

un autre projet est possible

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Our international friends may not have heard of Gonesse and its Triangle, a large area of prime agricultural land, just 15 km north of Paris, and 5 km from Le Bourget, the place where the Paris Climate Agreement was signed...

For some time, this land has been endangered with urbanisation. After years of constant campaigning, committed citizens were able to put a halt to the EuropaCity project, a mega shopping mall and leisure park including an indoor ski slope. The project was abandoned in autumn 2019. However, in early January 2021, it was announced that construction work for a railway station in the middle of the Gonesse fields, a prelude to the urbanisation of at least 270 acres, would resume as soon as February 2021.

This goes against both common sense and statements made by the government itself. President Macron boasted of having taken the decision to cancel the EuropaCity project in the name of ecology (interview on Brut on 4 December 2020). On the international stage, he claims he wants to fight for biodiversity and is opposed to construction on rural land (see the One Planet Summit in Paris on 11 January 2021). Between words and deeds there is a big gap.

Given the urgency of the situation, hundreds of citizens gathered on Sunday 17 January to express their determination to save and protect this common heritage.

You can support their efforts by signing the Oath of the Triangle

[\(Oath english release is there\)](#)

<https://sermentdutriangle.agirpourenvironnement.org>

If you too wish to protect this land, sign the Oath of the Triangle, and commit to safeguarding our common heritage, in the process preserving biodiversity, conserving water and limiting heatwave peaks. You, like people from elsewhere in the world, can declare yourselves co-owners of this land, in solidarity with the inhabitants of the Île-de-France region.

A POINTLESS STATION THAT PAVES THE WAY FOR CONCRETE

At a time when climate experts are sounding the alarm against the catastrophic consequences of soil loss due to construction (over 700,000 acres have been lost in 10 years), the government and certain local elected officials, blinded by the false promises of job creation, are stubbornly supporting this expensive railway station project, which announces the destruction of the nourishing lands of the Triangle de Gonesse. The Île-de-France region, and particularly this area of the Val d'Oise, is already littered with shopping centres, logistics centres and empty office buildings. In addition, the construction of housing is forbidden, as the area is exposed to the noise of from the nearby Roissy and Le Bourget airports.

THIS LOSS CAN STILL BE AVOIDED

The soils of the Pays de France, cultivated for thousands of years (archaeological excavations have uncovered buried grain silos dating back to 2500 BC), are extraordinarily fertile. They represent a strategic asset for the resilience of a region that is affected by recurring heatwaves. The silty plateau stores large water reserves, thus reducing the risks of runoff, water erosion and flash floods.

The French State now has the opportunity to make a historic decision: the Établissement Public Foncier d'Île de France (Public Land Owning Agency) - which controls 110 hectares following the expropriation of farmers (until late 2019 that land was intended to be used for EuropaCity) - has the opportunity to implement a project of value to everyone.

Abandoning construction of this station in the middle of the fields does not mean abandoning the region. On the contrary, the Gonesse Triangle offers a unique opportunity for the State and the Île-de-France region to provide young people in the Paris region and the thousands of employees affected by the pandemic with access to jobs in the future-oriented sectors of peri-urban agriculture, food, recycling, sustainable mobility, renewable energies, eco-construction and the thermal renovation of buildings.

CARMA, A PROJECT FOR THE FUTURE

It is time to organise a proper consultation on the future of the Plaine de France and to consider the very real benefits of the CARMA project, which proposes, at a much lower cost than the construction of a new station and a joint development zone (ZAC) from another era, to supply school canteens, the local hospital and local markets with fresh, seasonal produce. Market gardening, horticulture and cereal farms, orchards, livestock, allotment and community gardens, canneries and breweries can start up immediately. Such a project, which would create non-relocatable and qualified jobs in an area heavily affected by unemployment and poverty, would also improve the living environment of the inhabitants, poorly served by transport and logistics infrastructure. Other European cities such as Milan and Barcelona have proved that peri-urban agriculture can be a source of prosperity for a territory. Whole sections of the French population, and especially its young people, are crying out for it.

In the face of the dangers that threaten us all, each of us can become a symbolic owner of the land at Gonesse. By signing the Oath of the Triangle, we can undertake to protect this land from destructive ambitions that risk destroying our common heritage.

To see the latest news about citizen action: <https://ouiauxterresdegonesse.fr>

To find out more about CARMA: <http://carmapaysdefrance.com>