



European Parliament
FORMER MEMBERS
ASSOCIATION

27-29 SEPTEMBER 2023

FMA VISIT TO PARIS



FMA SECRETERIAT

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PROGRAMME

27 September, Wednesday

19.30 Get-Together dinner with the entire FMA delegation
(only for Members registered in advance)
Location: Rosette Clichy, 77 Rue de Paris, 92110 Clichy, France

28 September, Thursday

09.30 - 10.45 Guided tour at the French Senate
Location: The Senate, 15, rue de Vaugirard, 75291 Paris Cedex 06

11.00 - 12.00 Meeting with **Mr Jean-François Rapin**
Chair of the Committee on European Affairs - Senate
Location: The Senate, 15, rue de Vaugirard, 75291 Paris Cedex 06

12.30 - 13.45 Working lunch at the invitation of **Mrs Fabienne Keller**
Quaestor at the European Parliament responsible for the FMA, with thanks to the Quaestor of the National Assembly **Mrs Marie Guévenoux**.
Location: La Questure de l'Assemblée nationale, 126, rue de l'Université, 75355 Paris

14.00 - 15.00 Meeting with **Mr Pieyre-Alexandre Anglade**
Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of the National Assembly
Location: Room of the Committee on European Affairs of the National Assembly
Location: 9 rue de Bourgogne 75007 Paris

15.30 - 16.30 Meeting with Mr **Emmanuel Puisais-Jauvin**
Secretary-General for European Affairs in the
Council of Ministers
Location: Room of the Committee on European
Affairs of the National Assembly 9 rue de
Bourgogne 75007 Paris

16.45 - 18.00 Meeting with **Mr Jean-Louis Bourlanges**
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the
National Assembly
Location: Room of the Committee on European
Affairs of the National Assembly 9 rue de
Bourgogne 75007 Paris

18.00 - 19.30 Transport to the **Jean Monnet House** - 90 min. bus

19.30 - 20.00 Check-in and free time

20.00 Dinner hosted by the Jean Monnet House, Speaker:
Fabrizia Lapecorella
Vice-Secretary General OECD

29 September, Friday

08.00 - 09.00 Breakfast offered by Maison Jean Monnet

09.30 - 10.00 Presentation of the **Jean Monnet House**

10.00 - 10.45 Guided tour Maison Jean Monnet
Location: 7 chemin du Vieux Pressoir, Houjarray,
78490 Bazoches sur Guyonne, France

10.45 - 11.00 Break

11.00 - 12.30 Public event co-organised with Jean Monnet House:
Towards the 2024 European elections, with the
participation of the Maison de l'Europe in Paris, the
Robert Schuman Centre, the Jacques Delors
Institute and the University of Versailles-Saint
Quentin and a Terminale of a Parisian high school
(first time voters).

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch offered by Jean Monnet House

14.30 Coffee/refreshment offered by Jean Monnet House (optional)
+ departure of the shuttle to Paris Nord and Charles de Gaulle (the arrival time depends on the traffic).
Members departing from Orly are kindly asked to arrange a taxi (with other participants).

The French Presidency 2022¹

France held the Presidency of the Council between January and June 2022.

The Presidency was characterized by the outbreak of a new war in Europe when Russia invaded sovereign Ukraine in February of 2022.

Priorities of the Presidency

For its term, Paris outlined 5 main topical priorities.

1. **A more sovereign Europe**
2. **A greener Europe**
3. **A more digital Europe**
4. **A more social Europe**
5. **A more human Europe**

The Presidency helped to **coordinate a common European approach** towards the Ukrainian war by

- Helping Ukrainian refugees
- Supporting the Ukrainian army
- Supporting the Ukrainian economy
- Sanctions against Russia and Belarus
- Granting Ukraine and Moldova candidate status for EU membership



¹<https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2022/06/30/six-months-of-french-presidency-at-the-service-of-europe>

The Results of the Presidency¹



A MORE SOVEREIGN EUROPE

France made **reform of the Schengen Area** a political priority, with an aim of preserving the freedom of movement within the European Union and better protecting our external borders.

The **Pact on Asylum and Migration**: the Member States agreed to better distribute refugees arriving to Europe, while reinforcing the necessary controls at the external borders upon arrival.

The **Strategic Compass**: this white paper on European defence is an unprecedented exercise in the history of the European Union. It contributes to the emergence of a common strategic culture and a strengthening of the cohesion of Europeans, and is a genuine roadmap for the ten years ahead.

The European political community: a new proposal concerning the political organization of our continent. It will strengthen the political, economic, cultural and security ties across Europe, with European States who share our democratic values.



A GREENER EUROPE

Enabling a **55% reduction in emissions by 2030**: to make Europe the first carbon-neutral continent and reduce our emissions by 55% by 2030, Member States have reached agreements on a series of major texts.

Standards reciprocity: Progress on the issue of mirror measures, allowing the same environmental and health production standards to be applied to European products and those imported from third countries.

Combating imported deforestation: the French Presidency enabled an agreement between Member States on European legislation to prevent products contributing to deforestation or forest degradation from entering the European market.

The **publication of information on sustainability by companies**: Companies with more than 250 employees or which are listed on the stock market must now report their environmental, social and management policies on standardized, substantiated and certified documents.

¹<https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/13/3f0993b5bd7cc0f79284225597052ca5f690a665.pdf>

The Results of the Presidency



A MORE DIGITAL EUROPE

Adoption of the "DSA" (Digital Service Act) legislation: Limit the distribution of illegal content and products online.

Adoption of the DMA (Digital Market Act) legislation: End the economic dominance of large digital platforms and strengthen consumers' freedom of choice.

€3.5bn mobilized for the Scale up initiative: Support innovation and growth of emerging players, by mobilising institutional investors.



A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE

Adopt the **directive on minimum wages** in the European Union.

Adopt **legislation on quotas on the boards of European companies.**

The role of women on corporate boards: under an agreement between the European Council and European Parliament reached following ten years of deadlocked negotiations, listed European companies must have an balanced representation of men and women on their boards.



A MORE HUMAN EUROPE

Conference on the Future of Europe: put forward recommendations drawn up by European citizens. This unprecedented democratic exercise involved more than 700,000 European citizens across the continent, including more than 50,000 young people in France.

Build a **network between Member States** in favor of a European civic service open to all young people under 25 for a university or apprenticeship exchange, an internship or working with associations.

Rule of law: opened a debate on strengthening the regulation on rule of law conditionality for the protection of the Union budget.

Fundamental rights: adopted conclusions on the fight against racism and antisemitism. A strong majority of Member States supported the proposal to add hate speech and hate crimes to the list of offences under European legislation. Once adopted, it will enable the EU to legislate in criminal matters on hate speech and hate crimes.

The Situation Today - The Spanish Presidency¹

As of July 2023, Spain has overtaken the Presidency of the Council. The Spanish Presidency has outlined 4 main priorities:

1. **Reindustrialize** the EU and ensure **Open Strategic Autonomy**
2. Advance the **Green transition**
3. Promote greater **social and economic justice**
4. Strengthen **European unity**

Many of the Spanish priorities outlined here are reminiscent of the priorities of the French presidency in 2022.

Specifically, Spain wants to promote open strategic autonomy and **insure EU independence from third countries.**

The Presidency will also work on continuing the Green transition by **reforming the electricity market and aim to accelerate the deployment of renewable energies.**

Spain wants the EU economy to become both more competitive and fair. Hence, they advocate for the **establishment of minimum and common standards on corporate taxation** in all Member States and will **fight tax evasion** by large multinationals.

Lastly, they will advocate for a **greater deepening of the internal market**, the **completion of the banking union**, better **coordination of the migration and asylum processes** as well as **strengthening the common European identity and values.**

¹ <https://spanish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/programme/priorities/>

The Situation Today - The Spanish Presidency¹



Reindustrialize the EU and ensure Open Strategic Autonomy

- **Consolidate the conditions for EU reindustrialization** as a prerequisite for citizens' prosperity.
- Place the **European Union at the forefront of the technological revolution**, fostering a **regulatory framework** that combines incentives for technological development and innovation and the **defence of the EU users rights protection model**.
- **Strengthen open strategic autonomy, reducing vulnerabilities** in essential supplies such as food, energy and health, while consolidating alliances with our reliable partners.
- Advance in **partnership agreements with priority regions**, in particular with Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Promote competitiveness and sustainable and inclusive economic growth**, strengthening and deepening the single market on the 30th anniversary of its creation.
- Advance towards **responsible digitalization**, bridging the digital divide and guaranteeing digital privacy for all Europeans.



Advance the Green transition

- **Complete a socially just green transition**, promoting the mitigation of the effects of climate change and taking into account social exclusion and energy poverty.
- **Combat the effects of climate change** at the global and European levels.
- Conclude an **electricity market reform** that guarantees affordable prices for our citizens.
- **Boost the decarbonization of the EU's economy**, completing the adoption of Fit for 55 package.
- Foster a **green economy**, one which ensures quality jobs and the competitiveness of European companies.

¹<https://spanish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/media/e4ujaagg/the-spanish-presidency-programme.pdf>

The Situation Today - The Spanish Presidency



Promote greater social and economic justice

- Promote a **social economy** in which wealth creation reaches all Europeans.
- Guarantee the **rights of workers in the new economic sectors**, ensuring the right to decent work.
- Strengthen the **European welfare state**.
- Guarantee **European tax justice**, preventing tax avoidance and promoting minimum EU-wide taxation standards.
- **Reform economic governance**, with more just, realistic and predictable fiscal rules, which allow Member States to finance public policies and services while preserving fiscal stability.
- **Promote equal treatment and inclusivity**, paying particular attention to gender equality and to children and persons with disabilities.
- Advocate the **preservation and extension of rights linked to European citizenship**.
- Advance towards the **economic, social and territorial cohesion of regions** with natural and geographical imbalances, guaranteeing quality of life and the rural lifestyle.
- **Enhance methods for EU citizen participation**.
- **Complete the European Health Union**, creating a European Health Data Space and strengthening EU action on caregiving and mental health.



Strengthen European Unity

- **Maintain the unity of the Member States and international partners in support for Ukraine**. Defend a just peace under the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- **Consolidate a European strategic space on the basis of the development of common interests** between the EU and its partners.

-
- Advance in the **accession process of candidate countries**.
 - Support the **revision of decision-making procedures in the European Union**, especially by expanding the use of qualified majority voting, to make them more efficient.
 - **Promote a Common Foreign and Security Policy** (CFSP) and the **development of security in strategic European spaces**, in complementarity and collaboration with NATO.
 - **Strengthen relations with the EU's strategic partners**, paying particular attention to Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States, the Southern Neighborhood, Africa (especially the Sahel), the Western Balkans and other countries within the European neighborhood.
 - **Complete the Pact on Migration and Asylum**, achieving humane, orderly, compassionate, responsible and effective management of migration flows, collaborating with our partners by **developing an external dimension of migration equipped with sufficient resources** and protecting the EU's borders and those who seek a better future in the EU.
 - **Improve the EU's resilience and its crisis management capacity**.
 - **Strengthen the area of freedom, security and justice** (AFSJ) and the **defence of democratic values and of the rule of law**

For more information on the Spanish Presidency, please visit <https://spanish-presidency.consilium.europa.eu/en/programme/the-spanish-presidency-programme/>

The website is **available in all official EU languages**

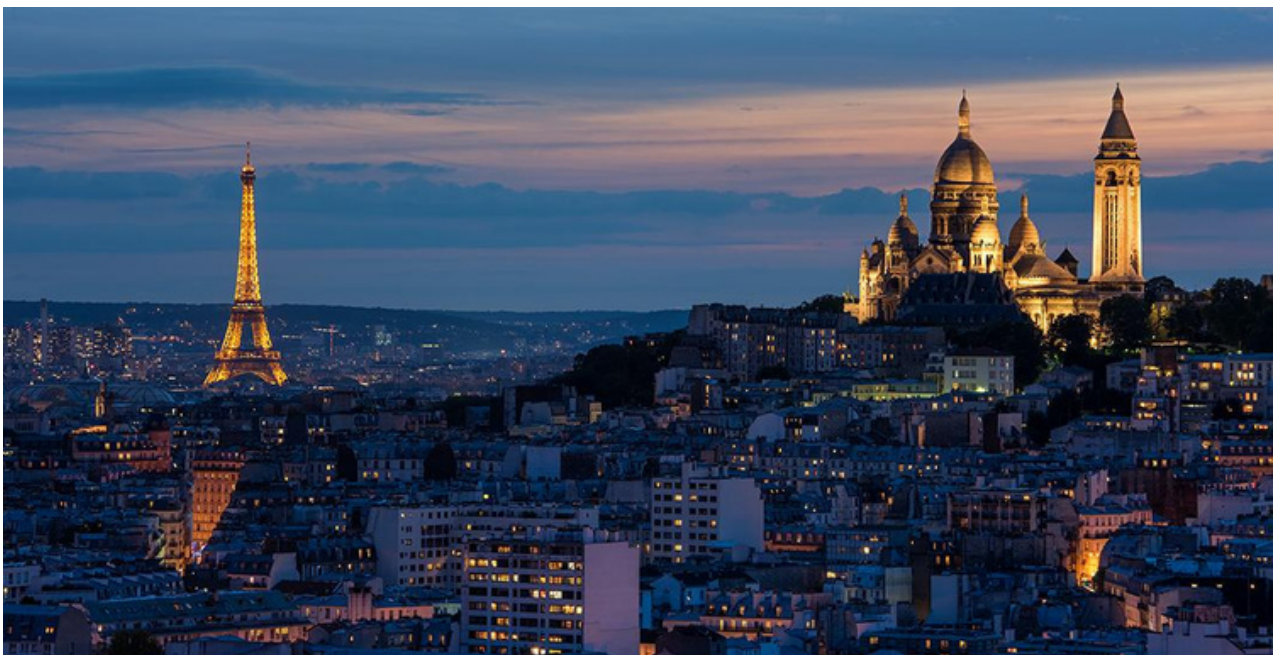
The French Political Situation

Political System¹

France is a **semi-presidential republic** with a head of government - the prime minister - appointed by the president who is the directly elected head of state.

France's territory consists of **18 administrative regions** - 13 metropolitan (i.e. European France) and 5 overseas regions. All 5 of the overseas regions, as well as Saint-Martin (a French territory in the Caribbean) are considered part of the EU (with the status of outermost region).

Strasbourg, a city in France, is **one of the three official seats of the European institutions**.



¹https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/country-profiles/france_en

The Political Situation

The Constitutional Composition¹

The **Constitution of 4 October 1958** governs the functioning of the institutions of the Fifth Republic.

The Constitution has been **revised several times**.



The **President** is elected for five years by direct universal suffrage. **Emmanuel Macron** was elected eighth President of the French Republic on 7 May 2017 and has **liberal and centrist political leanings**.

The President **chairs the Council of Ministers, enacts laws** and is the **head of the armed forces**. The President **can dissolve the National Assembly**, and, in the **event of serious crisis, exercises emergency powers** (Article 16 of the Constitution).



The **President of the Republic appoints the Prime Minister**, who **proposes the members of government to the President**, who then appoints them (Article 8 of the Constitution). Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the **Government determines and conducts the nation's policies**.

The purview, competences, responsibilities and tasks of each minister are not fixed, unlike in other countries such as the United States. They are freely determined by the Prime Minister and the President of the Republic.

Elisabeth Borne is the current French Prime Minister and was appointed in May 2022. She belongs to the **political party Renaissance** of President Macron.

¹ <https://www.elysee.fr/en/french-presidency/the-institutions>

The Political Situation

The **Parliament has two houses:**

The **Senate**, elected through **indirect universal suffrage** and **renewable by half every three years**. The last election took place in September 2017. There are **348 senators**. The **President of the Senate is Gérard Larcher**, belonging to Les Républicains.

The **National Assembly**, with **577 deputies** elected by **direct universal suffrage for five years**. The last election took place in June 2022. The **President of the National Assembly is Yaël Braun-Pivet** and belongs to Macron's political party Renaissance.

The two houses, in addition to their **role monitoring the Government, draw up and vote on laws**. In this respect, and in the **event of disagreement, the National Assembly has the last word**.



The French Political Situation

Internal Politics¹

In **2017**, **Emmanuel Macron** has been elected as the eighth **President of the Republic of France** and won in the second round of elections against far-right candidate Marine Le Pen. He was able to **secure a second term in 2022**, making him only the second President after Jacques Chirac in 2002 to have achieved this feat. Macron is the **founder of the movement "En Marche!"** (liberal and centrist political leaning), created on April 6, 2016. The name was later **changed to Renaissance**.

In **June 2022**, voters elected the current **577 members of the National Assembly** following the two-round election of Emmanuel Macron. The French president is set to face a potentially tumultuous five years of deadlock after **his centrist alliance fell short of an absolute majority**. His Ensemble! coalition was on course to be the biggest party in the next National Assembly, but **with 245 seats, fell short of the 289 seats needed for a majority**.

Two main forces in opposition: the **far-left alliance NUPES with 131 seats** and the **far right with 89 seats**. France's parliament looks set to be paralyzed for the next five years, with Macron's centrist troops likely to endure political sniper fire from both sides of the aisle.

In the **Senate**, the group **Les Républicains** has the majority of seats with **145 seats**. The next strongest group are the **Socialists, Ecologists and Republicans** with **64 seats**.

¹<https://www.politico.eu/article/the-end-of-macronism/>
<https://www.senat.fr/vos-senateurs/groupes-politiques.html>

The Economic Situation



Trade and Economy¹

The French economic activity is set to remain subdued in 2023 (0.7% annual growth) after a significant slowdown in the second half of 2022, but is **forecast to gain momentum in 2024** (1.4%).

Inflation is projected to decrease only progressively over the forecast horizon (to 5.5% in 2023 and 2.5% in 2024, after 5.9% in 2022), despite the decrease of energy and commodity prices.

The **public deficit is forecast to remain at 4.7% of GDP** in 2023 and to decline to 4.3% in 2024.

Public debt is set to decline to 109.5% of GDP by 2024.

Intra-EU trade accounts for 54% of France's exports while outside the EU **8% go to the United States** and **6% to the United Kingdom**.

In terms of **imports, 66% come from EU Member States**, while outside the EU **7% come from China** and **5% from the United States**.

France has **contributed 16.892 EUR towards the 2022 EU budget** which are 0.62% of its GNI.

¹https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/economic-surveillance-eu-economies/france/economic-forecast-france_en

https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/country-profiles/france_en

The Economic Situation in Numbers¹

Indicators	2022	2023	2024
GDP growth (% yoy)	2,6	0,7	1,4
Inflation (% yoy)	5,9	5,5	2,5
Unemployment (%)	7,3	7,4	7,5
General government balance (% of GDP)	-4,7	-4,7	-4,3
Gross public debt (% of GDP)	111,6	109,6	109,5
Current account balance (% of GDP)	-3,1	-1,5	-1,3

¹ https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/economic-surveillance-eu-economies/france/economic-forecast-france_en

2023 Commission Country Report¹

Economic and Employment Snapshot

France's economy slows down in 2023 amid still high inflation

- France's economy slowed significantly in the second half of 2022,
 - but activity is expected to recover as of the second half of 2023.
- After the strong rebound of 6.8% in 2021,
 - real GDP is estimated to have expanded by 2.6% in 2022.
 - **Economic activity is expected to remain subdued over the first half of 2023.**
- Investment, in particular, is set to fall on the back of higher production costs, tighter financial conditions and heightened uncertainty.
- However, the **projected decrease in inflation is expected to allow for a gradual recovery in the second half of the year.**
 - Activity is thus forecast to increase by 0.7% and by 1.4% in 2023 and 2024 respectively.
- The impact of the energy crisis on both households and businesses was largely mitigated by the government measures
 - Inflation in France remained far below other EU countries in 2022, at +5.9% against +9.2% for the EU.
- From 2023 onward, the impact of the war in Ukraine on France's economy is expected to fade.
- However, at the start of 2023 the increase in regulated electricity and gas prices, the end of the fuel rebate and the delayed transmission of energy prices are set to feed into consumer prices.
- In **2023, inflation is expected to progressively slow down** as wholesale prices of energy and commodities have fallen.
- **Inflation is projected to reach 5.5% in 2023 and 2.5% in 2024**

¹https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/FR_SWD_2023_610_en.pdf

Measures to counter the impacts of the energy crisis held back an improvement in public finances after COVID-19

- The **deficit is expected to reach 4.7% of GDP in 2023** (still reflecting the cost of the spending to counter the energy crisis)
 - and to decrease to 4.3% of GDP in 2024.
- At 111.6% of GDP in 2022, **public debt decreased only slightly and, going forward, is set to decline to 109.5% of GDP by 2024.**
- However, thereafter public debt is projected to enter again an upward trend over the medium term in the absence of policy action.

France faces macroeconomic vulnerabilities

- These vulnerabilities are related to high public debt and competitiveness challenges,
 - but the policy response has been broadly appropriate.
- Indeed, the reform of public finance management entered into force in 2022
 - and a new mechanism to conduct annual public spending evaluations has been adopted.
- An effective implementation of these two reforms remains central to help curb public expenditure and put public debt on a sustained downward trend.
- Major reforms to lower labor costs, reduce production taxes and the corporate tax rate have helped restore cost competitiveness.



Labour Market Developments



Labor market developments are positive, leading to higher employment.

- Despite the economic slowdown, the labor market remained dynamic in 2022,
 - leading to further declines in the unemployment rate,
 - which reached its lowest level since Q1 2008 (7.2% in Q4 2022).
 - The employment rate for people aged 15 to 64 also reached 68.3% in Q4 2022, its highest recorded level.
- Despite some improvement, vulnerable groups still face persistent barriers to accessing the labor market (see Annex 14).

Labour shortages and skills mismatches remain important issues

- Labour shortages were already high before the COVID-19 crisis
 - and increased steadily in 2021, peaking in 2022.
- Employers are reporting the lack of adequately trained workers as one of the main barriers to recruitment
- The main sectors affected are industry, construction, information and communication, education and health.
- The current outcomes of the deployed up-and re-skilling measures, such as the plan to reduce recruitment tensions, call for the available training to be better aligned with labour market needs (see Annex 14).

Table A14.2: **Situation of France on 2030 employment, skills and poverty reduction targets**

Indicators	Latest data	Trend (2015-2022)	National target by 2030	EU target by 2030
Employment (%)	74.0 (2022)		78	78
Adult learning ¹ (%)	48.4 (2016)		65	60
Poverty reduction ² (thousands)	+512 (2021)		-1 100	-15 000

(1) Adult Education Survey, adults in learning in the past 12 months; (2) Number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE), reference year 2019.

Source: Eurostat, DG EMPL

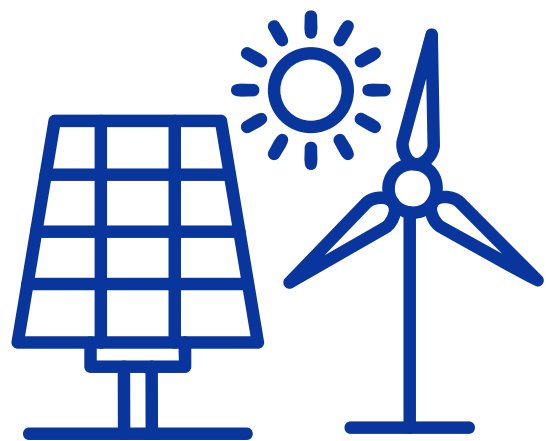
France performs well overall on the social scoreboard linked to the European Pillar of Social Rights.

- All of the scoreboard indicators are at or above the EU average.
- Some weaknesses nevertheless remain, such as
 - the integration of vulnerable groups in the labor market,
 - skills mismatches
 - and low participation of low-qualified adults in learning.
- The education system is overall good,
 - but the socio-economic inequalities continue to impact pupils' educational outcomes

Labor Market Developments

France's imports of fossil fuels from Russia are limited.

- With a sizeable share of nuclear energy, the French energy mix is less reliant on fossil fuels than other EU country.
- Moreover, in 2022 Russia represented only
 - 9% of coke and refined petroleum products
 - and 11% of crude petroleum and natural gas imports
- France also has very limited non-energy trade with Russia.
 - However, some industrial sectors have been affected by supply disruptions of key components from Russia. This is the case in particular in the
 - aeronautics (dependent on titanium)
 - and automotive sectors (palladium).



High public and private debt and weak competitiveness remain macroeconomic challenges to be monitored

The coexistence of high public and private debt might be a source of vulnerability

- There is no visible risk of a wave of corporate bankruptcies so far.
 - After decreasing by a cumulative 50% in 2021 compared to 2019, corporate bankruptcies rose sharply in 2022,
 - but remained around 20% below the pre-pandemic levels.
- The financial sector remains resilient and financing conditions are more favorable than in other EU countries,
 - both in terms of credits volumes and interest rates.
- Yet high private debt might represent a source of vulnerability, in a context of rising interest rates

France's exports were strongly hit by the COVID-19 crisis in 2020 and remained subdued in 2021 and 2022.

- In 2022, net exports still contributed negatively to growth,
 - remaining far below their pre-crisis level.
- Competitiveness improved in 2022 as a result of lower inflation in France than in its trading partners,
 - the fall of the euro against the dollar and fiscal measures,
 - notably reductions in taxes on production and the corporate tax rate.

France is characterized by increasing regional disparities going beyond the enduring divide between its metropolitan and outermost regions.

- While the capital region (Ile-de-France) had a GDP per capita of 176% of the EU average,
 - 23 out of 27 regions have lost ground relative to the EU average, with low or negative growth in 2010-2020
- The divide between urban and rural areas in terms of economic dynamism and long-term growth prospects has become an issue of public concern.

The French Senate¹

The **French Parliament** is made up of **two chambers**, the National Assembly and the Senate. Members of the two Houses are chosen by two different electoral systems. This ensures that all the diverse components of French society are represented as fairly as possible.

Senators **review bills that are submitted by the Government or by a member of Parliament**. Senators also **scrutinize the action of the Government** and ensure that enacted laws are implemented accordingly.

Senators also can **create temporary ad hoc information and consultation bodies** (a fact-finding mission, a commission of inquiry...) to study a particular issue and to propose reforms.

The Senate is a **guarantee of institutional stability**: unlike the National Assembly, it **cannot be dissolved**.



Additionally, the **President, or Speaker of the Senate** takes over as **Acting President of the Republic in the event of vacancy or incapacity**.

The Senate represents the authorities of mainland France and its overseas territories as well as French citizens living abroad. In total, **348 Senators are elected**. The number of Senators elected for each constituency is in proportion to the population.

Every three years, half the sieges are submitted to election. Therefore, the **sieges are divided into two series**.

178 seats in series 2 were partially renewed in elections of September 2020. 172 out of 178 Senators were concerned.

The seats of the **6 Senators representing French citizens living abroad were elected during by-elections held on September 29th, 2021**. The 170 seats in series 1 should be **renewed in September 2023**.

Depending on the number of seats to be filled, **Senators are elected by a two-round first-past-the-post system** (constituencies designating 1 or 2 Senators) **or by proportional representation lists** (constituencies designating no fewer than 3 Senators or more).

The **President of the Senate**, or its Speaker, **represents the Upper Assembly and conducts the proceedings**. He chairs two key bodies: the Bureau of the Senate (the Board*) and the Chairperson's Conference. He has important constitutional prerogatives.

¹<https://www.senat.fr/lng/en.html>

He is entitled to appoint members of the Constitutional Council and may refer to it if provisions of enacted laws or treaties appear to be contrary to the Constitution. He can temporarily exercise the functions of President of the Republic in the event of vacancy or incapacity of office. Thus, the Presidency of the Senate is **considered as the second highest office of the Republic**.

In plenary sessions of the Chamber, **Senators debate and vote legislation**; they also control the Government. Senators decide on the guidelines of the bill and then examine it in detail, article by article. They modify it by tabling amendments. Ministers must answer the questions asked by Senators during specific sessions

The Senate: A Brief History¹

1795-1799: [The Council of Elders](#)

The second Chamber was created in France with the Thermidorian Constitution of 1795, under the name of "Council of Elders". The institutional edifice built in the aftermath of the Revolution is fragile and threatened. It lasted only four years, before giving way to an authoritarian regime. In 1795, the political struggle was still taking place.

1799-1814: [The Conservative Senate](#)

Becoming the "Conservative Senate" under the Consulate, then the Empire (1799-1814), the second Chamber will eventually dismiss its President, Napoleon, in 1814.

Eager for glory in antiquity, Napoleon Bonaparte revived a Senate inspired by Rome.

1814-1830: [La Chambre des Pairs de la Restauration](#)

The shift towards an English-style parliamentary system made the "House of Peers" under the Restoration (1814-1830) a French replica of the House of Lords.

France has a king again. But Louis XVIII, then Charles X, will have to reckon with parliamentarians of all opinions who have taken a liking to freedom of speech.

1830-1848: [The House of Peers of the July Monarchy](#)

A "bourgeois" king sits on the throne. The Chamber of Peers is also "gentrified". A new regime was put in place, defined by Louis-Philippe as follows: "We will seek (...) a happy medium, also far removed from the excesses of popular power and the abuses of royal power."

1851-1870: [The Senate of the Second Empire](#)

The Senate of the Second Empire (1851-1870) was a return to the spirit of the Conservative Senate. An opposition in exile, a press under close surveillance, a docile Parliament: the authoritarian Empire of Napoleon III tried to stifle all manifestations of parliamentary democracy.

1875-1940: The Republican Senate

It was not until the Constitutional Laws of 1875 that a Republican Senate (1875-1940) was established in France, which played an important role under the Third Republic. In 1875, with the advent of the Third Republic, one of the richest pages in French parliamentary history began. Powerful and feared, the two Chambers played a leading role for the next sixty years.



1946-1958: The Council of the Republic

The 1946 Constitution reduced the Senate's role, as symbolically marked by the name "Council of the Republic" given to the second chamber (1946-1958). Despite the unfavorable status conferred on it by the Constitution of the Fourth Republic, the Second Chamber gradually regained its influence and its stabilizing role.

Since 1958: The Senate of the Fifth Republic

The institutional system of the Fifth Republic restored the Senate to its place, even if bicameralism remained unequal. Restored in 1958, threatened in 1969, the Senate finally found its place in the institutions of the Fifth Republic and contributed to their balance, in a period rich in political changes.

¹<https://www.senat.fr/connaitre-le-senat/lhistoire-du-senat.html>

The French National Assembly¹

The French National Assembly **asses laws, monitors government action and evaluates public policies**. It shares legislative power with the Senate, but if the two Chambers of Parliament do not reach an agreement on a particular bill, the **National Assembly has the final say**. It alone has the **power to censure the Government**, in other words, to force its resignation; it is the **only governmental body that can be dissolved by the President of the Republic**.

The National Assembly consists of **577 MPs, who are elected to five-year terms**. Since June 2012 (the 14th Parliament), 11 MPs are elected by French citizens living outside of France. They are national officials, but also represent local constituencies, and as such, act as intermediaries between citizens, who have delegated to them part of their sovereignty, and the power of the State.

Elected by secret ballot at the beginning of the legislative session, the **President represents the Assembly and directs discussion and debates**. This major role includes other considerable prerogatives: the French President consults with him in the event the National Assembly is dissolved or if the emergency powers stipulated by article 16 of the Constitution are implemented; he appoints three of the nine members of the Constitutional Council, an institution that has the power to assess the compliance of a law or a treaty with the Constitution; and he appoints people to certain independent administrative authorities. In terms of protocol, he **holds the fourth highest position in the State**.

Monitoring of the Government's action is one of the chief functions of the Parliament. MPs can question ministers, either in writing or orally. The Assembly can create committees of enquiry and committees to collect information. According to article 35 of the Constitution, a declaration of war is authorized by the Parliament.

¹<https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/role-et-pouvoir-de-assemblee>

A Brief History¹

The beginning : 1789

On 17 June 1789, one month after the Estates-General met at Versailles, the members of the third estate declared themselves to be the 'National Assembly', since they represented at least 96% of the nation. They took sovereign powers in respect of taxation and decided to frame a constitution restricting the powers of the king. Henceforth, sovereignty was to reside not in the person of the monarch but in the nation.

Parliament muzzled: 1799-1830

By the Constitution of the Year VIII (1799) France's legislature under the Consulate and the First Empire was divided into four assemblies (Conseil d'Etat, Tribunat, Corps législatif and Sénat), none of them elected by direct suffrage. This furthered the omnipotence of the executive, concentrated in the hands of Napoleon.

The Charter granted by Louis XVIII in 1814 restored royal sovereignty, slightly attenuated by the existence of a bicameral Parliament a Chamber of Deputies elected for five years by restricted suffrage and a Chamber of Peers (hereditary or life). But the chambers could be convened and adjourned as the king wished; they had no power of initiative or any means of influencing the Government. They had only a semblance of power.

The beginnings of a Parliamentary regime: 1830-48

After the 1830 revolution a new notion of sovereignty became clear. This meant that there was a pact between the representatives of the nation and the monarch: they exercised sovereignty together.

The right to initiate legislation was restored to the two chambers. And the principle of ministerial responsibility before Parliament was first established.

¹<https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/histoire>

From the republican interlude to the Second Empire: 1848-70

The 1852 Constitution weakened again national representation. Again there was an all-powerful executive (ministers appointed by the Emperor and accountable to him alone) opposed by an elected Legislative Body sharing diminished powers with a Council of State (made up of civil servants) and a Senate (whose members were appointed for life). These institutions failed to survive the defeat of 1870. After the fall of the Empire the Assembly elected on 8 February 1871, meeting first in Bordeaux and then in Versailles until 1879, passed the constitutional acts of 1875 which were to govern France for sixty-five years and provide the true foundation for the nation's Parliamentary system.

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The Third Republic 1848-1940

Legislative power is shared between the Chamber of Deputies, elected for four years by direct universal suffrage, and the Senate, elected for nine years by indirect suffrage.

The President of the Republic had the right of dissolution which fell into disuse in 1877.

On July 10, 1940, the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate convened in Vichy in the National Assembly conferred full powers on Marshal Pétain despite the refusal of 80 parliamentarians. There will no longer exist any body representing the national will until August 1944.

The Fourth Republic 1946-1958

The Constitution of October 27, 1946 establishes parliamentary sovereignty and the primacy of the legislative power.

The National Assembly alone can overthrow the Government. In return, the Government can dissolve it, but this right obeys particularly strict conditions which have only been met once in 1955. In 1958,

Charles de Gaulle returned to power and established the V Republic.

The Fifth Republic 1958-today

The institutions of the Fifth Republic, established in 1958, correspond to the ideas of General de Gaulle, as he had exposed them in 1946.

The National Assembly sees its role increasingly affirmed, both from a political point of view and in terms of control of the Government.



The Jean Monnet House¹

The Jean Monnet House is situated in Houjarray about 60 minutes away from Paris. It is a place to **discover the life and work of Jean Monnet**, one of the principal founders of the European Union. It proposes a rich cultural agenda and many opportunities to learn about the European Union.

Jean Monnet bought the house after he returned back to Paris from the United States. In this house, he **discussed the possible future of Europe and how to exit the devastation of World War II**. The speech which would be the first starting block for the European Union, given by Robert Schuman on 9 May 1950 was **written in this house by Jean Monnet and his associated**.

Jean Monnet regularly received visits from friends and high ranking politicians in this house to discuss current problems. Jean Monnet also **died here on 16 March 1979**.

¹https://jean-monnet.europa.eu/home_en

The **house has been owned by the European Parliament since 1982**. Following the wishes of his eldest daughter, Marianne, the house has been **opened to the public and been transformed into a museum**.

This makes it the ideal place for people to learn more about the European project and the life and work of one of its principal architects.

The permanent exhibition has been completely renovated in 2019. Here, one can completely immerse oneself into the life and work of Jean Monnet where the **idea of European unity took its first steps towards realization**.





Jean Monnet¹

From 1926 to 1938, he **carried out numerous mandates as an economic and financial advisor**, notably in China.

In 1938, he went on a mission to the United States to purchase fighter aircrafts for France. In June 1940, Monnet was in London and contributed strongly to the proposal for a Declaration of Union between the British Empire and the French Empire. Between 1940 and 1943, he also contributed to President Roosevelt's Victory Program. In 1943, he was one of the members of the French Committee for National Liberation in Algiers, alongside General Giraud and General de Gaulle.

In 1945, he returned to France and was **appointed Commissioner of Planning by De Gaulle**. In this role, his mission is to **coordinate the reconstruction and modernization of France**. In 1950, he **conceived the draft of the Robert Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950**.

Jean Monnet was born in 1888 in Cognac into a family of brandy merchants. Between 1904 and 1914, he made various trips to the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States on behalf of J.-G. Monnet & Co.

During the First World War, he contributed to the creation of a pool of ships and supplies of raw materials, which made it possible to overcome the danger of submarine warfare in 1917.

In 1919, he became Deputy Secretary General of the League of Nations. He returned to Cognac in 1923, where he worked to modernize his father's Cognac firm.

¹https://jean-monnet.europa.eu/jean-monnet/man_en

In 1950, Jean Monnet invited the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman to his house in Houjarray. A few weeks later, in line with Monnet's proposal, Schuman announced to the world the **creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)**.

Throughout his life, Monnet was a **staunch supporter of multilateralism and intra-European cooperation**. His belief in the European integration project laid the foundations for the European Union we know today.

Though limited to specific fields, this very practical proposal laid the **foundations for the broader undertaking of reconciling and bringing prosperity to former battlefield enemies**. After so many decades of wars that had brought untold bloodshed to Europe and torn apart its people, here was a project to rebuild the Old Continent with European solidarity as its cornerstone.

In 1951, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed the **Treaty of Paris establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)**. The ECSC High Authority moved to Luxembourg in August 1952 and Jean **Monnet was its first President**.

The opening of the common market for coal and steel took place on 30 April 1953.

In 1975, **Monet retired to his house in Houjarray to write his Memoirs**, which were published in 1976. That same year, he was awarded the **diploma of Honorary Citizen of Europe by the European Council**.

He died in March 1979 at the age of 90 and his ashes were transferred to the Paris Pantheon in 1988.

“

WE ARE NOT MAKING
A COALITION OF
STATES, BUT
UNITING PEOPLE

-JEAN MONNET

”



The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)¹

The OECD is an international organisation that works to build better policies for **better lives**. Their goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all. They draw on **60 years of experience** and insights to better prepare the world of tomorrow.

Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, they work on establishing evidence-based international standards and finding solutions to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and creating jobs to fostering strong education and fighting international tax evasion, they provide a unique forum and knowledge hub for data and analysis, exchange of experiences, best-practice sharing, and advice on public policies and **international standard-setting**.



[A Brief History](#)

The forerunner of the OECD was the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), which was formed to administer American and Canadian aid under the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II.

The Convention transforming the OEEC into the OECD was signed at the Chateau de la Muette in Paris on 14 December 1960 and entered into force on 30 September 1961.

Since then, the OECD's vocation has been to **deliver greater well-being worldwide by advising governments on policies** that support resilient,

¹<https://www.oecd.org/about/>

inclusive and sustainable growth. Through evidence-based policy analysis and recommendations, standards and global policy networks, including close collaboration with the G7 and the G20, the OECD has helped advance reforms and multilateral solutions to global challenges. These span the public policy horizon, from the polluter pays principle, which the OECD developed in the 1970s, to PISA in education, not to mention tax transparency and artificial intelligence. Throughout its history, the OECD has striven to become more global, more inclusive and more relevant.

[Fabrizia Lapecorella - Deputy Secretary General of OECD¹](#)

Fabrizia Lapecorella has been appointed as a new Deputy Secretary-General of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. She will take up her duties on 3 April 2023.

Fabrizia will bring to her post significant expertise, experience and international networks across the tax, financial and economic policy spheres.

An Italian national, she is currently the Head of the Department for European Policies in the presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy. She served as the Director-General of Finance in the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance from 2008 to 2022. In this role, Fabrizia was responsible for tax policy, domestic European and international finance policy, governance of the Italian tax agencies, coordination of the information technology infrastructure serving the Italian Tax Administration and the administrative services for the Italian tax judicial system. Prior to this, she held various positions in the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance.



¹<https://www.oecd.org/newsroom/oecd-appoints-fabrizia-lapecorella-as-deputy-secretary-general.htm>

Fabrizia has also held leadership roles within the OECD Committee structure. She served as the Chair of the OECD's Committee on Fiscal Affairs in 2022, the Deputy Chair of the Committee between 2017 and 2021, and a member of the Committee Bureau since 2012. Fabrizia was also a member of the Steering Group of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) from 2016 to 2022. She has been a Professor of Public Finance at the University of Bari since 2004 and holds a degree in Economics from the University of Bari as well as a Doctorate in Economics from the University of York.

Fabrizia brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the senior leadership team at the OECD, and her appointment fulfills the OECD's long-held goal of full gender parity among the Organisation's senior leadership.

Fabrizia will join the OECD's other Deputy Secretaries-General Kerri-Ann Jones, Yoshiki Takeuchi, and Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen.

Useful Information

Important Addresses

Hotel Information



Novotel 17 - Boutique Hotel
34 Av Porte d'Asnières, Paris
Tel: +33 1 44 40 52 52

Restaurant



Rosette Clichy
77 Rue de Paris, 92110
Clichy, France
Tel: +33 1 47 72 67 51

Senate



15, rue de Vaugirard, 75291
Paris Cedex 06

National Assembly



9 rue de Bourgogne 75007
Paris

Useful Information

Transport

Taxis:

Alpha Taxis

Tel: +33 01 45 85 85 85

Centrale Belem Taxis 7000

Tel: +33 01 42 70 00 42

Specific Taxi Call Stations can be found in Paris



Gare du

Nord - Hotel: Taxis¹: No fixed prices can vary between 20-60€



Metro (35 min): Paris North Train Station **take**

- **Metro 4** (Direction Bagneux - Lucie Aubrac, **Price for 1 Metro ticket = 2,10€**)
- Ride for stops and **exit station Réaumur - Sébastopol**
- **Take Metro 3** (Direction Pont de Levallois-Bécon, **1 Metro ticket is valid for 1:30h if you do not leave the network**)
- Ride for 11 stops and exit station **Péreire**
- **Walk 10 mins** until Hotel

Bus (40 min): Bus Station Gare du Nord take

- **Bus 54** (Direction Gabriel Peri-Metro, **Price for 1 Bus ticket = 2,50€**)
- Ride for 15 stops
- **Walk 10 mins** until Hotel

¹<https://montransport.com/annuaire/taxi-minivan/paris/gare-du-nord/index2.html>

Useful Information

Transport¹

Charles de Gaulle - Hotel

Taxis: Fixed price Charles de Gaulle- Paris rive droite (includes District 17 where the hotel is situated)

Price: 55€

Metro (59 mins): Aéroport Charles de Gaulle take

- **RER B** (Direction PIST04Saint-Rémy-lès-Chevreuse, **Price = 11,45 €**)
- Ride for 11 stops and **exit at station Gare Châtelet - Les Halles**
- Walk for 4 mins to **metro station Châtelet** and take **Metro 14** (Direction Mairie de Saint-Ouen, **Price for 1 Metro ticket = 2,10€**)
- Ride for 5 stops and **exit at station Porte de Clichy**
- **Walk for 12 mins** (1km) until you arrive at the hotel

Bus (1h 25): CDG T1 - Roissybus (Niveau Arrivé) take

- **Bus RoissyBus** (Direction Opera, **Price = 16,20€**)
- Exit at Opera and walk for 2 mins to **bus station Auer** Take **bus 20** (Direction Louison Bobet, **Price for 1 Bus ticket = 2,10€**)
- Ride for 11 stops and **exit at station Reims - Hôtel des Impôts**
- **Walk for 4 mins** until you arrive at the hotel

¹ <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A15396>
<https://www.ratp.fr/titres-et-tarifs/billet-aeroport#:~:text=%3A%20Aux%20guichets%20et%20aux%20automates,RATP%20ou%20par%20Carte%20Bancaire%20!>

Useful Information

- Hotel - Restaurant** Walk 6 mins until **bus station Alsace**
take **bus 341** (Direction Porte de Clignancourt - Croisset)
Ride for 3 stops and **exit Jaurès - Barbusse**
Walk for 2 mins until you reach the restaurant
- Restaurant - Hotel** Walk 3 mins to **bus station Jaurès - Barbusse**
Take **bus 341** (Direction Charles de Gaulle-Etoile)
Ride for 4 stops and **exit at station Porte d'Asnières - Marguerite Long**
Walk 2 mins until you reach the hotel

Important Phone Numbers

Elisabetta Fonck +32 473 64 67 46

Valerie Raskin +32 483 43 19 58

Pilar Ramos Carbonero +32 476 37 86 56

INFORMATION ONLY FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Charles de
Gaulle -
Europe
Experience**

Taxis: Fixed price Charles de Gaulle- Paris rive droite (includes District 17 where the hotel is situated)

Price: 55€

Bus (50 min): CDG T1 - Roissybus (Niveau Arrivé) take

- **Bus RoissyBus** (Direction Opera, **Price = 16,20€**)
- Exit at Opera
- **Walk for 7 mins** until you arrive at Europe Experience (28 Pl. de la Madeleine, 75008 Paris)

**Hotel -
Europe
Experience**

Taxis: No fixed prices, estimate for 4 km = 12€

Metro (20 min): **Walk 14 min** (1km) to **Porte de Clichy**

- Take **Metro 14** (Direction Olympiades, **Price = 2,10€**)
- Ride for 6 stops, **Exit at Madeleine**, in front of Europe Experience

Bus (30 min): **Walk 3 min** (190 m) to **Porte d'Asnières - Marguerite Long**

- Take **Bus 20** (Direction Porte des Lilas, **Price for 1 Bus ticket = 2,50€**)
- Ride for 9 stops
- **Exit at Havre - Haussmann**
- **Walk for 6 min** (450 m) until you arrive at Europe Experience

[1https://www.eurecab.com/cities/taxi-paris#:~:text=A%20Paris%2C%20le%20prix%20de,%2B%2039%2C02%E2%82%AC%2Fh](https://www.eurecab.com/cities/taxi-paris#:~:text=A%20Paris%2C%20le%20prix%20de,%2B%2039%2C02%E2%82%AC%2Fh)

**Europe
Experience -
Hotel**

Taxis: No fixed prices, estimate for 4 km = 12€

Metro (20 min): **Take Metro 14 (Direction Olympiades, Price = 2,10€)**

- Take **Metro 14** (Direction Mairie de Saint-Ouen, Price = 2,10€)
- Ride for 6 stops, **Exit at Porte de Clichy**
- **Walk 14 min (1km) to Hotel**

Bus (30 min): **Walk 7 min (450 m) to Havre - Haussmann**

- Take **Bus 20** (Direction Porte des Lilas, **Price for 1 Bus ticket = 2,50€**)
- Ride for 10 stops
- Exit at **Reims - Hôtel des Impôts**
- **Walk for 4 min (250 m)** until you arrive at the hotel

1 <https://www.eurecab.com/cities/taxi-paris#:~:text=A%20Paris%2C%20le%20prix%20de,%2B%2039%2C02%E2%82%AC%2Fh>