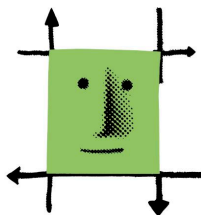


April 16, 2024

Letter A/R



ROBIN DES BOIS

To the attention of the Chairman

Liberation Mission
109 Boulevard Malesherbes
75008 Paris

Subject: Fireworks - 1 June 2024 - Normandy beaches

Mr. Chairman,

The Robin des Bois NGO is in favour of commemorating the landing of the Allied troops on the beaches of Normandy and the other deployments and resistance movements that contributed to the Liberation of France and the end of the Second World War. It is indeed important that the preparation, course and consequences of these significant events in the history of Europe and the world continue to be analysed and honoured.

Robin des Bois is the only NGO to draw out an inventory of unexploded ordnance and other remnants of war found in France and Germany since the end of the Second World War (and the First). These inventories are accompanied by information on the risks for mine-clearers, civilians and the environment¹. It is therefore out of the question for Robin des Bois to cast doubt on the importance of your Mission.

However, according to the programme and the intentions of the Normandy Region and the Landings Committee, around twenty synchronised fireworks displays are planned for around 11.30 p.m. on June 1 on the D-Day landing beaches along a 95-km stretch of coastline between Sainte-Mère-Eglise (Manche) and Ranville (Calvados).

This pyrotechnic celebration, which according to its designers should result in a "blaze of fire along the coast", is planned during the bird nesting period and takes place in a network of protected areas. For more information on the impact of fireworks on birds and other animals, please find attached our press release dated March 13, 2024 and our letter dated March 14, 2024 addressed to regional representatives, with a copy to State services and Mr BERVILLE, Secretary of State for the Sea and Biodiversity.

¹ <https://robindesbois.org/inventaire-des-dechets-de-guerre-du-1er-janvier-2012-au-30-avril-2018-3/>

Moreover, the fireworks will attract hundreds of thousands of spectators and an uncontrollable procession of vehicles. As a result, protected plant species that help to fight dune and cliff erosion will be trampled.

Finally, fireworks eject myriads of waste products and plethora of toxic substances, and in the event of drought are likely to cause fires.

We are therefore asking the Liberation Mission to take all the measures required to ensure that this project is cancelled.

I look forward to your response. Please accept the expression of my highest consideration,

Jacky Bonnemains
Director of Robin des Bois

PS: For your complete information, we will be issuing a second press release in the course of next week.