Foreseeing the next crises

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022
“Pushing the boundaries of expertise”

The new I4CE activity report illustrates once again that the Institute has found its place and added value as a producer of expertise on climate. Its data and analyses are increasingly contributing to the development of public policies and to the quality of public debate. The Institute's entire team can be proud of its work.

This success does, however, raise expectations. The context today is no longer the same as it was when the Institute was created. To help us prepare for the next stage, twelve actors and observers of public life gathered under the chairmanship of Alain Quinet have reflected on the future of I4CE in a benevolent but demanding manner. Their recommendations, of course formulated in complete independence, were invaluable (see 2022-2026 Development plan below). They have allowed us to step back from the day-to-day imperatives and to look ahead to the next few years in order to draw up a new development plan.

The challenge for I4CE will be to continue to push back the boundaries of expertise. Our role is not to repeat what is already known, but to explore new fields and innovate. Public action is faced with new challenges, starting with the indispensable adaptation to the consequences of global warming. The summer of 2022 in France unfortunately shows us once again that we are not ready, and we are paying the price. I4CE must broaden the range of its areas of excellence, but it must also know how to abandon the areas in which it has been a reference. This is its genetic code.

The institute must also push back its geographical boundaries. France accounts for less than 1% of global emissions, and if some people brandish this figure to slow down the French transition, it should rather encourage us to act more and more on an international scale. To help the European Union meet the challenges of the transition, I4CE will therefore, from this autumn, develop its European activities. The Institute has acquired expertise that can be useful to many countries, and will thus be enriched by foreign experiences that will be rich in lessons for the French debate.

These ambitions will require resources. They will require changes in our governance. In this regard, we have initiated a discussion with our major partners, who share our objectives and have always trusted us.

Jean Pisani Ferry, Chair of I4CE
The climate emergency is here and now. The consequences of climate change seemed remote to many and the summer of 2022 will perhaps be remembered as the summer of the end of carelessness. The end of carelessness about the consequences of climate change and the costs that go with it: farmers’ unions are already asking for 2 to 4 billion euros to compensate for their losses. An end to the insouciance, too, on our dependence on imported fossil fuels. We were not ready and are still not ready to suffer the consequences of the war in Ukraine. We are managing the emergency by spending tens of billions of euros of public money.

We need structural responses to prepare for the next crises, because they are bound to come. Adapting our forests, buildings and infrastructures to a changing climate, efficient renovation of buildings to save more energy, charging stations for alternative vehicles... These are all structural projects that must be urgently revived, and which the future climate and energy programming law must address.

These transformations will require new investments from everyone, especially the State, local authorities and public financial institutions. US President Biden has promulgated a $370 billion climate investment plan, and German Chancellor Scholz has planned to devote 200 billion euros to this by 2026. Is France ready to make such commitments? For the moment, a few announcements have been made, such as the creation of a 1.5 billion euro fund to help local authorities. We will have further details during the autumn budget debate, when France will present its budgetary trajectory for the five-year period in the framework of the public finance programming law.

To help the government and all stakeholders build their climate budget trajectory, I4CE has continued over the past twelve months to quantify the investments needed and to make proposals for financing the transition. You will find them in our 2022 annual report, which traces the main impacts of I4CE over the past year on all the major themes covered by the Institute, and which I invite you to reread in order to get to know us better and to learn about the political agendas to be followed in the autumn.

Enjoy discovering our activities!

Benoît Leguet, Director of I4CE

#Mission

The Institute for Climate Economics is an expert association in economics and finance whose mission is to support action on climate change. Through its applied research, the Institute contributes to the climate policy debate. It also publicly publishes analyses to support the work of financial institutions, governments and local authorities.