



# EUROPEAN TRIBUNAL IN DEFENSE OF AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Starting January 30th, 2021 • to May 29th, 2021



INTERNATIONAL  
RIGHTS OF NATURE  
TRIBUNAL



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## EUROPEAN RIGHTS OF NATURE TRIBUNAL "IN DEFENSE OF AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS"

Fifth Hearing

Marseille case: Red mud and the Mediterranean Sea

-Saturday, May 29th, 2021-

The fifth hearing of the European Tribunal for Aquatic Ecosystems will take place on May 29th, 2021 at 5 pm (Paris time). The [Marseille case](#) was brought to international attention through the International Rights Of Nature Tribunal, organized by the European Hub of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature. Marseille is one of five selected areas in Europe where a European Tribunal for Aquatic Ecosystems has been symbolically examining if the rights of nature have been violated.

The factory of Gardanne (Bouches du Rhône), is producing alumina or aluminum oxide, a material used to make electronic components, ceramics and refractory material. This activity emits toxic waste full of heavy metals and heightened radioactivity, causing the famous "red muds", and it has been happening with state authorization since 1967.

Through a 55 km long pipe, they are spread at a depth of 320 meters in the Cassidaigne canyon, an oceanic trench that used to be home to extraordinary biodiversity.

In total, 32 million tons (kg) of mud have been discharged. Nature's destruction is so serious, that it seems scientifically impossible to restore the ecosystems.

There is still time to act. From January to May 2021, the European Tribunal for the Rights of Aquatic Ecosystems heard four cases of aquatic entities to be protected in Europe: the Mer de Glace France, the rivers of French Guiana, the case of the Lake Vättern in Sweden, and the Balkan Rivers case in the Balkans region. This is the final hearing of this Tribunal.

The Tribunal aims to recognize the rights of Nature, which means recognizing the interdependence between humans and Nature and accepting that States, companies and humans can no longer dispose of it with impunity. Thus, it is a necessity to establish the legal personality of Nature in order to systematically take it into account in our political and societal choices. This legal evolution is necessary for the preservation of life.

Press contact:



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Register for the hearing [here](#).

If you're interested in knowing more about the Tribunals, [click here](#).