

## DS AVOCATS' INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS IN *act4nature*

Founded in 1972 and made up of nearly 300 lawyers, DS is a French law firm that intends to pursue its development in a responsible manner contributing to environmental protection.

In this respect, we strongly believe that the social and environmental commitment of economic players should not be limited to industrial and real estate companies. Service-sector companies, such as law firms, have an impact on the environment and biodiversity that can be attenuated.

For example, the absence of a paper management policy is a significant source of paper waste, leading to the destruction of wooded areas and biodiversity.

Wanting to "do its part", DS Avocats intends to contribute to collective efforts. Thus, the protection and promotion of biodiversity is fully integrated into the firm's civic-minded approach and its CSR commitment, reflected in part by the following actions that have already been implemented:

- Accession to the United Nations Global Compact;
- Operates in High Environmental Quality renovated building with an Effinergie label;
- ISO 9001 certification;
- Silver recognition from EcoVadis for the firm's CSR evaluation program;
- COFRAC certification as an Independent Third Party (ITP) in charge of verifying companies' non-financial performance reporting;
- Activity Report that includes a Sustainable Development Report;
- HSE Signature blog (Hygiene, Health, Safety, Energy and Environment).

DS Avocats being in the service sector, our impact on biodiversity mostly results from daily operations, which are therefore addressed by the individual commitments listed below.

### DS avocats' individual commitments involve the following measures.

#### ■ Measuring our impact and promoting biodiversity:

- Native plants are favoured in our indoor garden.
- Pesticides are not used to maintain our indoor garden.
- We are looking into the appropriateness of installing bee hives.
- Rainwater collection for watering our garden, programmed to operate at night to avoid evaporation during hot spells.

#### ■ Maintaining our servers in a green data centre:

- We continue to use our green data centre.
- Aware of the energy-consuming nature of data centres, DS Avocats has chosen to use a so-called "green" data centre.
- This data centre houses a climate change arboretum, an experimental lab for the future biodiversity of our territory, managed in partnership with the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and the Société Forestière.  
This plant laboratory is heated by the excess heat released by the building. The data centre implements innovative solutions (fuel cells, white roof, eco-construction, etc.) to minimise its ecological footprint as much as possible.

#### ■ Continuing efforts to rein in energy consumption:

- Our workstations and rooms are programmed to automatically fall on standby mode.
- Lighting of common areas controlled by BMS time programming or timers.
- LED lighting of the reception area and hallways.
- Air circulation units with heat recovery impeller.
- Production of space heating and cooling by air/water heat pumps.

### **Making responsible purchases:**

- We favour recycled paper.
- We favour recyclable and refillable toner cartridges.

### **Communicating good internal practices:**

- We disseminate a guide on good environmental practices to all our employees.
- We disseminate a teamwork memoranda guide, which makes it possible to optimise research and thus spend less time on the Internet and print less.

### **Educating its stakeholders on issues related to loss of biodiversity, DS undertakes to address these issues through its involvement with organisations committed to sustainable development and biodiversity:**

- *Commissions spécialisées de l'Ordre des Avocats de Paris*, chaired by DS Avocats partners. The firm organises training and/or meetings for lawyers, magistrates, real estate stakeholders and industrialists on legal and societal issues. These meetings are widely distributed to 26,000 lawyers in Paris and civil society as a whole;
- **ORÉE**, chaired by a DS Avocats partner: brings together companies and local authorities in order to share their best environmental practices on a territorial scale on the themes of climate change, biodiversity, circular economy and CSR;

- **AFILOG**, chaired by a DS Avocats partner, its Sustainable Development Commission comprises stakeholders in logistics;

- **LIFTI**, Laboratory of Innovative Land and Territorial Initiatives: DS Avocats is a founding member of this organisation and a DS Avocats partner is its Vice President. It is a foundation comprising public and private stakeholders involved in land conversion issues;

- **Club des avocats environnementalistes** chaired by a DS Avocats partner, Association Française des Docteurs en Droit (AFDD), Société Française pour le Droit de l'Environnement (SFDE): associations for environmental lawyers and Doctors of Law monitoring environmental cases and current legal issues.

DS Avocats is proud and eager to be involved with **act4nature** and is convinced that every company, no matter its size or industry, should and must be committed to the environment in its own way.