



50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANADA-FRANCE INTERPARLIAMENTARY  
ASSOCIATION:  
UNDER THE SEAL OF THE 2015 PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Canada-France Interparliamentary Association  
on climate change

19 to 22 May 2015

From 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May, French and Canadian parliamentarians met in Paris and Arras for their 43<sup>rd</sup> session of interparliamentary discussions and the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Canada-France Interparliamentary Association (CFIA).

**The Canadian delegation**, led by the senator of Alberta, Mrs Claudette Tardif, President of the Canadian Group of the CFIA, was composed of the Members of Parliament Mr Maurice Bélanger (Ontario), Mr Yvon Gaudin (New Brunswick) and the Senators Mr Serge Joyal (Quebec) and Mr Michel Rivard (Quebec).

**The French delegation**, led by Mrs Catherine Coutelle, the Representative for Vienne and President of the French Group of the CFIA, was composed of Mrs Claudine Lepage, President of the France-Canada friendship group in the Senate, Mrs Karine Claireaux, Mr André Gattolin and Mr Charles Revet, Senators, and the Representatives, Mrs Marie-Noëlle Battistel, Mrs Joëlle Huillier, Mr Marc Le Fur and Mr Patrice Martin-Lalande.

The agenda for their discussions included the fight against terrorism and the fight against climate change in view of the upcoming climate Conference (COP21), to be held in Paris in late November/early December.

***I. The success of COP21, a key issue for the CFIA***

The CFIA members were received in the Senate by **Mr Hervé Maurey**, Chairman of the committee on Sustainable Development and Member of the Association, and Mr Stéphane Crouzat, Diplomatic Advisor to Mrs Ségolène Royal, minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy. They also took part in exchanges during a working session devoted to the issue of climate change.



*Mr Serge Joyal, Mrs Claudine Lepage, Mr Yvon Godin, Mrs Catherine Coutelle, Mrs Claudette Tardif, Mr Maurice Bélanger, received by the Mayor of Arras*

Following this session, the delegations signed a joint press release in which they called for "**the successful outcome of the climate Conference**" in December.

The importance of the conference was recalled by the members of both delegations at each of the meetings and work sessions that took place during the week, including during the interview with Mr Hervé Maurey, Chairman of the committee on regional planning and sustainable development and Rapporteur for the Inter-Parliamentary Union declaration examined in the Senate as part of the parliamentary component of COP21.

Mr Maurey recalled the involvement of parliamentarians, and especially the Senate, in preparations for COP21. He said the Senate had set up a working group on international climate and environmental negotiations.



Interview with Mr Hervé Maurey, Chairman of the committee on Sustainable Development at the Senate

The delegation was also able to visit the ministry of Ecology for a meeting with Mr Stéphane Crouzat, Diplomatic Adviser to Mrs Ségolène Royal. This meeting allowed the delegation to review the conference preparations and challenges. Mr Crouzat introduced the French government's "climate team", led by the ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ministry of Ecology.

He recalled **the importance of civil society in the success of this conference**.

Non-state actors are called on to play a role through the "Agenda of Solutions" enhancing public and private initiatives and projects.

The **implementation of the Green Fund**, to be financed by developed countries for adaptation and mitigation actions in developing countries, was also highlighted. The objective is to raise **\$100 billion** (approximately €70 billion) every year between now and 2020.

During a working session between parliamentarians, the Canadian Member of Parliament and Member of the committee on Energy and Resources in the House of Commons, Mr Maurice Bélanger, also stressed the role of society in combating climate change and the implementation of best practices. He felt it was necessary to develop incentives, such as tax credit for solar energy. He also returned to the situation of Antarctica and Greenland, which are in the front line of regions facing temperature changes.

Similarly, Mr André Gattolin argued that the risks for the Arctic -the region most exposed to global warming- are more significant than the rest of the world. His background report, drawn up on behalf of the Senate European Affairs committee "*The Arctic: European concerns in a global challenge*" covers these issues in detail. Mr André Gattolin also recalled the importance of "*smart diplomacy*" allowing the signing of a global agreement differentiated for each contributor.

## **II. Canada's contribution to COP21: a 30% reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030**

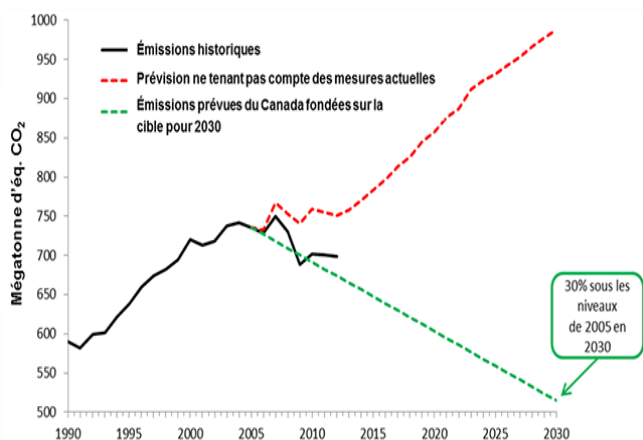
Canada was the 37<sup>th</sup> country to publish its contribution on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. Signatory to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) in 1992, Canada nevertheless withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol in December 2011.

In its climate change combating, the country has to take into account a number of parameters: a vast territory, extreme temperatures, a growing population and enormous natural resources (hydrocarbons, minerals, agricultural products). Canada holds the world's third largest oil reserves, and is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest producer.

The country must therefore combine a desire to promote the oil industry and effective action for environmental protection.

In this context, the country published a moderately ambitious contribution to COP21, **reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 30% by 2030** compared to 2005 levels. This would correspond to a reduction of 14% compared to 1990 levels, while the European Union is targeting at least a 40% reduction. According to calculations carried out by the Climate Action Network, taking into account the impact of forests, this objective would amount to an increase of 2% compared to 1990.

Former Prime minister Mr Stephen Harper did not put climate issues at the top of the country's agenda. During his mandate, Canada even deviated from the objectives set by the Kyoto Protocol of 1997, which entered into force in 2005. In 2011, the country even decided to withdraw from it.



Canada's CO2 emissions in 2030  
 (source: Canadian government website)

In support of this contribution, the federal government announced the implementation of **sectoral regulations**:

- **in the oil and gas sector** to reduce the emission of methane, a greenhouse gas that is twenty-five times more powerful than carbon dioxide;
- **in manufacturing** to reduce emissions from the production of chemicals and nitrogen fertilizer.

**At a provincial level**, governments have also committed - at different levels - to a process of reduction of greenhouse gases. Examples include Mr Philippe Couillard, Quebec's Prime minister, who stated at a provincial climate summit in April in relation to COP21 that *"Its success is now being built in the world's capitals, as well as cities of federated States and regions"*.

The success of COP21 and the wider fight against climate change depends, like Canada itself, on the combination of all components of the country and society.

Following the federal elections on 19<sup>th</sup> October, the victory of Liberal Mr Justin Trudeau, who became Prime minister, could have a positive impact on Canada's contribution to the Paris climate Conference.

During his campaign, Mr Justin Trudeau said he wants to invest massively in green technologies, to establish a carbon market and set ambitious targets for reducing CO2 emissions, in consultation with the provinces and territories.

After his nomination, the Canadian Prime minister announced that he was coming to Paris and pledged to meet with provincial and territorial authorities over the following three months to establish with them **"a national plan to combat climate change"**.

Finally, as pointed out by the spokesperson for the UN General Secretariat, Canada, which is part of the "Group of Seven", could play a decisive role in ensuring the success of COP21.

### **III. The fight against terrorism: a common concern**

Besides climate change, delegates also discussed the issue of the fight against terrorism during this session.

Both France and Canada, whose Parliament in Ottawa was subjected to a terrorist attack last October, have been recently targeted by terrorist actions.

The parliamentarians were able to discuss with key informants about issues of external and internal security. The delegation met the Representative Mr Jean-Jacques Urvoas, Chairman of the Standing committee on Legislation and Rapporteur of the Intelligence Bill. The parliamentarians discussed the provisions contained in this bill and its implications.

They were also able to meet with the security managers for the Senate and the National Assembly, with regards to measures implemented to combat the terrorist threat.

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This 43<sup>rd</sup> session confirmed the excellence of Franco-Canadian inter-parliamentary relations, both French and Canadian representatives (senators, Representatives and MPs) having freely discussed their common concerns.

The next session is planned to be held in Canada in 2016.

#### Composition of the delegation



**Mrs Claudine LEPAGE**  
President of the Group  
Senate Representative for French citizens living abroad  
(Socialist and Republican)



**Mrs Karine CLAIREAUX**  
Vice-president of the Group  
Senator for Saint Pierre and Miquelon  
(Socialist and Republican)



**Mr Charles REVET**  
Member of the Group  
Senator for Seine-Maritime  
(The Republicans)



**Mr André GATTOLIN**  
Vice-president of the Group  
Senator for Hauts-de-Seine  
(Green)

**Composition of the Friendship Group:** [http://www.senat.fr/groupe-interparlementaire-amitie/ami\\_583.html](http://www.senat.fr/groupe-interparlementaire-amitie/ami_583.html)