



Press release

## **The landscape of the Chablais region is changing: the last tank at the Collombey-Muraz refinery disappeared today.**

**Collombey-Muraz, 14 February 2023 ...** The 54 tanks of the Tamoil refinery have now been demolished and evacuated. This represents the end of the first stage in the future development of the 150-hectare site in Collombey-Muraz, one of the largest single industrial sites in Switzerland. A new chapter is now opening, with the launch of the assessment of the infrastructure and equipment that will be necessary for the development of the site. At the same time, governance is being strengthened as the site has been classified as a reserve of strategic cantonal interest.

### *Demolition of the tanks*

The dismantling of the refinery is taking place in three phases. Two of them have been running in parallel: the dismantling of the tanks, which was completed today, and the dismantling of the refinery units. The remaining buildings and chimneys will then be destroyed in a third phase.

The last piece of the last tank came down today under the watchful eye of Aargau-based company E. Flückiger AG, which was tasked with removing the tanks. The materials from the dismantling - 15,000 tonnes of steel and concrete - were mostly recycled in Switzerland in order to minimise the environmental impact. In addition to their imposing presence in the landscape, the 54 tanks represented a total capacity of 461,000 m<sup>3</sup> - about 615 million 75cl bottles or almost 200 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

### *Infrastructure analysis, one step further towards the implementation of the master plan*

To imagine the future of this exceptional site, Tamoil worked proactively and in full cooperation with the authorities to define a coherent overall vision for the development of the land. The initial analysis was undertaken by the Malnati urban planning agency, which was already working with the commune of Collombey-Muraz. This phase led to the development of a master plan which was shared with the local communities and the media in 2021 and is ready to be implemented as soon as the dismantling work is completed. The next step in the process consists in an assessment of the equipment and infrastructure needed to turn this vision into reality and will culminate in the preparation of a detailed development plan.

The Malnati agency, which was once again selected for this phase following the call for tenders launched by Tamoil, is now beginning a survey of all the infrastructures and equipment already present on the site. This initial inventory should last several months.

Subsequently, various development scenarios for the site will be proposed, as well as urban planning rules and construction principles according to the purpose of each of the defined zones. Finally, a properly detailed development plan will be prepared, including, among other things, a plan of the facilities to be built.

In addition to the ongoing collaboration between Tamoil and the Commune, the State, the Chablais region, the Agglo and Satom SA (whose land adjoins that of the refinery), coordination is also planned with the players involved in mobility, principally the Swiss Federal Railways (CFF) and the Swiss Transport Company (TPC).

#### *Governance of the site and classification as a zone of cantonal interest*

A Steering Committee (COFIL) chaired by the Commune brings together Tamoil, the canton of Valais, the Chablais region and Satom. In parallel, a Technical Committee (COTEC) brings together other representatives of the same actors and prepares the decisions on which the COFIL must give its opinion.

The increase in the number of public players involved, including all the neighbouring communes, led Tamoil, on the recommendation of the commune, to enlist the support of the Antenne Région Valais romand, which focuses its activity on aid for investment and development in the region. Their role will be to coordinate the various parties and to facilitate relations with the public authorities.

The increasing involvement of the public authorities in the development of the site is also the result of the canton's decision to recognise the economic activity zone of the former refinery as a 'Strategic Reserve of Cantonal Interest'. This decision honours Tamoil, who are delighted to see the importance of this area for the future of the region recognised in this way.

#### *A few figures about the refinery*

- More than 1,000 pieces of equipment
- 54 tanks with a total capacity of 461,000 m<sup>3</sup> (approx. 615 million 75cl bottles or almost 200 Olympic-sized swimming pools)
- More than 90 km of piping
- 30 electrical transformers, 8 electrical substations
- Approximately 30,000 tonnes of steel, including 15,000 tonnes for the tanks
- More than 100,000 QR codes

#### **For further information / photos / pictures, please contact:**

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