

Global warming: 400 researchers against Allègre

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A petition asks the public authorities to resolve the debate with the climate sceptics

On Tuesday 30 March, the high authorities of French science received an appeal from more than 400 climate science researchers asking them to take a stance in the polemic which is swelling up in climate science. The signatories, who are climate science researchers, consider themselves to be the target of “*lying accusations*” on the part of two climate sceptics who are the subject of a lot of media attention: the geochemist Claude Allègre, and one of his associates, Vincent Courtillot.

The petitioners consider that the intervention of the two geologists constitutes a breaking of the “*moral pact which links every scientist to society*”. They completed the editing of a document of about 50 pages summarising, according to them, the collected untruths present in two works: *The Climate Deception* (Plon, 2010) by M. Allègre, and *New Journey to the Centre of the Earth* (Odil Jacob, 2009) by M. Courtillot, and in their academic seminars.

“*The Academy of sciences*”, declared Jean Salençon, its president, “*has decided to organise the in-depth scientific debate which the current controversy calls for*”. The anger extends beyond the climate scientists. According to the astrophysicist Hubert Reeves, M. Allègre’s book is “*humiliating for French science*”. Another appeal, this time open to French scientists generally, is in preparation.

Translated from the French by David Smythe