

"No More Mega-basins !" International Mobilization to Safeguard our Water

March 25-26 — Poitou - France



Over the past year, the movement that began in the wetland of Poitiers to stop the construction of reservoirs has taken on colossal proportions, thanks to a series of popular protests and acts of civil disobedience aimed at halting ongoing construction projects. These giant craters, dozens of hectares wide and pumped full with groundwater, have come to symbolize inadequate adaptation to climate change. The mega-basins incarnate the persistence at all costs of excessive irrigation and a model of industrial agriculture that crushes farmers, destroys the natural habitat, and ultimately threatens the population. Beginning with a number of new reservoirs planned for the Deux-Sèvres, in western France, these infrastructure projects threaten to spread to other regions thanks to massive state subsidies.

With the historic mobilization in Sainte-Soline, many in France and elsewhere realized what it means for a minority of private interests to exercise a monopoly over water rights in the middle of a serious drought. Faced with the determination and growing number of protestors, the government has so far offered no response but police repression and a hasty announcement that 30 more mega-basins are to be developed in the neighboring Vienne. But the system is coming under fire from all quarters, as more and more inhabitants of the affected areas — as well as an increasing share of the agricultural and scientific communities — openly reject the irrigation reservoirs.

Now it is time to make good on this refusal. As long as construction continues, as long as the government — at the beck and call of lobbies and the multinational agrochemical industry — dismisses calls for a moratorium, as long as the question of equal access to water is not put at the center of public debate, our movement must continue to grow. We are therefore calling for an international anti-megabasin demonstration this coming March 25 in the Poitou-Charentes. The protest will once again aim to make a concrete impact on reservoir construction projects in Sainte-Soline, Mauzé-sur-le-Mignon, and elsewhere... It may also target the halls of power where these projects are devised. This call for mobilization is backed by a collective of associations, unions, political parties, NGOs, farmers, and collectives.

Whether we are confronting pension "reform" or mega-basin schemes, it is up to us to ensure that solidarity and the common good prevail, and to put an end to the ever-tightening stranglehold of a small minority over the surplus wealth and natural resources that belong to us all. The government is trying to railroad any opposition, but it is more urgent than ever to protect our water and soil and to halt the destruction wrought by the agro-industrial model. **We are certain that we will be even greater in number and every bit as determined on March 25.**

This gathering will also be an opportunity **to conceive other projects, meet new comrades, and celebrate the resistance.**

In the wake of the UN's World Water Day, on March 22, Poitou will be the meeting place for international delegations from regions across the world concerned by the struggle to defend water resources and protect the commons.

We call on you to spread the word far and wide. Between now and March 25, public information tours will be held in France and other countries. Farmer convoys are organizing in different regions to travel to the demonstration by tractor and by bicycle.

We are water that fights back! No bassaran!

Agenda:

- **Friday, March 24 – Arrival of the tractors and other convoys — International forum on the protection of water with delegations from different countries and continents**
- **Saturday, March 25 — 10 a.m., Poitou — Protest: "No More Mega-basins!" — Concerts, banquets, and festivities in the evening**
- **Sunday, March 26 — Roundtable: "Agro-industrial predation and the future of farming" — lunch canteens, nature walks, concerts...**

##Info Evenings — If you're organizing an info evening and would like to receive a kit of materials, contact us at caravane@lessoulevementsdelaterre.org

Follow announcements related to the demonstration and further details concerning protest actions, forums, and festivities on the social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) of Soulèvements de la Terre, Bassines Non Merci, and the Confédération paysanne, among others!

<https://bassinesnonmerci.fr/> - <https://www.confederationpaysanne.fr/> - <https://lessoulevementsdelaterre.org/> -

Bassines Non Merci - Soulèvements de la Terre – Confédération Paysanne
with the support of many other organizations, unions, collectives, and farmers