed to mention climate change. This omission is in direct contradiction to its legal obligation to undertake the actions necessary to prevent both human rights violations and environmental harms caused by its activities.

The global cost of adapting to climate change in the coming years will amount to billions of dollars, according to a report from UN Environment. The cities will have to shoulder most of this burden. Thus citizens are victims of a double crime, in being the first to be impacted by climate change while also having to cover most of the cost. Facing this injustice, citizens and their communities are asking Total to bear some responsibility.

If Total's new plan, published in March 2019, mentions climate change, the proposals announced are insufficient to comply with the Paris Agreement. A meeting among representatives of the associations concerned, cities, and Total on June 18th led to no major changes being made to the plan.

If on September 18th, three months from now, Total has not taken adequate measures to reduce their gas emissions, the cities, as well as the aforementioned organizations mentioned above will take Total to court for failure to comply with the law and uphold the commitments they agreed upon during COP21.

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2/ Mayors for Climate Regulations

The global temperature today has reached above 1 C and the effects of climate change are already visible in the communities in which we are elected: more frequent and violent environmental disasters, increased temperatures spikes, melting of icebergs and ice caps, rising ocean levels, forest fires, deterioration of standards of living...tomorrow, it will be too late.

We are limiting our gas emissions so that future generations can live on the same Earth as their parents. The responsibility to comply with the Paris Agreement's objective of remaining below 2C must be shared by all, especially by those who are historically responsible for the problem.

Cities and their residents cannot be expected to shoulder this burden alone.

25 international organizations are responsible for more than 50% of all global emissions. Total is a part of those 25.

As a major energy corporation, Total is the only one originally responsible for 0.9% of global emissions. Its engagement in climate change reducing actions should be on par with its political and economic history.

By not limiting its gas emissions to help keep global temperatures below 1.5 C, Total is failing to comply with the Paris Agreement. While today's youth are doing their part politically and economically to ensure that they do not have to live in a stove, Total is continuing to invest billions of euros in fossil fuels instead of more environmentally friendly options.

Time is of the essence. In 30 years, we should live in a carbon neutral world, in which residual emission will be fully offset. In these conditions, why continue to invest in gas and petroleum research which will increase fossil fuels well before 2050?

It is our responsibility to guarantee to the next generations the chance to grow up without having to live with the catastrophic effects of uncontrollable rising temperatures, and the costs of our passivity.

These are the reasons why on June 18, 2019, we are calling all elected officials to join us as we demand that Total rapidly lower their emissions to limit global temperatures to 1.5 C.

Signatories: Christian Métairie, Mayor of **Arcueil**, Jean-René Etchegaray, Mayor of **Bayonne**, Clément Rossignol Puech, Mayor of **Bègles**, Alain Fabre, Mayor of **Bize-Minervois**, Daniel Lefort, Mayor of **Champneuville**, Michaël Latz, Mayor of **Correns**, Gérard Cosme, President of **Est Ensemble**, Damien Carême, Mayor of **Grande-Synthe**, Eric Piolle, Mayor of **Grenoble**, Vanessa Miranville, Mayor of **La Possession**, Pierre Aschieri, Mayor of **Mouans-Sartoux**, Patrick Jarry, Mayor of **Nanterre**, Stéphane Blanchet, Mayor of **Sevrans** et Jean-Pierre Bouquet, Mayor of **Vitry-le-François**



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3/ Reasons for our action

In December of 2015, the international community adopted the Paris Accords, which stated, among other things, the intention to keep global temperatures at around 1.5 C, and well below 2 C. This was accepted by the GIEC in 2018, who also warned that while controlling the rise of temperatures was possible, CO2 emissions would have to decrease drastically until 2030 (-45%) to attain carbon neutrality in 2050.

With this in mind, the GIEC has tried to stop corporations from exploring and exploiting hydrocarbon to attain carbon neutrality, by asking that they radically revise their investment politics and disengage from fossil fuels.

We ask Total to prove that they are contributing to and heeding the Paris Accords. A report titled "*Total : la stratégie du chaos climatique*" by Notre Affaire à Tous, 350.org, and the Amis de la Terre shows that Total's efforts are merely a mirage. Indeed, Total's promises and subsequent economic model are incompatible with the objectives of the Paris Accords.

Following a meeting on June 18th between Total and organizations and cities involved, Total has not shown any motivation to change.

Concerned parties are willing to take further action against Total to remind them that no one is above the law if they continue their current ways.

4/ International Context

In 2014, the Carbon Major Report from Richard Heede asserted that 90 companies are responsible for 63% of global emissions since 1751. In July 2017, a new report established that 100 companies are responsible for more than 70% of all emissions since 1988. Despite having knowledge of their negative impact on the environment, these businesses continue their ignorant and exploitative activities.

In the United States, many major cities such as New York, San Francisco, and Oakland among others have already taken action against major organizations, including Total.

Other countries have also taken notable judicial action. This is seen with the victory of Urgenda in The Netherlands, DeJusticia against the Colombian Government, and farmers in Pakistan. In Europe, ten families from France, Portugal, Germany, Italy, Romania, Kenya, and Fiji accompanied by the Climate Action Network react by asking European institutions to protect their fundamental rights and to engage in the issues surrounding climate change.



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The current response against Total by concerned cities and associations is a part of a global movement, aimed at making companies recognize the role they have played in climate change and convincing them to reduce gas emissions.