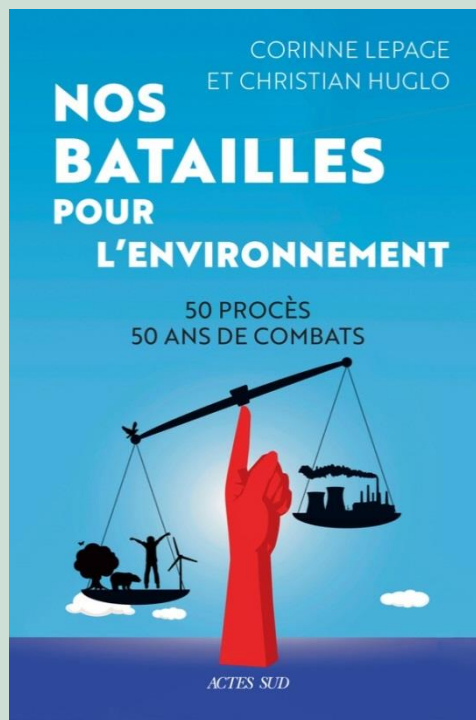




Pesticide newsletter

N°3 - May 2021

Civil Society Activities



From our Board members

Corinne Lepage and Christian Hugo: Our Battles for the Environment: 50 trials, 50 years of fights

Corinne Lepage is altogether a lawyer, a former Minister of the Environment and a former member of the European Parliament, as well as the Chair of Justice Pesticides. She just published, with her husband, the lawyer Christian Huglo, her latest book: [*Nos Batailles pour l'environnement: 50 procès, 50 ans de combats*](#).

Through this new book, they look back on their 50 years of commitment to the protection of the environment in 50 legal battles, on issues ranging from nuclear, GMOs, oil spills to pesticides.

According to the couple of lawyers, the law is a force that must protect the common good against private interests that contribute to its degradation. This is

the common thread running through their unwavering and unshakeable commitment to work for the advent of an environmental law capable of standing up to the economic powers inclined to sacrifice everything in the name of particular interests.

The fifty cases presented in this book show how environmental law has been able to establish itself not only as a real bulwark, but also as an important vector for innovation in our societies. This has been made possible thanks to the action of judges, the ingenuity of lawyers, the involvement of scientists and the support of citizens and local elected officials determined to protect the environment from the onslaught of industry.

These memoirs are an opportunity for Corinne Lepage and Christian Huglo to review the progress of environmental law since the beginning of their commitment. The recognition of ecological damage by the Court of Cassation in 2012, following the Erika oil spill on the coast of Brittany 13 years earlier, is a prominent example.

The disillusionment is also there for the two lawyers who point out the resistance of the French judicial and political system to a better protection of the environment. Some Council of State's decisions were disappointments for the lawyers, in particular on the question of nuclear power. Nevertheless, the authors want to show the obstacles that can emerge from the power relations around environmental issues. In doing so, they present the tracks of what remains to be done and call to fight political inertia.

Corinne Lepage and Christian Huglo remind us that environmental law is constantly under construction. In spite of the many achievements, it is necessary for future lawyers and defenders of the environment to strengthen the scope and content of this law.

For more information, visit <https://www.huglo-lepage.com/>

[Back to Justice Pesticides website](#)