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Tahiti, July 9, 2026 – Adopted unanimously on Thursday at Cesec, a wish carried by Léna Normand and Patrick Galenon calls for the introduction of an amendment to MP Mereana Reid Arbelot's bill on compensation for victims of nuclear tests. Civil society wishes to reintegrate the people who resided in Polynesia between the end of the atmospheric tests in 1975 and the dismantling of the CEP in 1998. A period that the MP has chosen to set aside to maximize the chances of adoption of her text in Parliament.

The Economic, Social, Environmental and Cultural Council (Cesec) supports the reform of the Morin law carried out by MP Mereana Reid-Arbelot. But the country's fourth institution believes that an important point still deserves to be reviewed.

Meeting on Thursday, the councillors unanimously adopted a wish presented by Léna Normand and Patrick Galenon asking for the introduction of an amendment to the bill currently under discussion in Parliament. Their objective: to restore the possibility of filing a claim for compensation for people who resided or stayed in Polynesia between 1975 and the official dismantling of the Pacific Experimentation Center (CEP) in 1998.

In its current wording, the bill retains, for Polynesia, a period corresponding to atmospheric tests. For the authors of the wish, this restriction is neither scientifically justified nor in line with the evolution of knowledge on radioactive fallout. In particular, they point out the persistence of certain radionuclides in the environment and point out that there is no scientific consensus to affirm that all risks would have disappeared after the last atmospheric launch.

"We're here for everyone" However,

this request is the opposite of a choice made by Mereana Reid Arbelot. On several occasions in



recent weeks, the MP has explained that she has voluntarily renounced this extension. According to her, the Morin law did mention the period up to 1998, but this possibility had, in fact, almost never allowed for the compensation of additional victims. It therefore preferred to focus its reform on a point that it considers more decisive: replacing the criterion of causality with a criterion of exposure, in order to increase the chances of recognition of victims without weakening the balance of the text before Parliament.

Léna Normand does not contest this strategy, but refuses to allow some potential victims to be dismissed from the outset. *"We are here for everyone,"* she insisted after the adoption of the vow. *"It's not easy to explain to people: yesterday, you could submit an application; but tomorrow you will no longer be able to. The others will be able to do so, those from the period of atmospheric firing, but you won't."*

The vice-president of the 193 association readily acknowledges that this amendment could complicate the parliamentary journey of a text already unanimously adopted in the Senate. *"Yes, definitely. But we're here for everyone,"* she says.

"A strong message"

Asked about the scientific argument put forward by the deputy, Léna Normand, on the other hand, believes that the door should not be closed for lack of certainty. *"Today, it is not to exclude what the law allows, that is to say to leave the possibility to all people born between 1975 and 1998 to request recognition and compensation."* If more evidence is needed, she said, it will need to be done through further research, including on the transgenerational effects of nuclear testing.

For the Cesec representative, the unanimous adoption of the wish is above all a signal to Parliament. *"It was important for local civil society to express itself. (...) It is a strong gesture that Cesec is sending today."* A political signal, certainly, but one that has, at this stage, no binding scope. The bill is already continuing its parliamentary journey, after having passed the Senate stage without a hitch. The chances of seeing this request transformed into an amendment therefore appear limited.

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