

To:

French Government, Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, Madame Ségolène Royal
Per email: presse.ministere@developpement-durable@gouv.fr

Don't give Total the Montelimar permit back

Dear Madame Royal,

we all are actively campaigning worldwide against the development of hydrocarbons (such as shale gas/oil, tight gas/oil and coal bed methane) which are usually extracted by using a technique called hydraulic fracturing, better known as fracking. Everywhere in the world anti-fracking groups are facing the same issues and have to confront the same - often unscientific and economically unreliable - weak arguments.

That's the reason why we are globally united in our opposition to fracking, sharing the slogan of the initial mobilisation of French citizen groups against fracking: *Ni ici, ni ailleurs ("not here, not anywhere")*.

Over years, we have explicitly welcomed and hailed the positive "shining example" of the fracking ban in France. And even though the outcome of the COP21-Meeting in Paris could have been much more promising we nonetheless hope that the leaders of the world have finally understood their climate responsibility for the planet and the generations to come.

We all know, that no more than one-third of proven reserves of fossil fuels can be consumed prior to 2050 if the world is to have a chance of avoiding 2 degrees Celsius of post-industrial warming. At the same time climate science is clear that surpassing even 1.5 degrees of warming will lead to unacceptable impacts, particularly in the Global South¹.

Moreover, approximately 150 billion cubic meters of natural gas are being flared in the world each year, representing an enormous waste of natural resources and contributing 400 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent global greenhouse gas emissions². As long as these fossil fuels are being wasted in such a negative manner for the global economy and the climate, there can't be a serious need for fracked fossil fuels.

Dear Madame Royal, during a public session on energy policies on January 12, you said that France would no longer grant permits to companies who are interested in the further exploration of fossil fuels and that *"we must rather encourage companies to shift their investments towards the production of renewable energies and energy efficiency"*

In December 2015 American firm Schuepbach lost its legal action against the French state to be allowed to frack in Southern France³.

That's why we call upon you to stay firm, reject the possibility to re-allocate the Montelimar permit and definitely ban any kind of explorations or exploitation of unconventional fossil fuels in France⁴.

We the signatories, stand together in solidarity with the French anti-fracking-groups for a frack free world! *Ni ici, ni ailleurs ("not here, not anywhere")* is the motto which unites us.

¹ J. Hansen, M. Sato, P. Hearty, R. Ruedy, M. Kelley, V. Masson-Delmotte, G. Russell, G. Tselioudis, J. Cao, E. Rignot, I. Velicogna, E. Kandiano, K. von Schuckmann, P. Kharecha, A. N. Legrande, M. Bauer, and K.-W. Lo: **Ice melt, sea level rise and superstorms: evidence from paleoclimate data, climate modeling, and modern observations that global warming is highly dangerous**, Discussion Paper, in: Atmos. [Chem. Phys. Discuss., 15, 20059–20179, 2015](#)

² GE-study "Flare Gas Reduction" Link:http://www.ge-spark.com/spark/resources/whitepapers/Flare_Gas_Reduction.pdf

³ Article "Ruling: France Will Remain Fracking Free". Link: <http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/france-fracking-free-shale-gas-schuepbach>

⁴ Article "French anti-Fracking Groups Call for Protest Feb 28". Link: <http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/france-anti-fracking-groups-call-for-demonstration-on-february-28-27651>

Signed

1. Andy Gheorghiu Consulting, Germany
2. BI lebenswertes Korbach e.V., Germany
3. Friends of the Earth Europe
4. Ecologistas en Acción, Spain
5. Energy Watch Group, Germany
6. Food & Water Europe
7. Ecologistas en Acción de La Rioja, Spain
8. IG Schönes Lünne, Germany
9. BI frackingfreies Auenland, Germany
10. Collectif Stop Gaz de Schiste in Anduze, France
11. Citizens for Clean Water, Susquehanna County, Pa., USA
12. Fairmont, Minnesota Peace Group, USA
13. Little Lakes Sustainability Network, New York State, USA
14. Frack Free Somerset, UK
15. KIFF (Keep Ireland Frack Free), Ireland
16. BI gegen Gasbohren Kleve, Germany
17. Ecologistas en Accion Palencia, Spain
18. No fracking in Balcombe Society (No FiBS), UK
19. Berks Gas Truth, Pennsylvania, USA
20. Stichting Schaliegasvrij Nederland, Netherlands
21. Frack Free Sussex, UK
22. Brighton Action Against Fracking, UK
23. BI Gemeinsam gegen Gas- und Probebohrungen am Niederrhein, Germany
24. Ecology Party of Florida, USA
25. Earth Care, Santa Fe, USA
26. Fracking Free Clare, Ireland
27. Food & Water Watch, USA
28. Denver Catholic Network, USA
29. BI Saubere Umwelt und Energie Altmark, Germany
30. Earth Ethics Inc., USA
31. Don't Frack Florida, USA
32. Frack Free Genesee, New York State, USA
33. National Toxics Network Inc., Australia
34. FreshWater Accountability Project, USA
35. SouthEastern Communities Against Pollution (SECAP), USA
36. Ecologistas en Acción Cantabria, Spain
37. Ecologistas en Acción Palencia, Spain
38. No Fracking France
39. Roseacre Awareness Group, UK
40. BI gegen CO2-Endlager e.V., Germany
41. We Are Seneca Lake, USA
42. New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance (NBASGA), Canada
43. Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment (ICARE), USA
44. Wall of Women Colorado, USA
45. Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE)
46. Fracking Free Bulgaria
47. Sustainable Tompkins, Ithaca, USA
48. România Fără Ei, Romania

49. Collectif de Barjac, France
50. Intercollectif Gardechois du permis du bassin d'Ales, France
51. Agora for Life, Belgium/Romania
52. Bürgerinitiative Gesundheit und Klimaschutz Unterelbe, Germany
53. Aktionsgruppe frackingfreie Probstei, Germany
54. Stop aux gaz de schiste - Non al gas d'esquit 47, France
55. Mouvement politique des objecteurs de croissance, Belgium
56. Bürgerinitiative Fracking Freies Hamburg, Germany
57. Frack Free Wales, UK
58. Foundation for Environment and Agriculture, Bulgaria
59. Fracking Free Ireland
60. Alianza Mexicana contra del Fracking, Mexico
61. Residents Action on Fylde Fracking (RAFF), UK
62. United for Action, NY, USA
63. Science & Environmental Health Network, USA
64. BI Kein Fracking in der Heide, Germany
65. Umweltinstitut München e.V., Germany
66. Frack Free Chew Valley, UK
67. FoodShed Productions, USA
68. 350Kishwaukee, Illinois, USA
69. Ecologistas en Acción de la Región Murciana, Spain