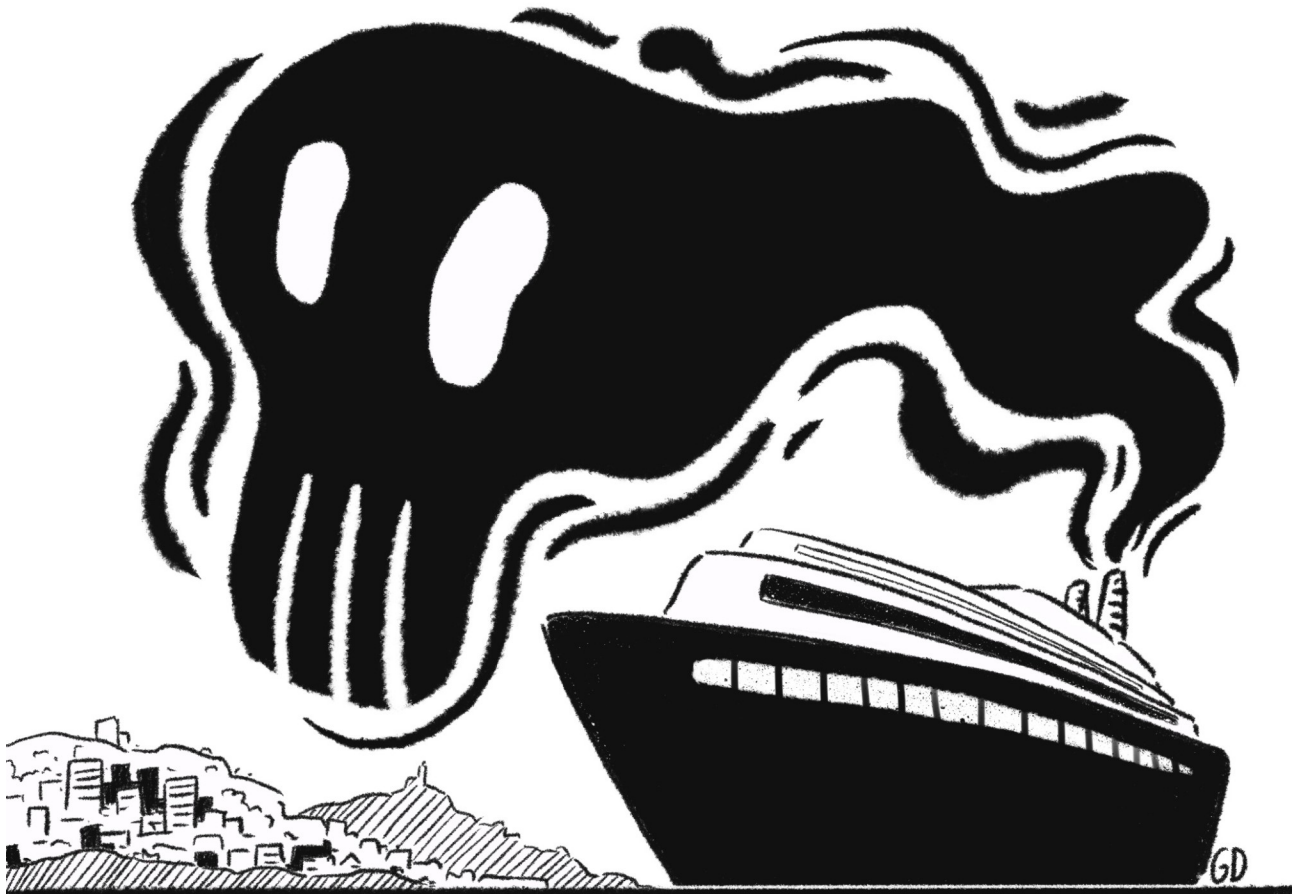


Color like an activist, (and discover the subject), with Stop Croisières



Leaflet produced by the Stop Croisières collective in March 2024
Illustration : Giulia DAVID, <https://giuliadavid.net>

1. Air pollution



//-QUIZ-//

A/ What are the main pollutants emitted by cruise ship fumes ?

B/ What are their consequences ?

C/ What legislation exists to protect us from this air pollution ?

D/ What emblematic action did Stop Croisières launch on March 1, 2023 to denounce these emissions ?

2. Sea pollution

//-QUIZ-//

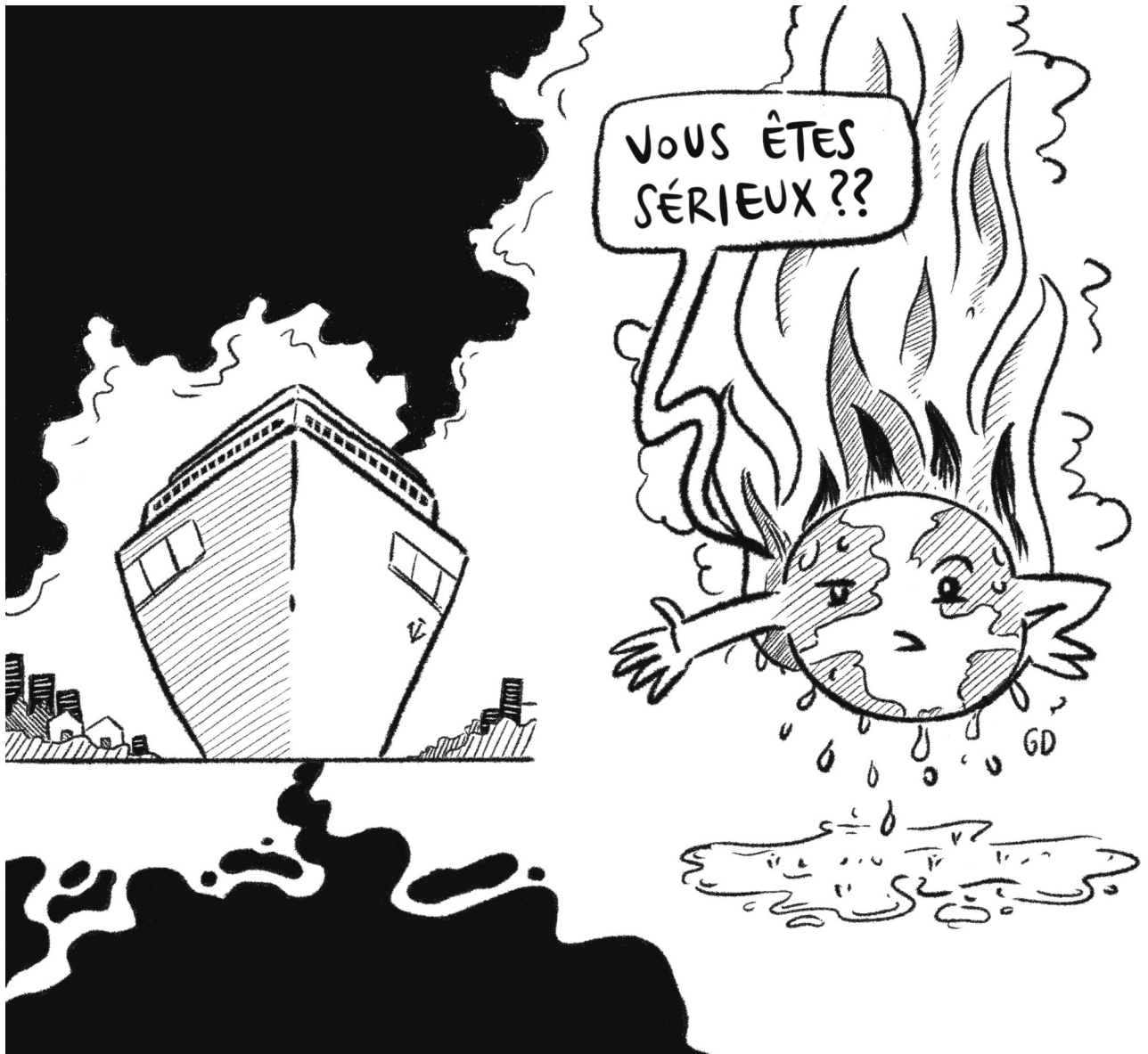
A/ What pollutants are discharged into the sea ?

B/ What are the consequences of this pollution ?

C/ What can be done to protect against this pollution ?



3. Climate change



//-QUIZ-//

A/ What are the impacts of climate change ?

B/ What measures can be taken to limit the damage ?

4. Resource consumption



//-QUIZ-//

A/ What resources are consumed ?

B/ What are the consequences ?

5. What is the economic impact for local areas ?

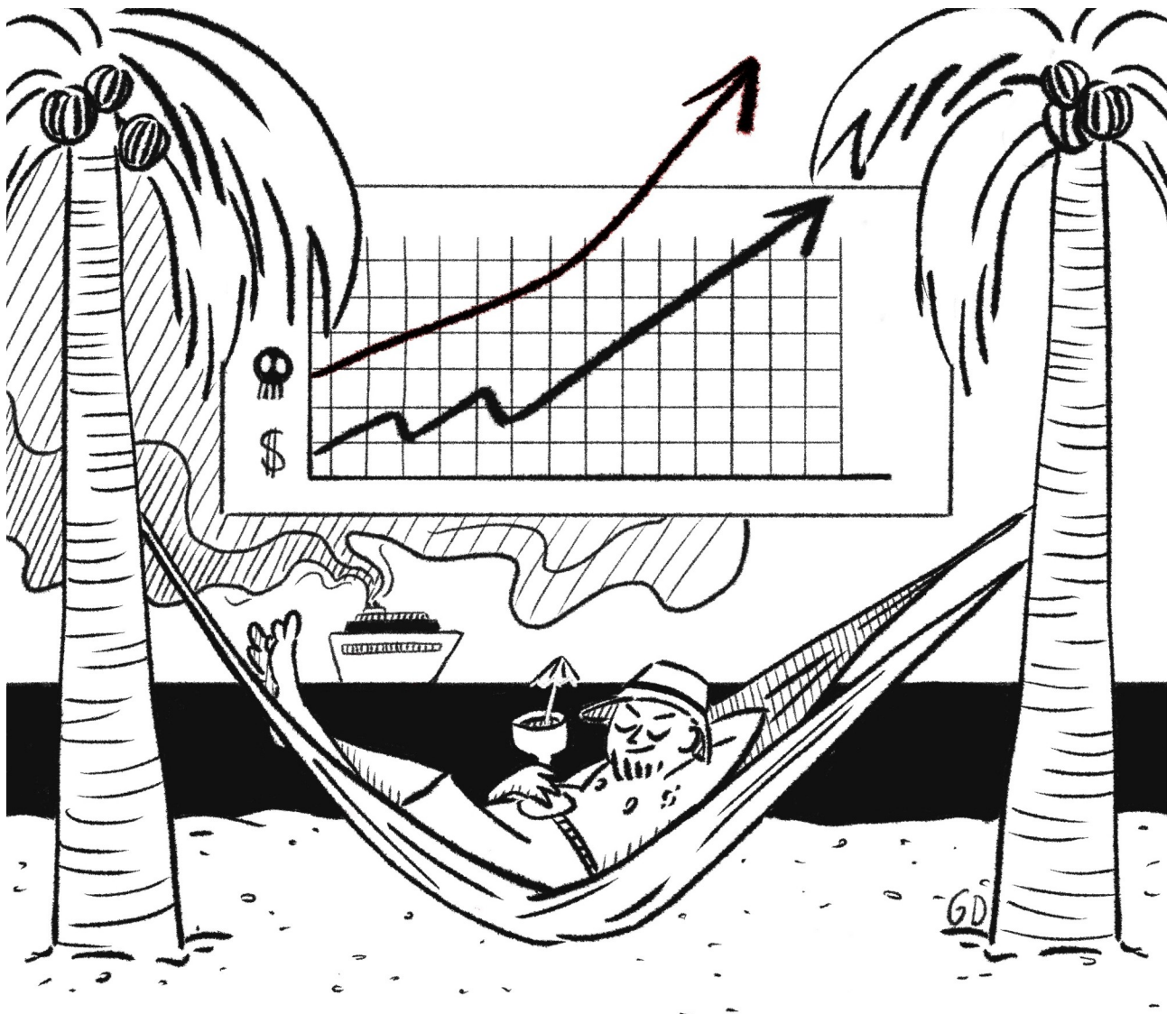
//-QUIZ-//

A/ What is the economic impact of the cruise business ?

B/ What are the consequences ?



6. Cruise companies that bypass the rules



//-QUIZ-//

A/ What does the corporate structure of cruise lines allow ?

B/ An example of the consequences ?

7. False solutions

//-QUIZ-//

A/ What are the solutions proposed by cruise companies ?

B/ Why are they false solution ?



8. Well-established lobbies



//-QUIZ-//

A/ What's the hot topic among lobbies at the moment ?

B/ Can you identify local and international cruise lobbies ?

9. Progress around the Mediterranean and the world

//-QUIZ-//

A/ What progress has been made in the Mediterranean ?

B/ What progress has been made worldwide ?



//- QUIZ ANSWERS-//

1. Air pollution

A/ What are the main pollutants emitted by cruise ship fumes ?

Fine particles, sulfur oxide (SO_x) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x).

B/ What are their consequences ?

Respiratory, heart and lung diseases, cancer, but also aggravation of asthma and allergies, and harmful effects on the physical and neuronal development of unborn babies.

C/ What legislation exists to protect us from air pollution ?

Legislation limits the maximum SO_x content at the chimney outlet to 0.5% (500x higher than that authorized for diesel cars). 4 geographical zones have restrictions on SO_x and NO_x emissions: NECA zones (NO_x only) in the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and the English Channel, and SECA zones (SO_x only) in North America and the Caribbean.

D/ What emblematic action did Stop Croisières launch on March 1, 2023 to denounce these emissions ?

A collective criminal complaint for endangering the lives of others.

2. Sea pollution

A/ What pollutants are discharged into the sea ?

Grey water, sewage, hydrocarbons (bilge water), solid waste (incineration residues, macro-waste and micro- and nano-plastics), and « scrubbers » that rinse exhaust fumes using seawater to allow fine particles, sulphur and nitrogen oxides to pass into the sea rather than the air (thereby complying with air pollution legislation).

B/ What are the consequences of this pollution ?

Grey water (washing water - 1.5 million liters per day for a 4,000-passenger ship) and wastewater pollute due to the presence of viruses, bacteria and microplastics in their discharges.

Bilge water pollutes through the presence of hydrocarbon residues, oil, bacteria and invasive species. Scrubber discharge water is highly acidic, thereby contributing to acidification of the sea.

C/ What protection is there against this pollution ?

By law, wastewater should be crushed and disinfected before discharge, but studies show that few treatment plants are compliant and that discharges are untreated.

Hydrocarbon discharges are illegal but routine (90% of discharges are illegal), prosecutions are rare and penalties negligible.

3. Climate change

A/ What is the impact on climate change ?

The operation, manufacture, maintenance and dismantling of cruise ships use large quantities of fossil fuels. A single cruise is equivalent to an average person's entire annual carbon footprint.

B/ What can be done to limit the damage ?

The cruise ship business model does not seem compatible with the carbon emission reduction targets set out in the Paris Agreement (2 tons of CO₂ equivalent per person per year).

4. Resource consumption

A/ What resources are consumed ?

Huge quantities of fuel : in 2019, the 112 largest cruise ships consumed the equivalent of 1/4 of the French car fleet in the same year (2 million tons).

Enormous quantities of electricity : connecting a cruise ship the size of those hosted in Marseille to the quayside is equivalent to the consumption of 27,000 households over the duration of its stay.

Rare metals for all the electronic devices on board, and huge quantities of steel : the 10 largest cruise ships together weigh almost 2 million tons (194 Eiffel Towers).

B/ What are the consequences ?

Against a backdrop of energy shortages and rising prices, can our society accept that so many of our resources are consumed by the cruise industry ?

The sheer size of ships makes their dismantling a complex and costly process. It is often carried out through "legislative optimization" in countries with no environmental standards, in conditions that are alarming for both workers and the environment.

5. What is the economic impact on local communities ?

A/ What is the economic model of the cruise business ?

The majority of cruises are based on full-service offers (so there's no point in consuming in the ports of call), constituting a destination in themselves. The ship's profitability depends on additional paid services (bars, discos, ice rinks, cinemas, etc.) and optimized spending for port excursions.

B/ What are the consequences ?

A cruise company has every interest in encouraging passenger spending within its ship, to the detriment of stopovers, and in promoting competition between host ports to reduce costs. As a result, the economic gains of a port are believed to be lower than the costs incurred by greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

Overtourism at peak times of the day has strong social implications, driving up prices and thus the cost of living for local residents. Overcrowding in a city's most emblematic neighborhoods changes the business landscape in favor of commercial activities geared exclusively to low-cost type of tourism, making these neighborhoods unliveable for the original inhabitants who are forced to move away, who find mini-markets and souvenir stores, but no doctors or schools.

6. Cruise companies that bypass the rules

A/ What does the corporate structure of cruise lines allow ?

The corporate structures of cruise lines are spread across several countries and tax havens, in order to avoid labor laws, taxes, environmental controls, etc.

B/ An example of the consequences ?

Every entity is subject to the legislation of its home country. Thus, by registering a ship in one country, registering a shipowner in another, operating the ship with a company of a 3rd nationality, itself operating for another company, the administrative and jurisdictional complexity in the event of a crime or misdemeanor committed on board, dissuades or prevents tracing those responsible. This has been shown by investigations carried out in the United States into thefts, sexual assaults and rapes committed on board.

7. False solutions

A/ What are the main solutions proposed by cruise companies ?

Scrubbers and LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas)

B/ Why are they false solutions ?

Scrubbers allow cruise ships to use SOx-laden heavy fuel oil (a by-product of petroleum refining) at low cost (it's a waste product nobody wants), because they wash their exhaust with seawater, transferring some of the pollutants into the sea (discharges into the water are not regulated) and lowering their SOx levels at the chimney outlet to comply with new air pollution regulations.

LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) is the 3rd most widely used fossil fuel after oil and coal. It is booming because it emits little CO2, which is responsible for the greenhouse effect and climate change. However, this gain is largely offset by methane leaks from natural gas extraction, transport and use, a gas whose greenhouse effect is much higher than that of CO2.

8. Well-established lobbies

A/ What's the current hot topic among lobbies ?

Greenwashing, via the use of LNG or the electrification of docks, are new technologies that are promoted as enabling "clean" cruises, however they have disproportionate environmental or resource consumption costs. Further it is expected that cruise lines will only implement those measures if it does not involve extra costs.

B/ Can you identify local and international cruise lobbies ?

CLIA (Cruise Lines International Association) is a group of international cruise lobbies.

In Marseille: the Club de la Croisières or Marseille Provence Cruise Club. This lobby was denounced by Marseille's City Council but remains supported by the Metropole and the Region to prioritize the "Escale Zéro Fumée" scheme, a pure greenwashing tool, for regional investment of public funds.

9. Progress around the Mediterranean and worldwide

A/ What progress has been made in the Mediterranean ?

In France, the national plan to reduce emissions of atmospheric pollutants (PREPA, 2017) envisages the establishment of new low-emission zones in the Mediterranean. An ECA zone (SOx and NOx reduction) would lead to health benefits at least three times higher than the costs.

The banning of scrubber discharges close to shore, or the limitation of cruise ship traffic in certain cities, is also being studied in several ports and implemented in others.

B/ What progress has been made worldwide ?

In July 2023, the IMO (International Maritime Organization) set a course for the maritime sector to become carbon neutral by 2050. This will be a very difficult target to reach, especially as the IMO predicts an increase in maritime traffic.

The development of wind propulsion to reduce fuel consumption is promising for an essential and non-replaceable part of maritime traffic. Cruises are clearly not one of them.