

# D'a Désertif' Actions

2026



6<sup>eme</sup> édition

## Press release

International press cartoon competition



Nations Unies  
Convention sur la lutte  
contre la désertification



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## "The cause of pastoralism and pastoral peoples."

<https://desertif-actions.org/en/cartoon-contest/>

As part of the Désertif'actions summit from 25 to 28 March 2026 dedicated to "**Territorial Resilience in the Face of Crises**", a public awareness campaign was launched based on press cartoons in the form of a prize-winning competition. The theme of the Désertif'actions 2026 summit cartoon competition focused on "**pastoralism, mobility at the heart of balance**".

*"Choosing pastoralism as the theme for a press cartoon competition highlights its richness and complexity, its deep roots in the history of these regions, and the challenges and solutions it presents for millions of people living on land and in natural spaces that have not yet been developed." - (CARI)*

**Summary of the rules and purpose of the competition:** the theme of the competition invited artists to explore, with humour, satire or a critical eye, the human, environmental, social and cultural issues related to pastoralism;

It was open to **any press cartoonist from any country**, provided they had published at least one cartoon in the press (print or online) since January 2025, and each participant could submit a maximum of two cartoons (black and white or colour).

**Among the possible themes and inspirations**, the drawings could address:

- Mobility as an adaptation strategy in arid areas.
- The beauty of pastoral landscapes and their contrast with the modern world.
- Ancestral traditions and know-how.
- Contemporary challenges: climate, land, wildlife, agricultural policies, profitability, transmission.
- Environmental issues: biodiversity, fire prevention, sustainable management.
- Social and cultural aspects: identity, conflicts of use, tourism.
- The figure of the livestock farmer and animal welfare.
- Political contradictions, regulatory absurdities, or discrepancies between image and reality.

**This fourth competition, organised alongside the Désertif'actions summits <https://desertif-actions.org/en/desertif-actions-2026/> on arid lands, was once again a success in terms of participation, receiving submissions from 272 artists for 486 drawings from 53 countries.**

With a first prize of €1,500 and a second prize of €750, the organisers plan to invite the first prize winner to Djerba, Tunisia, for the Désertif'actions 2026 event, if possible. The 30 best drawings selected by the jury will be printed and publicly displayed throughout the summit, which is open to the general public from 25 to 28 March.

**On 11 December 2025, the entire jury, hosted at the Maison des Relations Internationales de la Métropole de Montpellier, spent more than four hours examining the proposed designs.**

**The jury's composition** brings together different areas of expertise in press illustration, the arts, journalism, and arid zone and pastoralism expertise. The jury members support the event on a voluntary basis.

- **Jean Michel Renault** – press cartoonist (Sunday Time Magazine, TF1, Télé7 jours – Stratégie, Tennis Magazine, Nord Littoral, Midi Libre, etc.) author publisher President



- **Manuel Lapers** – known as "MAN" – cartoonist for Midi Libre (La Croix du Nord, The European, Punch, Noird Eclair, etc.)
- **Pierre Balhouet** – press cartoonist (The Guardian, The New Yorker, Siné Hebdo, Le Moniteur, Fluide Glacial, etc.) former President of France Cartoon, an association of French-speaking press cartoonists
- **Isabelle Teyssedre** – Head of Studies at ESMA (Higher School of Artistic Professions) Montpellier, Nantes, Toulouse, Montreal, etc.)
- **Alain Plombat** – Journaliste – Ex-président du Groupe de presse Midi Libre
- **Adeline Derkimba** – Director of CARI programmes – specialist in livestock farming systems and pastoralism (mountains, northern Mali, Chad, Senegal, etc.)
- **Patrice Burger** – President of CARI and initiator of the competition, agroecologist, expert in the development of arid zones and oases



From left to right: Isabelle Teyssedre, Manuel Lapers, Jean-Michel Renault, Pierre Balhouet, Alain Plombat, Adeline Derkimba, Patrice Burger

According to President J.M. Renault, **"This is a tremendous success in terms of participation, which should be applauded, and each of the artists deserves our warmest thanks. As the theme of the competition was very selective and specialised, the first two rounds of judging involved regretfully rejecting a large number of drawings that were off-topic or whose message was more diffuse. Three additional rounds of judging then allowed us to gradually narrow down the entries to 70 drawings. These were carefully examined, and only the 30 drawings that received the most votes were selected. These 30 drawings will be printed and exhibited at the Désertif'actions summit in Tunisia and published on the website. The two winners were selected from this group through successive rounds of voting."**

According to Patrice Burger, president of CARI, **"as organisers of the Désertif'actions summit, we were honoured by the interest generated by the fourth competition and by the number of**



***entries received from all continents. They all demonstrate great creativity, highlighting this particular talent for translating complex subjects into visual representations that speak to everyone. They are therefore key to communicating topics of collective interest to the widest possible audience. We pay tribute to the artists."***

The jury was very surprised by the number of entries from certain countries in particular: Iran (64 entries) and China (21 entries). Several other countries submitted around ten designs each, including Indonesia (13), Brazil, Turkey, Russia and France (12 each), Ukraine, Russia, Italy and Romania (7 each). The rest of the drawings came mainly from one country. The collection will undoubtedly serve the global cause of pastoral peoples, for whom 2026 is the International Year.

The summit organisers and the jury would like to congratulate all participants who took part in the competition and encourage them to continue their efforts and creativity, which contribute significantly to communication and information on topics of collective interest.

The 30 selected drawings will be posted on the Désertif'actions summit website and the names of the two winners will be announced on 27 March 2026, the launch date of the Désertif'actions summit in Tunisia.





# Désertif'actions

For drought-resilient regions:  
let's take action now!

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