

## **EHS Rally - Riou Froid 2014**

We are delighted to present the preliminary report from the Rally held at Riou Froid in the French Alps 25.08.14 – 1.09.14

During this meeting, The spirit of generosity and responsibility was evident throughout this event and during the dialogue between all present (EHS, organisations, elected state officials and representatives, scientists, and journalists). Determination and commitment to concerted action to achieve common goals was affirmed.

### **Highlights from the week at Riou Froid**

#### **Project Durbon:**

For 3 years we have worked with Michèle Rivasi MEP who leads the project for the creation of an EMF free emergency reception area for sufferers of EHS at Durbon, near the town of Saint-Julien-en-Beauchene (Hautes-Alpes).

The site comprises several thousand square meters of living space in an area covering 40 hectares. The property belongs to the CAF Bouches-du-Rhone, who support the project, and offer a 99 year lease. At this stage a tender remains to be made.

#### **A day with Michèle Rivasi:**

Michèle Rivasi MEP led a day of panel discussions with Mr Marc Vergne representative of ANSES, Mr Maire DDCSPP representative of the Prefecture Hautes Alpes, Ms. Hautant, PACA Regional Councillor, Mr Souvet, PACA regional councillor and chairman of ASEF, Ms. Decaix, director of the ONF of Hautes-Alpes, Ms. Gouhier of CRIIREM. The following proposals were put forward:

- To create a discrete legal entity to manage Project Durbon
- The project should be managed as a European Pilot Project
- The legal entity should be open to elected officials, scientists, and EHS organisations
- Foreign EHS organisations should be included. Project Durbon is a pan-European project
- ANSES should take part in the project

#### **The French EHS organisations come together:**

French national and local associations and collectives met around the table to set a new agenda of co-operation and mutual support. Those present, Serge Sargentini (Next-up), Etienne Cendrier (Robin des Toits), Gilbert Léger (POEM26), Marie-France Hébrard (Antenne31), Sylvette and Jacques (Le Rayon Vert), Minerva Palomar (EDS, Spain), Philippe Tribaudeau (Une Terre pour les EHS) agreed the following:

- Consider formally joining Project Durbon (where the statutes of the individual organisations permit)

- Create a common tab "Zone Blanche de Durbon" on the website of all the associations and to conduct joint actions.
- Next-up informed of a gite (cottage) to be set aside for sufferers of EHS sufferers. This should open in the fall in an area of low radiation located in the Ardeche, France.
- Etienne Cendrier (Robin des Toits) presented the Priory Project, in a priory built of stone situated in the Charente, France. A field test was carried out there a few weeks ago.

### ***Additional ventures***

- Continue to implement at the Departmental and Regional level a network of Collectives and Associations in order to become ever closer to the general population.
- Increase and continue the campaigns to spread information and awareness through meetings, debates and social events, and also workshops for school campaigns.
- Improve contact with elected officials and health professionals.
- Strengthen support for EHS sufferers who are in difficulty.
- Encourage co-ordinated grouped submissions to obtain support from the MDPH, such that they may be reviewed by a single committee with prior insight and understanding of our problem. The long-term objective is to harmonize the casework at the national level, and attain a true recognition of EHS at the national level.

### ***We discussed the need to be ever more united.....***

- Implement now the co-ordinated search, individually or collectively, for properties (rent or purchase) with low radiation levels to meet the urgent need of the many homeless sufferers of EHS. Many individuals in France, as elsewhere, have been forced to leave their homes due to ever increasing EMFs. They live for example in their cars, or in tents or bivouacs in the forest, or caves in the mountains – these people desperately need EMF free places to recover and to live. *The Path Ahead*: Agricultural land (SAFER), forest areas (ONF, municipal, private), leisure facilities.
- Set up an emergency number to respond to those in distress. All help is welcome. Training will be required for persons manning the helpline.
- The ONF (National Forestry Office) made a proposal to open its real estate (for example forest cabins) to see whether these may serve as temporary refuge accommodation for EHS sufferers in immediate distress.
- Strengthen our ties with foreign associations attending the Rally, and other foreign organisations, to share knowledge and experience and learn from each other, and where possible to pool and co-ordinate our efforts on common initiatives.

## **The Rally in Numbers:**

- 107 sufferers of EHS, including two children under 15 years.
- With 40 companions
- Over 20 Organisations (France National and local level, Spain, Italy, UK)
- 9 nationalities represented: United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, Andorra, Italy, Ireland, Norway and Switzerland.

We are pleased with the media coverage. The Rally was announced in the newspapers Le Monde and France Culture the week prior to the Rally. The week long Rally was reported by France 3, Arte, Le Parisien, Ouest-France, L'Express.fr, Le Dauphiné Libéré, L'Âge de Faire, Europe 1, RTL, RMC, La Croix, Radio Classique, France Bleu Périgord, a team of television journalists from Korea, Journal l'Hebdo (Switzerland) VivreFM, the Pilgrim Journal Magazine, France TV Info, AFP, and a team of independent journalists.

A detailed report covering the rally will be made available in the coming months. The various different initiatives and projects will be presented. These include a project to create an association for legal action at the European level, the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), the collation of 500 video testimonials to be sent to the French Ministry of Health, the Priory Project creating a short term location for acute EHS sufferers, and project looking at the problem of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity *etc..*

## **We would like to thank all participants. We extend a special thank you to:**

- [Michèle Rivasi](#) MEP ([Europe Ecologie les Verts](#)) for Region Sud Est, and Vice-President and co-founder of [CRIIREM](#) and [CRIIRAD](#)
- Mr Marc-Vergnes, representing ANSES (French National Authority concerned with Public Health)
- Mr Philippe Maire of the Direction Departemental de Cohesion Social (DDCSPP) and representative of the prefecture of Hautes-Alpes
- Ms. Hautant, Regional Councillor Provence Alpes Côtes d'Azur (PACA)
- Mr Souvet, Regional Councillor for PACA, and President of the Association Sante Enviromental France (ASEF)
- Ms. Decaix, director of the National Forestry Office (ONF) for Hautes-Alpes
- Ms. Gouhier of CRIIREM
- Mr Yves Paquet, director of the Maison Departemental Pour les Handicappé (MDPH) for Drôme

### **Organisations Represented:**

Next-up organization, Robin des Toits, CRIIREM, POEM26, Antenne 31, Le Rayon Vert, Le collectif des électrosensibles de Rhône-Alpes, Collectif EHS 42, Collectif EHS 37, SOSMCS, SERA, Collectif Sud-Ouest, MOVISPEM, ES-UK (from UK), EDS (Electrosensibles por el derecho a la salud – Espagne), L'association Buëch Coop, Sstop16, la Coordination Nationale des Collectifs contre les antennes relais.

*We would also like to thank the following:*

- Patrice Forget producer of the documentary « [Cherche zone blanche désespérément](#) »
- Jean Villard, Swiss Photojournalist
- [Vincent Lauer](#), Independent Researcher
- [Alexander Pieroni](#), journalist conducting research in sociology on EHS

*and especially*

- The people of Lus-la-Haute-Croix who helped and supported us.

*lastly*

We thank the various authorities for the permissions which enabled us to put in place this Rally: The prefecture of the Hautes-Alpes, the ONF Hautes-Alpes, the commune of Saint-Julien-en-Beauchene, Natura 2000 and SDIS (Fire and Rescue Department).

And all of you who participated in a creative and responsible way to the success of this gathering.

**[Une Terre Pour les EHS](#)**