



UNION  
CALANQUES LITTORAL



Bureau des Guides  
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Cassis, Calanques,  
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DES  
CALANQUES  
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EXCURSIONNISTES  
MARSEILLAIS



## The thriller of the discolored red muds

In the little town of Gardanne, thirty kilometers from Marseilles, there is a plant which is the main common talk. This plant produces alumina from bauxite crude ore.

This process gives alumina and an industrial waste called "red muds", from its iron oxides color.

For fifty years, the red muds were rejected into the sea through a pipe line ending by an emissary 320 meters deep. The red muds sank down accumulating at one thousand meters deep the polluted flow spreading into the open sea from Toulon to the gulf of Fos, shrouding the whole of the marine life sea bottom. A real first class funeral! It is worse than ordinary pollution because as a rule pollution is stopped within a certain time, whereas it is impossible to clear out these red muds!

Facing general disapproval, the plant Alteo made an official statement that they will stop all the toxic wastes on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. So they equipped the plant with press filters. These press filters separate the muddy part from the liquid one. The muddy fraction is dehydrated to obtain a product called "bauxaline", which is used in building and road resurfacing.

But Alteo did not know what to do with the liquid fraction. So they asked to obtain an authorization to throw it into the sea through the same emissary and at the same spot. Unfortunately, that liquid concentrates most of the part of the red muds pollutants. That is to say:

. 22 metals or metalloids: aluminium (which is toxic, neurologic disruptive), iron (reproduction disruptive), arsenic, (strong toxicity) vanadium (neurologic, digestive and respiratory disruptive), titanium, molybdenum (endocrinal disruptive) boron (toxic), chromium (toxic), manganese (toxic), lead (saturnism, blood disruptive, nervous system, liver and kidneys dysfunctions), copper (sea weeds killer, the basis of marine food chain), zinc (disruptive of photosynthesis and breathing, carcinogen), antimony, cadmium (Itaï Itaï illness, skeleton deformation), tin and organotin (reproduction disturbance, perturbation of the immune system, morphological malformations, aquaculture farms devastating by anti-fouling painting of boats hulls, poison of mussels and oysters), uranium (toxic), lithium, nickel (toxic) disruptor of larval and embryonic forms of marine animals), mercury (hyper toxic, neuropathology, functional paralysis, kidneys destructing, lethal paralysis).

. 16 aromatic polycyclic hydrocarbons (strong toxicity, cellular perturbation, carcinogen).

. 7 PCB = polychlorobiphenyls (reduction of natural immunity, carcinogen).

. 7 dioxins and 10 furans (very low threshold of toxicity, liver, nerve and endocrinal dysfunction, carcinogen).



Greenpeace Marseille



L'Étang Nouveau



Réseau Environnement Santé



- . 6 benzenic compounds (chromosome abnormalities, carcinogen).
- . 2 polybromodiphenylethers (endocrinal disruptive).
- . 4 alkyl phenols and one phthalate (toxic)
- . Soda (toxic).

Finally, an incredible mixture of poisonous matters! As these pollutants are small or no biodegradable, they cannot be destroyed by the sea. They are so indestructible that their concentration increases ceaselessly in the sea.

Another aggravating factor is linked to the light density of the sewage. While red muds were sinking down on the sea bottom, thanks to its density, the sewage liquid is far less dense than the sea water and so goes up to the surface and is widely spread out by currents and winds upon the whole of the marine area of the Creek National Park!

Another aggravating factor is the increasing rate of the pollutants along marine food chains: Water -phytoplankton - zooplankton - plankton phages - small fish - middle fish - big fish - Tuna – dolphins.

**Several scandalous decisions have been taken by authorities:**

In December 2015 the scientific committee of the Park National des Calanques gave again its agreement for sewage in the marine area of the Park for another 30 year term.

Public enquiry gave the go-ahead to the industrial toxic waste for 30 years long!

The departmental committee of environmental and sanitary and toxicological risks gave also a 30 years extension!

At last the prefect officially announced a probation order by a by-law for 6 years obeying an order of the prime minister.

The prime minister didn't wait for the decision of the higher committee of the safety for technological risks. Therefore it is a denial of democracy! More aggravating, he did not take into account the statement of the minister in charge of environment Ségolène Royal. Many times indeed, she stated that she was totally opposed to the manufacturer's request.

These creeks are now the only national park in the world to be discredited by an official and anti-democratic order from a government to pollute and kill the marine life!

It is an aberration and a scandal in the country of human rights, of the Grenelle talks of environment and the COP 21!

This abnormal situation is widely denounced by several associations, especially the Fishermen, the tourism agencies, the inhabitants of Marseilles, and all the people concerned by that outrage. We widely spread some petitions in particular on the Web on line. We have been giving a lot of interviews on newspapers, radio and television in France and abroad.

We organize street demonstrations. The first one was in Marseilles, in front of the prefecture building, on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. It attracted more than one thousand people. Another demonstration is planned on the sea side, not far from the emissary.

Recently, we have brought an action against the prefectural decision to be revoked

We are determined to go as far as possible, even up to the European court!



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*Cette déclaration de notre association fédérative est faite en étroite synergie et communion de pensée avec les groupements suivants :*

**Alargo Mazargues**, <http://alargo.mazargues.over-blog.com>  
**Association Naturiste Phocéenne**, <http://www.naturistes-phoceens.fr/>  
**Bureau des Guides et Accompagnateurs**, <http://www.guides-calanques.com/>  
**CIQ de Samena**, [ciq.samena@wanadoo.fr](mailto:ciq.samena@wanadoo.fr)  
**Colinéo**, <http://www.colineo-assenemce.fr>  
**Comité Santé Littoral Sud**, <http://comitesantelittoralsud.blogspot.fr>  
**Compagnie des Guides de Provence**, <http://www.guidesprovence.com/membres-professionnels-calanques/>  
**Des Calanques et des Hommes**, <http://www.challenge-aventure.com/>  
**Excursionnistes marseillais**, <http://www.excurs.com/>  
**Fare-Sud**, <http://faresud.fr/>  
**Greenpeace GL Marseille**, <http://marseille.greenpeace.fr/>  
**Laisse béton**, <https://fr-fr.facebook.com/LaisseBeton>  
**Les jardiniers de la mer**, <http://lesjardiniersdelamer.org/>  
**L'Étang Nouveau**, <http://www.letangnouveau.org/>  
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