

## 10 Minutes For The Planet

### #Biocoop2017 campaign©

By Valentine Rinner

Accompagnement lexical et phonologique - Noele Bouazouni©

Retrouvez la traduction de certains mots à droite du texte

Les syllabes accentuées sont en gras et soulignées\*

Hello everyone and welcome to this week's episode of 10 minutes for the Planet. Biocoop **published** a White Paper after turning ideas of hundreds of thousands of citizens into 21 **concrete** and detailed **proposals** to redesign our current **agricultural**, **commercial** and ecological models.

Biocoop is the largest network of **organic** stores in France. It works as a **cooperative** to **influence** social change. The campaign was **launched** last April, both online and on the ground, to build the **collaborative** project. When they **released** the White Paper, Biocoop published a tweet **directly** to Emmanuel Macron, two weeks after his **election**, with the hashtag#Biocoop2017.

Here are a few **interesting** proposals:

One of the ideas **advocated** in the paper is **reducing** VAT on organic products. Indeed, on the **consumer** side, organic products cost more than **so-called** "conventional products" not because of **inherently** higher **costs** of the methods used, but because of the **installations** required to protect products from chemical-agriculture **contaminations** such as water pollution or chemical residues. The high costs are also due to the **expensive** certification **processes**, and the much lower **subsidies** compared to subsidies for chemical agriculture. Consumers pay taxes supporting **conventional** agriculture on one side and taxes supporting protection of the environment from the **impacts** of conventional agriculture on the other. It only seems **fair** to lower taxes on organic **products** for consumers who already pay twice for **costly** practices they do not **support**.

The demand for organic products is **skyrocketing** in France while **subsidies** **remain** the same. Another proposal is to simply **reallocate** subsidies, with more funding for organic agriculture in

**Proposal** (n) proposition

**to launch** (vtr) lancer

**to release** (vtr) publier, sortir

**to advocate** (vtr) préconiser

**so-called** (adj) soi-disant

**cost** (n) coût

**expensive** (adj) cher

**subsidy** (n) subvention

**fair** (adj) juste

**costly** (adj) coûteux

**to skyrocket** (vi) grimper en flèche, exploser

**remain** (vi) rester, demurer

**reallocate** (vtr) réaffecter

order to support farmers who want to transition and produce more organic food in France **instead of** importing it from far away.

Another suggestion is to increase the **transparency** of **labelling**. Organic labelling is **extremely** strict and costly while there is still no **legislation** on labelling of the origin of **ingredients** for **processed** products, or the carbon **footprint** of our food, or the actual **composition** of the obscure E123-type codes. The Biocoop 2017 campaign also suggests **mandatory labelling** of products coming from “chemical agriculture”.

Today, farmers are not in a **position** to grow what they want. Indeed, lobbies from the agricultural **industry** have implemented official **seed** catalogues and they **control** which seeds are in and which are out of the **catalogue**, increasing farmers’ economic and moral **dependency**. The catalogue seeds are more **adapted** to conventional farming and have no advantages for non-chemical farmers. The **proposal** here is to simply re-open a free market for seeds in France and allow **investment** in research on types of seeds other than those for lobbies. This will also have the **significant** advantage of **increasing** diversity on our plates.

Other Biocoop 2017 campaign proposals include the **implementation** of environmental **education** classes in schools, legislating against **overwrapping** to limit non-recyclable waste, encouraging **bulk selling** and economic bonuses for **companies** or initiatives that recycle instead of creating waste.

**Hopefully** the government will take into **consideration** and build on these proposals.

See you next week for a new episode of 10 minutes for the Planet.

**instead of** (prep) plutôt que de

**labelling** (n) étiquetage

**processed** (adj) industriel

**footprint** (n) empreinte

**mandatory** (adj) obligatoire

**seed** (n) graine

**to increase** (vi) augmenter

**to overwrap** (vb) suremballer

**bulk selling** (n) vente en gros

**hopefully** (adv) avec un peu de chance

### \*Aide à la prononciation:

La lettre « h » est quasiment toujours aspirée, et ce quel que soit sa position dans le mot. Au risque de prononcer un autre mot, il faut toujours prononcer la lettre « h ».

Ex.: he - hike - hockey - alcohol - behave - horizon - hacking - heart - Manhattan

Attention: il y a des exceptions telles que « honour », « honest », « hour »