



**MINISTÈRE  
DE LA TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE,  
DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ  
ET DES NÉGOCIATIONS  
INTERNATIONALES  
SUR LE CLIMAT ET LA NATURE**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



**FRENCH G7 PRESIDENCY  
ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING**

Paris 23 and 24 April 2026

# ÉDITO

On 23 and 24 April, I will host the Environment Ministers' Meeting under the French G7 Presidency. This meeting comes at a significant time given the growing number of environmental crises such as the degradation of ecosystems, the collapse of biodiversity, worsening pollution, heightened tensions over water resources, desertification and more frequent natural disasters. Almost a million animal and plant species are today endangered, while over 85% of the world's wetlands have already ceased to exist.

This Ministers' Meeting in Paris will help strengthen our collective action through clear priorities: financing the protection of biodiversity, preserving the oceans, securing water resources, highlighting the links between desertification and security and increasing the resilience of our territories and infrastructures as they face natural hazards.

France will promote a major initiative at this meeting, with the launch of the Nature and People Finance Alliance. The aim of this Alliance is to better coordinate the work of existing public, private and philanthropic stakeholders, to encourage sharing effective solutions and to foster collaborative projects to further biodiversity.

I also wanted this meeting to be held in meaningful locations. The Musée de l'Homme, where the delegations will be greeted, will underscore the inextricable link between human societies and their environment. The session in Fontainebleau will clearly illustrate France's commitment to protecting forests and sustainable ecosystem management.

Through this meeting, the Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Biodiversity and International Climate and Nature Negotiations aims to fully contribute to the momentum of the French G7 Presidency and reiterate a simple belief: protecting the environment means defending our sovereignty, strengthening our resilience and protecting our prosperity.

**Monique Barbut**

Minister for the Ecological Transition,  
Biodiversity and International  
Climate and Nature Negotiations



# THE ENVIRONMENT AT THE HEART OF THE FRENCH G7 PRESIDENCY

In 2026, France holds the **G7 Presidency** in a divided world experiencing multiple crises: the accelerated degradation of ecosystems, the collapse of biodiversity, worsening pollution, growing number of natural disasters and extreme climate events.

In the face of these challenges, the **G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting** is a key forum for bringing about concrete solutions, stepping up international environmental action and promoting innovative initiatives.

Under the French G7 Presidency, environmental issues are coordinated by the **Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Biodiversity and International Climate and Nature Negotiations**, which leads discussions and initiatives in this area, in collaboration with relevant administrations and partners.

The French G7 Presidency plans to make this working cycle an opportunity to:

- Produce **tangible and operational results** ;
- Encourage the **sharing of best practices** ;
- Mobilize **partners** ;
- Step up **multilateral action** as part of the 2026 international environmental agenda ;
- Show that preserving the environment is **key to achieving sovereignty, resilience and prosperity**.

The G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting in **Paris on 23 and 24 April 2026** will be a decisive event to promote these ambitions.

# PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING

## 22 APRIL 2026

### 1 ● GREETING OF DELEGATIONS

by Minister Monique Barbut at the Musée de l'Homme

*A highly symbolic venue, where ecology and social sciences meet, the Musée de l'Homme will host the reception for the environment ministers. Focusing on understanding human evolution and interactions between societies*

*and environments, the museum embodies the idea that environmental issues are scientific, but also cultural and social. It is the ideal backdrop for promoting a comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach to contemporary ecological challenges.*

19h00-20h30

## 23 APRIL 2026

### 1 ● GREETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATION

in the Cour d'Honneur of the Ministry

08h30

### 2 ● FIRST WORKING SESSION

*Fostering Ocean preservation actions*

09h15-10h30

### 3 ● BILATERAL TRADE

10h30-11h00

### 4 ● SECOND WORKING SESSION

*Strengthening biodiversity protection and finance*

11h00-12h30

### 5 ● THIRD WORKING SESSION

*Tackling the challenges of desertification and water for security and health*

13h45-15h15

### 6 ● FAMILY PHOTO

in the Cour d'Honneur

15h15-15h30

### 7 ● TOUR OF THE FONTAINEBLEAU SITE

*The presentation of Fontainebleau Forest in the presence of the environment ministers will comprise an instructive tour, providing the delegations with tangible examples of France's commitment to preserving forests. Through its remarkable landscape (e.g. moors, rocky outcrops, ponds and woodland), this area demonstrates the territory's rich ecological resources and its essential role for biodiversity.*

*Benefitting from the earliest policies to protect nature in the 19th century, Fontainebleau Forest embodies an ancient French tradition of environmental preservation, which today is extended through sustainable management, combining climate change adaptation, welcoming public and protecting ecosystems. This special status is today recognized internationally through France's candidacy to inscribe Fontainebleau Forest, along with the castle, as a UNESCO World Heritage site, highlighting the exceptional universal value of this landscape shaped by history, culture and nature.*

15h30-21h30

# 24 APRIL 2026

## 1 • COFFEE RECEPTION AND BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS

09h00

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## 2 • FOURTH WORKING SESSION

*Strengthening the real estate assets resilience*

09h30 -10h45

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## 3 • BREAK AND TIME FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS

10h45 -11h15

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## 4 • FIRTH WORKING SESSION

*Sharing priorities in light of the major international events 2026*

11h15 - 12h30

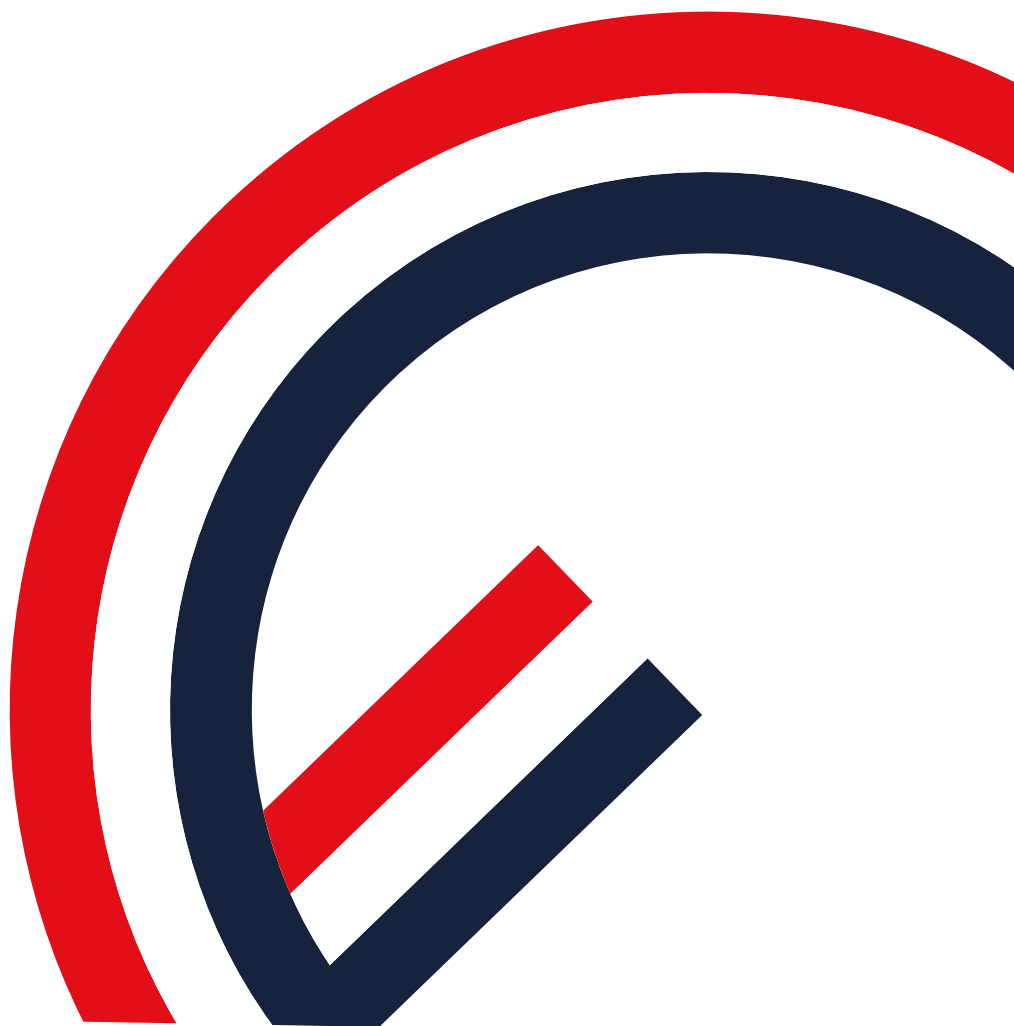
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## 5 • PRESS CONFERENCE

▶ by Minister Monique Barbut

15h00

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# THE G7 ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING : STRENGTHENING COOPERATION TO ADVANCE THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

Since it was created, the G7 has played a leading role in promoting environmental policies.

The Group includes:

- Germany
- Canada
- the United States
- France
- Italy
- Japan
- the United Kingdom
- the European Union

The French Presidency will build on the work undertaken under previous presidencies and by existing G7 coalitions.

The French G7 Presidency has decided to open the G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting to the following partner countries:

- Armenia (incoming Presidency of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – COP17)
- Australia (incoming Presidency of Negotiations of the 31st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – COP31)
- Brazil (partner country invited to the G7 Leaders' Summit in Évian)
- South Korea (partner country invited to the G7 Leaders' Summit in Évian)
- India (partner country invited to the G7 Leaders' Summit in Évian)
- Mongolia (incoming Presidency of the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification – COP17)
- Kenya (partner country invited to the G7 Leaders' Summit in Évian)
- Turkey (incoming Presidency of the 31st meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – COP31)

## 50 YEARS OF G7 ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

1979

Tokyo, Japan

G7 countries face the energy crisis and seek alternatives to reduce air pollution

1985

Bonn, Germany

Launch of an action plan against chemicals and waste

1990

Houston, United States

First discussions and agreements on climate and environmental action

1992

Munich, Germany

The G7 places environmental issues at the core of its agenda

2018

La Malbaie, Canada

Fighting plastic pollution in the oceans becomes a global political priority

2012

Camp David, United States

Integration of environment and sustainability into economic policies

2009

L'Aquila, Italy

Leaders commit to reducing emissions through alternative solutions

1997

Denver, United States

Stronger support for air pollution regulations and climate agreements

2019

Biarritz, France

Focus on biodiversity and combating deforestation

2021

Carbis Bay, United Kingdom

G7 Nature Pact for 2030

2023/2024

Hiroshima, Japan

New initiatives supporting renewable energy and reducing fossil fuel use

2026

Paris, France

G7 Environnement sous la présidence française

# THE FRENCH G7 PRESIDENCY

## AMBITION FOR THE PLANET

The French G7 Presidency is taking place during a particularly full year for global environmental governance.

**A number of major events will be held, including :**

- the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention to Combat Desertification in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, from 17 to 28 August 2026 ;
- the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Yerevan, Armenia, from 18 to 30 October 2026 ;
- the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Antalya, Turkey, from 9 to 20 November 2026 ;
- the United Nations Water Conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, from 2 to 4 December 2026 ;
- the preparation of the first session of the Conference of the Parties of the Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) ;
- the expected resumption of negotiations on ending plastic pollution.

**Within this context, France aims to use the momentum of the G7 to :**

- promote and accelerate the implementation of existing commitments;
- support multi-stakeholder partnerships and innovation;
- engage partner States in collective efforts.

**By hosting the G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting in Paris, France is reaffirming its commitment to :**

- biodiversity protection ;
- ocean conservation ;
- resilience in the face of natural disasters ;
- sustainable water resource management ;
- combating desertification and its effects on security.

**The French G7 Presidency intends to demonstrate that international cooperation can produce practical solutions that benefit citizens, regions and the planet.**

### A Ministers' Meeting with a focus on sustainability

For the organization of the G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting, the French Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Biodiversity and International Climate and Nature Negotiations has drawn up a set of sustainable design guidelines to reduce the environmental footprint of the event.

It includes guidelines for reducing waste, limiting single-use materials, responsible catering prioritizing the use of seasonal products that are locally and sustainably

sourced whenever possible, and providing arrangements for waste sorting and recycling.

This plan is part of the broader ambition for the organization of the G7 Summit, for which ISO 20121 certification – the leading sustainable event management standard – has been obtained. It reflects France's commitment to fully incorporating sustainability concerns into the preparation and organization of international gatherings.

# PRIORITIES OF THE 2026 G7 ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' MEETING

The French G7 Presidency will focus work on five strategic priorities

1

## FINANCING THE PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY

The world's biodiversity is facing an unprecedented decline. Given the extent of needs to be met, it is essential to fully mobilize all available funding sources, in a coordinated manner, to support the protection and restoration of ecosystems.

France is proposing the creation of a **Nature and People Finance Alliance**, bringing together public, private and philanthropic stakeholders that all make a substantial contribution to biodiversity funding, such as :

- public development banks and multilateral institutions ;
- foundations and philanthropic organizations ;
- impact funds ;
- private companies.

### OBJECTIVE

*to coordinate and further mobilize public and private financing for the protection of biodiversity, while promoting the exchange of best practices and the emergence of joint financing projects.*

2

## COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND ITS EFFECTS ON SECURITY

Desertification, land degradation and droughts are systemic challenges that affect an increasing number of countries and populations, with major environmental, economic, social and security repercussions. Despite the urgent need for investments in land restoration and drought resilience, these investments remain insufficient and fragmented. These challenges must be better taken into account to support vulnerable countries, prevent tensions and foster peace and stability.

Faced with this reality, the French G7 Presidency has made these issues a priority, in order to :

- ensure better consideration of issues relating to desertification and its effects on security;
- improve cooperation between stakeholders and stakeholder training to increase their prevention, preparedness and adaptation capacities;
- better coordinate and direct public and private financing for these issues.

# 3

## PROTECTING THE OCEANS

The oceans play a key role in regulating the Earth's climate and preserving biodiversity. The progress made at the [third United Nations Ocean Conference](#) (UNOC3), co-hosted by France and Costa Rica in Nice in 2025, stepped up international mobilization in support of greater protection of marine ecosystems. In particular, this accelerated commitments on marine protected areas, supported the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (known as the BBNJ Agreement) and boosted efforts to combat illegal fishing, which represents 20% of all fish caught worldwide, leading to an estimated €20 billion in annual economic losses.

In that regard, the French G7 Presidency is launching two major initiatives :

### **An Alliance of managers of marine protected areas**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- share best practices and national expertise ;
- improve governance, surveillance and monitoring of these protected areas through science and innovation ;
- improve the methods of funding protected areas.

### **An initiative to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing**

The G7 countries will strengthen their cooperation to effectively

combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, with three objectives :

- strengthen the implementation of the existing international framework;
- promote enhanced transparency in the sector;
- strengthen regional cooperation in the areas affected.

# 4

## STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF REAL ESTATE SECTOR

Real estate assets account for between 60% and 80% of the damage caused by natural disasters, which is a growing risk for economic prosperity and the safety of populations.

The French G7 Presidency is proposing an initiative that aims to :

- reduce exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards;
- ensure prevention is increasingly included in public policies;
- share best practices between local and national authorities, civil society, international organizations and private stakeholders.

#### **OBJECTIVE**

foster synergies between mechanisms and stakeholders in the real estate sector in order to promote solutions and policies that strengthen the resilience of real estate assets faced with natural hazards.

# 5

## PRESERVING WATER RESOURCES

Sustainable water management is a major issue for human health, ecosystems, societies and economies.

The work of the G7 Water Coalition, launched in 2024 under the Italian G7 Presidency, will continue in 2026 as part of the Workplan adopted in 2025 under the Canadian Presidency.

The French G7 Presidency places a specific emphasis on tangible actions and solutions, and in particular on innovations dedicated to combating emerging pollution that affects water resources. The initiative is based on the exchange of best practices on integrated water management approaches, the reduction of pollution at source, and treatments that draw on nature-based solutions and decontamination technologies.

An event focusing on the promotion of these practices and innovations will be organized in liaison with the U.S. G20 Presidency, and will bring together representatives from institutional and private sectors.

## PREPARING AN INITIAL REVIEW OF THE G7 NATURE COMPACT 2030

Adopted in 2021 under the United Kingdom's Presidency, the G7 Nature Compact 2030 made official the commitment of the G7 States to strive to combat biodiversity loss. It is one of the main G7 cooperation frameworks for biodiversity protection, with structural commitments to be fulfilled before 2030, particularly the aim of protecting at least 30% of land and oceans by 2030 ("30x30"). These commitments were then endorsed at UN level, at the Kunming-Montreal COP15 meeting. The G7 Heads of State and Government, endorsing the G7 Nature Compact in 2021, planned a five-year review in 2026.

In a context marked by the planet's growing three-fold crisis (climate, biodiversity and pollution), the French G7 Presidency is organizing a ministerial discussion focusing on the 2026-2030 international environmental agenda, drawing on an independent analysis conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the review and outlooks of the Nature Compact.

The results will be presented at the Ministers' Meeting in order to :

- measure the progress made;
- identify avenues for progress;
- reaffirm individual and collective commitments;
- accelerate the implementation of the Nature Compact commitments for 2030.

# WORK

## THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

In addition to the Ministers' Meeting, several initiatives will continue in 2026.

These include :

- The work of the **G7 Alliance for Resource Efficiency** (technical studies are carried out within the G7 Environment track under the French G7 Presidency, particularly on circularity and **digital product passports**) ;
- The working groups on the **Resilience of real estate for prosperity** (In order to implement the proposed partnership, with two main areas of work in particular: the prevention of natural disasters, and the role of data as well as best practices and solutions to reduce the vulnerability of the real estate sector) ;
- Thematic events on :
  - ◊ Reducing methane emissions
  - ◊ Implementing the marine biodiversity agreement;
  - ◊ Innovative practices to combat emerging water contaminants.

### A certified gender equality event

The G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting organized in France is certified a "gender equality event" by AFNOR Certification. This certification is awarded to events that address gender equality issues structurally in their organization, programming and reception conditions.

This certification attests to the implementation of tangible actions that aim to foster balanced representation of speakers, promote an inclusive environment and prevent all forms of discrimination or harassment.

The Ministry for the Ecological Transition, Biodiversity and International Climate and Nature Negotiations has also been awarded this certification by AFNOR, demonstrating its commitment to gender equality in its public policies, internal operations and events.



# **PRESS CONTACT**

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