



COP 21

Christian Business Leaders (French EDC and UNIAPAC) sign the "Business proposals for COP 21" and commit themselves to act for an integral ecology

Paris, 2015, October 26th – French Christian business leaders (EDC) have signed, along with UNIAPAC, the « *Business Proposals in a view of a 2015 international climate change agreement at COP 21 in Paris* ».

Doing that, they join other business leaders' organisations in France (Medef, Afep, Cercle de l'Industrie) and worldwide (Global Compact, World Business for Climate and Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Business Europe, UNIAPAC) to concretely act, in favor of climate, and they join Pope Francis' call for a true "ecological conversion" in his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*.

- **Proposals for 4 precise key evolutions to address climate change**

By signing these proposals on COP 21 eve, EDC and UNIAPAC commit themselves to act for:

1. *Launching a constructive and lasting Business Dialogue convened by the COP Presidency, between the business community and governments;*
2. *Boosting investments in low-carbon business solutions and technologies;*
3. *Intensifying R&D, innovation and deployment of mature and breakthrough technologies;*
4. *The need of carbon pricing.*

In this perspective, French Christian Business Leaders are committed to a mission of promoting all best practices among their 2700 members, in order to **all together - enterprises and governments - address the technical, economical, social and political challenge** related to climate change, to exhaustion of a lot of natural resources, to pollutions of earth, water, oceans and air, to biodiversity decrease, as well as to economic and social development of developing countries.

« *Pope Francis' encyclical letter calls us to convert to an "integral ecology", where economical, social, environmental and human approaches are linked together. We will only be able to efficiently reach it in a dialogue with all the businesses' stakeholders, and first of all governments. This is the reason why we want to contribute to the collective momentum given by businesses worldwide, in a view to achieve true international commitments at next COP 21 in Paris, and beyond it.* », **Laurent Bataille, French EDC's chairman underlines.**

- **A Working Group on « Sustainable Development and Corporate social responsibility (CSR) » to coordinate business leaders' action and thinking**

In order to implement these commitments, French EDC rely on the working group on « Sustainable Development and Corporate social responsibility (CSR) », founded in 2011 and co-chaired by Anne Duthilleul and Jean Cayot.

Following an analysis of the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* realized in July, this group has elaborated a training course that will be proposed to all the 280 French EDC teams.



Les Entrepreneurs et Dirigeants Chrétiens

Uniapac

Focus on the thinking of the Working Group on Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- **First finding: we must act all together...**

Since a few years, in fact, we can see a deep change on the world distribution of the riches created (through GDP) and of CO2 emissions accompanying them. A consequence of the high speed of growth of the developing countries¹ is that these countries are becoming the most important emitting countries of CO2, and this, much more rapidly than we would have thought during the Kyoto negotiations in 1997. **To unbundle greenhouse gases emissions from the economical development is the major challenge for the years to come for everyone.**

Northern and Southern countries are now equally responsible, and solidarity must function in both directions. Everyone has to be fully responsible and we are in urgency for our “common home” conservation. Any solution has to be decided together, and could not be forced onto a group of countries or another.

Political leaders, industrial, agricultural or services business leaders, territorial responsible, we are at the same time the first generation to be fully conscious of the weight of potential risks related to climate heating due to human activities, and the last generation to be able to act in order that this climate heating, though unavoidable, might not reach an unacceptable and dramatic level for all mankind.

- **... and we have the means for acting, if everyone actively plays his role.**

Entrepreneurs and industrial, agricultural or services business leaders, we want to underline, on one hand, that considerable efforts have already being realized in an number of domains, either by enforcement of new regulations, or by voluntary commitments, and, on the other hand, that modern technologies allow industrial, agricultural and services leaders to radically and rapidly modify their production tools and their products and services, in order to unbundle economic development from its negative effects on environment.

Industry and agriculture, accompanied by the related services, are the « **military wings** » of the fight against the greenhouse gases, but to do better and faster, **the governments have to urgently intervene**. For the regulation of international markets and the enforcement of laws and regulations do not sufficiently constrain the decrease of greenhouse gases or the protection of environment, and the competitive distortions between countries delay the implementation of the most virtuous solutions.

So we call for Heads of governments to intervene and to establish a general worldwide framework, in order that human activities, the products we consume, the way we produce them are more and more respectful of mankind and of our “common home”!

- **As Christian Business Leaders, we also call for addressing an ethical, cultural, educational and spiritual challenge.**

This challenge is related to the **integral development** of mankind, that is to say access to a way of life brought by economical and social progress, together with the respect of life, of freedom, of the spiritual or religious inspiration, of the physical and psychical integrity of each human person.

In fact, the source of the present social disease is not only technical, but is coming more deeply from the materialism, the relativism, the individualism that invade our life since the “modern era” and, at the end of the day, result in the disappearing of **Beauty, Truth and Good**.



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What is properly human today is overwhelmed by our own technical, economical and financial developments, and is specially threatened by some aspects of information and communication technologies, or biology and genetics, which do not respect human life and its dignity, not to say its sacredness.

As Christian Business Leaders, as Pope Francis calls us to do through his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, we wish to contribute to the establishment of new criteria for the measure of development, which would take into account together “*human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature*”ⁱⁱ.

And we recall the particular place given by all the believers to prayer: “*We believers cannot fail to ask God for a positive outcome to the present discussions, so that future generations will not have to suffer the effects of our ill-advised delays*”ⁱⁱⁱ.

We bring the hope that COP 21 in Paris will remain in History as an essential step on the path of respect for the Creation, of unity of the human community, of “integral ecology”, for the future of mankind, of the whole society and of our “common home”.

EDC Contact: Guénola de La Seiglière / 06 64 39 30 56 / g.delaseigliere@aserto.fr

About French EDC

French national and ecumenical association, “Les Entrepreneurs et Dirigeants Chrétiens” (EDC) gathers 2 700 business leaders from various types, of all size of business and all activity sectors. **Its Chairman is Laurent Bataille**, CEO of the family-owned group Poclairn Hydraulics, and its objectives are to:

- help these leaders to make their ethics, their convictions and their action consistent;
- contribute to the establishment, the development of knowledge and the spreading of the Christian social thinking;
- make the application and the content of this thinking progress through their researches and their initiatives in their own businesses and sectors.

About Uniapac

International Federation of the Associations of Christian business leaders, Uniapac gathers the Christian Executives' Associations in 36 countries, representing 16000 business leaders in the world. Inspired by the Churches' social thinking, its goal is to promote, through and for the business leaders, the conception and implementation of economics serving people and the common good of the whole mankind. UNIAPAC's mission is to:

- unite, guide and motivate the Christian business leaders so that, within the light of the Churches' social thinking, they commit themselves to their own conversion and to the transformation of their businesses and of their social environment to serve the human person;
- contribute to the construction of a more justice-led human society;
- be a link between the Christian Executives' Associations worldwide, facilitate exchanges between them, and provide common tools and methods to them.

ⁱ A deep change in the split of the world GDP is in progress: it was up to 73% of total for developed countries en 2007 vs 27% only for developing countries. It has become in 2014 respectively 58% “only” and 42%. From 2007 to 2014, the GDP of developed countries (1 billion of people) has grown +1.6% per year, and that of developing countries (6 billions of people) +13.1% per year. If we apply these growth ratios till 2030, the horizon of COP 21, we would reach a split of the world GDP between 19% for today so-called developed countries and 81% for the so-called developing countries.

Besides that, since a few years, greenhouse gases emissions have started to be unbundled from the economic growth in developed countries and remain, except for the United States of America, beneath 0.3kg of CO₂ for 1\$ of GDP. But they are climbing in fast-developing countries twice or 3 times quicker than ours (in kg CO₂ by \$ of GDP).

The projections of greenhouse gases emissions in 2030 brought from those figures put us on a considerably different path from the former projections put forward in Kyoto in 1997.

ⁱⁱ Pope Francis, Encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, § 215

ⁱⁱⁱ Ib. § 169