



CONSEIL ECONOMIQUE  
SOCIAL ET ENVIRONNEMENTAL

The ESEC

Placing citizens  
at the heart  
of debate

## ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

The third constitutional assembly of the French Republic after the National Assembly and the Senate, the French Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC) represents key economic, social and environmental fields, promoting cooperation between different socio-professional interest groups and ensuring they are part of the process of shaping and reviewing public policy.

The ESEC has a major role to play in these times of economic, social and environmental change. **It advises the government and parliament, and participates in the development of economic, social and environmental policies.**

The Council is composed of public figures and representatives of the associative sector, employers and employees. Representing tens of millions of French citizens, the ESEC is at the heart of major social issues and develops new proposals relating to the key topics that will have an impact upon our lives today and tomorrow.

**Patrick Bernasconi**  
is the ESEC president  
since the  
1st december 2015

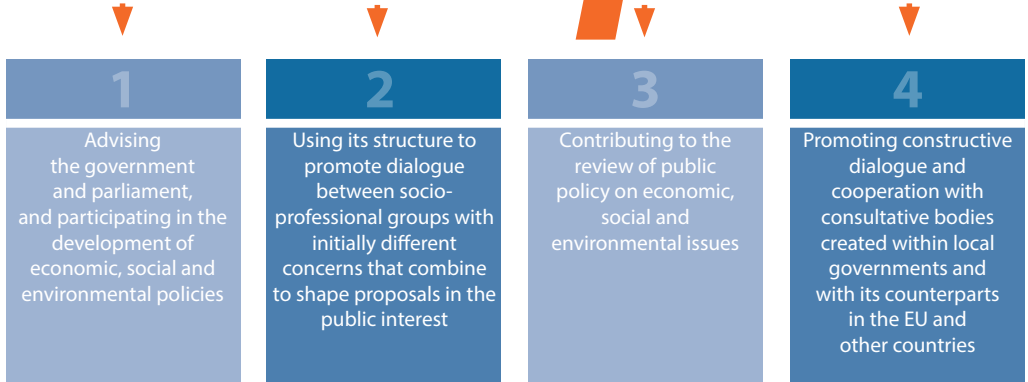
- 233 members
- 60 public figures
- 45,7 % of members are women
- 48 % of governance positions in the ESEC are held by women
- 18 groups
- 12 working groups
- a 5-year-term, renewable once

# A COMPOSITION REFLECTING THE DIVERSITY OF THE FRENCH SOCIETY



# 4

COUNCIL'S MAIN ROLES INVOLVE :



Appointed for **a term of five years**, renewable once, the 233 members are divided as follows :

## 140 members for economic matters & social dialogue, including

- 69 employee representatives
- 27 representatives for private industry, trade and services
- 20 representatives for farmers and agricultural activities
- 10 representatives for craft industry
- 4 representatives for liberal professions
- 10 qualified individuals chosen for their experience in economics, including two from public corporations and one representative of French economic interests abroad

## 60 members for social & territorial cohesion & community life, including:

- 60 members for social & territorial cohesion & community life, including:
- 8 representatives for the non agricultural areas of the economy based on mutuality, cooperation and solidarity
  - 4 representatives for mutual organisations and agricultural production and processing cooperatives;
  - 10 representatives for family associations
  - 8 representatives for other associations and foundations
  - 11 representatives for economic and social activities in French overseas departments and territories, including overseas communities and New Caledonia
  - 4 representatives for youth and students
  - 15 qualified individuals chosen for their experience in social, cultural, sports and scientific fields, in social housing, or in promoting the interests of disabled citizens and retirees

## 33 members for environmental & nature conservation

- 18 representatives of associations and foundations active in the field of environmental and nature conservation, hunting and fishing
- 15 qualified individuals chosen for their expertise in sustainable development and the environment, including at least three business leaders from companies highly active in these fields

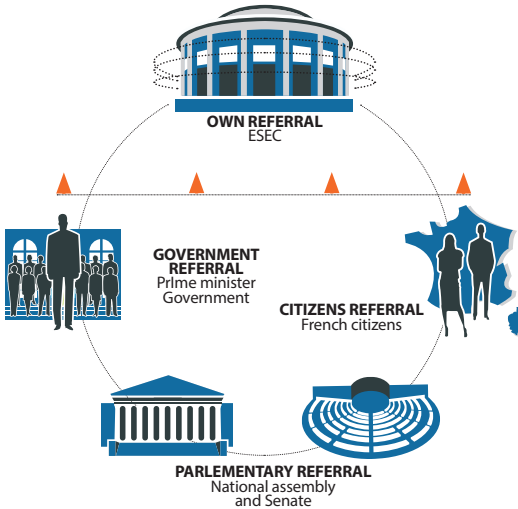
The French ESEC, established in 1936, was the world's first Economic and Social Council. Since then, almost 70 countries have instituted this type of assembly, which together form the AICESIS (International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions).

**MORE INFO**



# HOW THE ESEC WORKS ? From referral to publication

## Referral types



The members from the 18 groups are assigned to the 12 working groups: sections, delegations and temporary commissions, in charge of preparing the ESEC reports. The French government may request that public figures chosen based on their respective skills join one of the ESEC sections for a specific period and mission. These temporary members bring additional expertise to enhance the efforts of their respective working groups.

**MORE INFO**



## The ESEC working groups: nine sections and three delegations

### Section for Social affairs & Health

population growth, family, social security, health and healthcare facilities, prevention, loss of independence, solidarity, social action and exclusion.

### Section for Sustainable Management of Territories

decentralisation, regional development, land planning and organisation, local development, urban planning, housing, public facilities, transport, communications and tourism.

### Section for Environment

environmental protection and awareness, climate change, biodiversity, seas and oceans, energy transition, prevention, environmental risk management and remediation, and habitat quality.

**Delegation for Long-range Planning & Evaluation of Public Policies**

### Section for Labour and Employment

labour relations, employment policy, organisation, content and quality of work, mobility, working conditions and the rights of salaried and non-salaried workers, as well as vocational training and continuing education.

### Section for European & International Affairs

development aid and cooperation, bilateral and multilateral issues, international relations, population migration, European affairs and relations with international institutions and the European Union, and French-speaking countries.

### Section for Economic activities

raw materials, energy, industry, trade, craft industry, services, the social economy, manufacturing and consumption, consumer protection, research and development, technological innovation and competitiveness.

**Delegation for the Overseas**

### Section for Economy & Finance

economic and financial policies, the annual report on the state of France, distribution of and change in national income, economic and financial information, issues related to savings and loans, banking and insurance, public finances and taxes.

### Section for Agriculture, Fisheries & Food

agriculture, rural affairs, the social economy for agriculture, maritime fishing and aquaculture, forestry, food security and self-sufficiency, food processing industries and non-food agricultural production.

### Section for Education, Culture & Communication

initial training, guidance for and integration of young people, higher education and research, citizenship, access to rights, the information society and knowledge sharing, along with cultural, sports and leisure pursuits.

**Delegation for Women's Rights & Equal Opportunity**

## Referral process



On a defined subject approved by the Bureau, the working group elects one or several speakers who are in charge of organising and leading the debates.

Experts may bring their point of view to the members of the ESEC during special hearings.

Following all hearings, the working group prepares the text, discusses any amendments, and submits it to vote.

The speakers then present the text at the plenary session before it is submitted to the vote of the 233 members of the assembly.

Plenary sessions are held 4 times a month. The ESEC produces between 25 and 30 reports a year.

## THE PALAIS D'ÉNA: SEAT OF THE ESEC Auguste Perret's masterpiece

The Palais d'Éna, located in Paris' 16th arrondissement, is a monument inspired by classical architecture as seen in Athens's Parthenon. It was built in 1937 using primarily reinforced concrete, a very modern material at that time. The Palais d'Éna was designed by one of the most famous French architects of the 20th century: Auguste Perret, the artist known for having given reinforced concrete its prestige.



Auguste Perret proved that concrete could rival cut stone in terms of beauty and elegance. The Palais d'Éna is the emblematic example of Perret's style: majestic and sober. Auguste Perret's other masterpieces include the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris (1913) and the Church of Notre Dame du Raincy in Seine-Saint-Denis (1923). He also rebuilt the entire city centre of Le Havre in Normandy, which had been completely destroyed during the Second World War.

Photos credits : CESE ©Katrin Baumann, ©Benoît Fougeirol  
© Palais d'Éna, architecte Auguste Perret, UFSE, SAIIF



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