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# FRANCE'S INFLUENCE ON THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STAGES THROUGH THE PROMOTION OF CONTINENTAL LAW

Law, as an omnipresent entity, has become a major instrument of influence in a global context in which competition exceeds the boundaries of the economic and commercial spheres alone.

Continental law continues to be widely enforced in the world, but the expansion of the so-called Common Law Anglo-Saxon legal system has resulted in a decline in the French legal culture.

With a view to increasing its presence and gaining new ground on the European and international stages, our assembly emphasises the need to involve all public and private players in outlining a joint and methodical strategy for promoting continental law.

## ESEC RECOMMENDATIONS

### IMPLEMENTING AN APPROPRIATE AND AGGRESSIVE INFLUENCE STRATEGY

#### ➡ Sharing a common aim

Given the lack of coordination between the various players concerned, the ESEC would recommend the following:

- reinforcing the role of the State in managing and coordinating the various administrations at the instigation of the Prime Minister and strengthening interfaces between the Secretary-General for European Affairs and the Permanent Representation of France in Brussels;
- explicitly incorporating the legal aspect into the objectives of the Interministerial Delegation for Competitive Intelligence;

- involving all of the players concerned in a number of ways:
  - exceeding corporatist positions by encouraging legal professionals to work together and thus promoting associations of French practices;
  - raising awareness among companies of the importance of standards as a factor in innovation, competitiveness and development;
  - fully involving NGOs in the development and promotion of legal concepts and principles.

#### ➡ Strengthening our geographical presence

Our assembly recommends the following:

- intensifying our efforts to recover unstable ground, notably in Africa;
- a more aggressive presence in emerging countries.

*Continental law is in force in 13 of the top 20 global economies and governs two-thirds of the world's population.*



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### ➤ Promoting international cooperation through law

With this in mind, the ESEC considers the following to be essential:

- increasing the importance attributed to legal support and the promotion of our rules of law within developmental aid programmes;
- optimising our assistance by identifying legal fields in which to invest, the best possible arrangement of field missions, outlining an attractive recruitment policy for high-level legal professionals and pooling the resources of public and private operators;
- the appropriation of the legal issue by the Interministerial Committee on International Cooperation and Development and the National Council for Development and Solidarity;
- the search for effective coordination between bilateral cooperation initiatives implemented by France and programmes involving European bodies.

## STRENGTHENING FRANCE'S PRESENCE WITHIN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

To this end, the ESEC would prioritise the following:

- early identification of emerging issues;
- the importance of very preliminary work through strengthening our presence on the working committees that outline the rules of law and the standards of the future;
- outlining a recruitment policy through the creation of a pool of high-level legal experts supported by an updated mapping of the key positions up for renewal.

## ENHANCING FRANCE'S ATTRACTIVENESS THROUGH LAW

### ➤ Securing our law

For the purposes of guaranteeing the stability, legal certainty and non-retroactivity of texts and case law, it is essential that...

- the repercussions of legal modifications on the image our country portrays among foreign investors and on growth and employment prospects be taken on board;
- the decisions handed down by French courts be proven to be based on legal certainty, predictability and coherence.

### ➤ Reacting to international rankings by compiling alternative rankings at EU level

### ➤ Adapting the teaching of law to a globalised world

With regards to enhancing the appeal of our legal sectors within universities and developing the teaching of law in business and engineering schools and institutes for political studies, the ESEC would advocate the following:

- increasing the number of joint economics-law courses available at universities and reviewing our teaching methods with an emphasis on the practical aspect;
- undertaking a mass effort to promote 'open online courses';
- developing French legal training centres abroad;
- implementing a more aggressive policy regarding international partnerships between establishments and a visa application approval policy that is more favourable to the hosting of foreign students;
- giving new impetus to basic research initiatives in the field of law, notably through the creation of a pool of young researchers and an increase in the number of scientific publications

## PROMOTING FRENCH AND DEVELOPING THE USE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The ESEC would appeal for the following avenues of action to be pursued:

- working to ensure that linguistic diversity is respected within European and international bodies;
- developing the English-language training offering available in higher education establishments;
- facilitating access to official texts, works and scientific contributions by means of wider-reaching translation and foreign circulation programmes;
- supporting the learning of foreign languages and of English in particular from as young an age as possible.