



REPORT ON MEASURES TO COMBAT DISCRIMINATION Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC

COUNTRY REPORT 2007

France

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State of affairs up to 29 February 2008

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INTRODUCTION

0.1 The national legal system

Explain briefly the key aspects of the national legal system that are essential to understanding the legal framework on discrimination. For example, in federal systems, it would be necessary to outline how legal competence for anti-discrimination Law is distributed between different levels of government.

Laws are the main source of rights in France. They may be proposed by the government (bills) or by the Parliament (proposed laws), which is made up of two chambers, the National Assembly and the Senate. Before a law is enacted by the President of the Republic, the Constitutional Council may, at the request of members of Parliament, verify its consistency with the Constitution. The effective implementation of enacted legislation also depends on the adoption by the Conseil d'Etat of secondary legislation such as decrees.

The jurisdictional order is made up of two branches:

- Administrative courts have jurisdiction over all administrative litigation. Their highest court is the Conseil d'Etat.
- Judicial courts have jurisdiction over criminal and private law. Their highest court is the Cour de cassation, which is made up of several Chambers among which the Civil Chamber for general private law, the social Chamber for labour law and the Criminal Chamber for criminal law.

France is traditionally a unitary state but it is becoming increasingly decentralised. It is divided into 22 regions, 100 departments and approximately 36 000 parishes:

Constituency:	Executive power:	Assembly:
Region	Regional prefect	Regional council
Department	Prefect	General council
Commune	Mayor	Local council.

The policies relating to the banning of discrimination are implemented above all by the Ministry of social affairs and labour, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Immigration and Integration. Certain local authorities, mostly departmental, also have an important role to play.

In private law, the general legal regime relating to discrimination is to be found in codified law i.e. the Labour Code (LC), the Penal Code (PC) and the Civil Code (CC), the Law no 2004-1486 of December 30, 2004 creating the HALDE and the Law no 2008-496 of May 16, 2008 implementing community law in the fight against discrimination (hereafter Law no 2008-496)¹. Administrative law, on the other end, is mostly jurisprudential, and based on the implementation of a formal theory of equality.

¹<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000423967&fastPos=1&fastReqId=54890450&categorieLien=cid&oldAction=rechTexte>



In addition, there is legislation which includes provisions prohibiting discrimination in specific areas, such as for example article L1110-3 of the Code of public health with respect to the right to medical assistance.

Since the abolition of slavery (1848) and of punishment by “civil death” (1854), French law has, in theory at least, considered all human beings to be equal in legal status and in dignity.

Historically, French legislation first considered racism and discrimination as aspects of freedom of expression and of the necessary legal restrictions thereto. A law of July 1, 1972 modified the law of July 29, 1881 on the freedom of the press by introducing aggravated penalties for racist speech or writing. Subsequent legislation has amended and enhanced this framework by clarifying its terms and extending its scope to acts as well as verbal utterances.

The key to the traditional French legal approach to racism and discrimination is a characteristic interpretation of the principle of equality in reference with an abstract universalistic framework, based on the philosophical principles envisaged as an aspect of statehood, nationhood, and citizenship². Since the Second World War, the long-standing abstract principle has been enshrined in a range of instruments, including the constitutions of 1946³ and 1958 and the major international human-rights conventions as incorporated into French law⁴, as well as comprehensive criminal penalties against racism and xenophobia. The resulting French approach has developed along two complementary lines: the condemnation of any reference to any concept of “origin” and the refusal to use criteria of “origin” for policy and administrative purposes⁵.

The French approach to discrimination relies heavily on the symbolism of criminal punishment, in which the perpetrators have, above all, violated the principle of human dignity. The emphasis put on criminal law is also related to institutional and procedural factors: the ability of a victim to obtain evidence is facilitated in criminal cases by the inquisitorial powers of the enquiring judge (juge d’instruction), whereas, as will be discussed later on, it may be very narrowly circumscribed in civil cases. Nonetheless, under the influence of European law, there is increasing interest in the civil law.

The broader principle of non-discrimination as applicable to administrative, civil and labour law, has been introduced more recently and largely derives from EC law. Initially incorporated in statute in 1982 on the occasion of the transposition of European directives relating to sex discrimination,⁶ it has been extended since 1998 to the whole range of labour law.

² As in other European countries, exceptions to this general principle can however be found in the former legal framework of colonialism. Cf. the 1996 report of the Conseil d’État, *Sur le principe d’égalité*, La Documentation française, 1998, p. 15

³ While the Constitution of 1946 has been abrogated, the general principles proclaimed in its preamble were explicitly incorporated into the Constitution of 1958, and remain an important source of constitutional law.

⁴ Mireille Delmas-Marty, *Libertés et droits fondamentaux*, Paris, 1996, p. 9-10..

⁵ The phrase “origin” covers what in other countries might be referred to as “identity” or “membership” (of, e.g., an ethnic or racial group) but interprets it in a rather different way. The underlying debate is of considerable sociological and legal significance but cannot be addressed here.

⁶ Article 1 of Law n° 82-689 of August 4 1982 (known as the Auroux Law) inserted in the Labour Code a new article L122-45, which prohibits disciplinary action against or dismissal of an employee on the grounds of “origin or ethnic, national or racial belonging [appartenance]”. Article 6 of Law n° 83-634 of July 13 1983, which related to the rights and duties of civil servants, restated the prohibition against distinctions between civil servants on the grounds of their “opinions (...) or ethnic belonging”. Law n° 83-635 of July 13 1983 transposed European Council directive 76/207/CEE relating to equal treatment at work of men and women.



However, the principle has only really had teeth since being recognized by the *Cour de Cassation* in the context of cases related to discrimination by employers against trade union members or representatives and to disputes about equal pay for equal work.

While equality and non-discrimination are, at a purely abstract and descriptive level, intimately related, the legal principle of non-discrimination is foreign to the French legal tradition and conflicts in some respects with the principle of equality as enshrined in French public law. The universalistic conception of equality is inseparable from the French conception of democracy, which affirms that the law, as the expression of the general will, should be identical for all and solely and exclusively authoritative with regard to the rights and duties of citizens. Such legal uniformity is, on this conception, the only effective bulwark against the despotism of some individual or section of the people. It follows that, with regard to access to public “dignities, positions, and employment”, no distinctions other than those of “capacity, virtue, and talent” are relevant⁷.

In French law, as interpreted by both the administrative and constitutional courts, rules are judged to meet the requirement of equality if they are the same for all. In theory, exceptions to the generality of the law are by their very nature illegal, and the principle of equality is exhaustively expressed by equality before the law.

Needless to say, French law includes a wide range of rules that define differential treatment for diverse circumstances. In particular, such distinctions are essential to the very nature of the welfare state, and they may also be based on public policy in a number of other areas. The relevant categories are, however, accepted only to the extent that they rely on neutral criteria devoid of identity content such as socio-economic considerations⁸. Specifically, no circumstances are considered to justify differential treatment on grounds of “race” or “origin”. In its case law, the Constitutional Council has recognized only the French people, without distinction of origin, “race” or religion, and the law has consistently refused to admit such criteria as legal categories⁹. Thus, no section of the French population may claim to be a “people”, a “minority”, or a “group”, with cultural or other rights attaching to such status, and cannot propose legal frameworks constructing such categories. The law grants to all individuals, and to their beliefs and allegiances, its uniform and impartial protection, but does so solely to them as individuals. For legal purposes, groups defined by such beliefs or allegiances simply do not exist.¹⁰

As a consequence, France has systematically rejected clauses in international conventions or declarations that imply that individuals should be granted rights on the basis of their membership to a minority, thus constituting a legal category on the basis of origin.

⁷ Cf. Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789, article VI

⁸ Gilles Pelissier, *Le principe d'égalité en droit public*, Paris, LGDJ, 1996 ; Conseil d'État, *Sur le principe d'égalité*, Paris, La Documentation française, 1996.

⁹ C.C. May 9, 1991, no. 91-290

¹⁰ In its Annual Report for 2001, the advisory Haut Conseil à l'intégration underlined the particular problems this creates for addressing or even identifying discrimination suffered by French citizens from the overseas departments and territories. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the problem is significant. See also the Conseil d'État's judgments of July and November 29 2002 voiding a ministerial instruction (circulaire) relating to bilingual Breton-French “immersion” teaching in Diwan schools (suits n° 248192 and 248204 brought by the Conseil national des groupes académiques de l'enseignement public).

As regards the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities drawn up by the Council of Europe, which commits signatory states to the recognition of national minorities, the *Conseil d'État* considered, in its advice to the government of July 6th 1995, that the Convention was incompatible with the Constitution¹¹.

The refusal to use the criteria of “origin” for legal purposes, on the basis of a “universalistic” conception of equality, naturally does not entail that such criteria are of no social significance. In recognizing and addressing racism and discrimination, French policy must therefore work within the differential categories that are judged to be legally and philosophically acceptable. It is as poor, young or old people, as women, as inhabitants of socially deprived areas, and so on, that the victims of racism and discrimination may benefit indirectly from programs that may, indeed, be defined with their specific concerns in mind. What is both legally impossible and socially unacceptable, on the other hand, is to design policies that explicitly target beneficiaries in terms of their “origin”, their “identity” or their “ethnic group”.

Much of the practical content of the legal principle of equality is to be found in administrative case law, where it serves to evaluate, in an ongoing and routine way, the full range of delegated legislation and administrative decisions. Administrative jurisprudence has developed historically around three dimensions of equality – with respect to taxation, access to public services, and public burdens and obligations – which, since 1946, have been constitutionalized as “general principles of law”.¹²

In France, since most of the legislation is transversal for all grounds of discrimination, cases are referred to as precedents whether or not they discuss issues related to the same ground of discrimination. There are very few cases on each ground. In addition, since 1995, the Social Chamber of the Court of cassation has begun to apply the shift in the burden of proof to discrimination cases related to trade union activities. Generally speaking, whether or not they apply EU law, they seldom refer to the EU directives. Moreover, many lower court cases are the first ones to apply the newly transposed legal regime and are therefore important for its construction, although their decisions still remain inconsistent.

The Labour Code has been re-codified, i.e. reorganised without modification, by the Law no 2004-1343 of December 9, 2004 and the reordering of its disposition is effective since May 1st, 2008. We will therefore systematically use the numbering of the new references of the Labour Code (hereafter LC) throughout this report.

0.2 State of implementation

List below the points where national law is in breach of the Directives. This paragraph should provide a concise summary, which may take the form of a bullet point list. Further explanation of the reasons supporting your analysis can be provided later in the report.

Has the Member State taken advantage of the option to defer implementation of Directive 2000/78 to 2 December 2006 in relation to age and disability?

¹¹ CE, Gen. Ass. July, 6, 1995, no. 357-466, www.conseil-etat.fr/avisag/357466.pdf

¹² Preamble of the Constitution of 1946, paragraph 1

- Directive 2000/43 was initially transposed by the Law no. 1006-2001 of November 16, 2001 (hereafter Law of November 16, 2001), the law of social modernization no 2002-73 of January 17, 2002 (hereafter Law of January, 17, 2002), the Law no 2004-1486 of December 30, 2004¹³ creating the specialised body – High Authority against discrimination and for equality- and completing transposition of directive 2000/43, (hereafter Law HALDE):
- Further to the Commission’s infringement procedure the Government has introduced before Parliament Law no 2008-496 relating to the adaptation of National Law to Community Law in Matters of Discrimination (hereafter Law no 2008-496)¹⁴, completing transposition of Directives 2000/43, 2000/78, 2002/73, 2004/113 and 2006/54 :
- This Law completes the transposition of the directives and amends the Labor Code, the Law of July 3rd 1983 no 83-634 on the rights and obligations of civil servants and the Penal Code.
- However, the the Law of July 3rd 1983 no 83-634 on the rights and obligations of civil servants states at article 3 that, in conformity with article 64 of the Constitution of 1958, it does not cover the status of Magistrates who are not considered as civil servants. Ordonnance no 58-1270 of December 22, 1958 regulates the rules applicable to both prosecution and state magistrates and judges on the bench. Public agents working within parliament are as well not subject to the Law no 83-634 and are also governed by application of article 3 of the Law by separate in-house rules of parliament. These texts have not been amended to implement directive 2000/78 and do not foresee any protection against discrimination on any grounds.
- The definition of direct discrimination still does not include the possibility to proceed by way of hypothetical comparison. It appears not to comply with the directive.
- It extends the definition of discrimination to instructions to discriminate and to harassment without requiring repeated acts (Article 1).
- The definition of the burden of proof only requires in defence that defendant establish that the decision is objective and non discriminatory, and does not require that defendant establish proportionality and necessity, which seems to be in breach of the directive.
- It extends the protection of the law against discrimination in relation to affiliation and membership in a trade union or professional organisations, to access to employment, to access to the professions, to non-salaried workers, to all grounds prohibited by the directives (article 2 and 5) in the private and public sectors for all article 13 EC grounds.
- It completes the framework of the protection against reprisals for all article 13 EC grounds (article 3). However, this definition provides no indication as to the applicable burden of proof and seems to remain inadequate.
- Whereas in former legislation the French State had not prevailed itself of the possibility to provide for exceptions based on professional requirements, except on the ground of age, it adds a paragraph to the Labor Code that allows a characteristic based upon any of the prohibited grounds to be presented as a professional requirement as long as “*its objective be legitimate and the requirement be proportionate*” (article 6).

¹³ <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/PFECT.htm>

¹⁴ http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/13/dossiers/lutte_discriminations.asp



In relation to disability, transposition has been completed by the Law no 2005-102 of February 11, 2005¹⁵. The law translates the terms “reasonable accommodation” by those of “all necessary measures” (*mesures nécessaires*).

The obligation to provide reasonable accommodations, defined at Article L 5213-6 of the LC does not find application in reference to the situation of a person meeting the general definition of disability at article L114 of the Code of Social Welfare (CSW), but subject to the additional requirement that the disabled worker form part of the group targeted by the employers’ “quota obligation of employment” and be listed in article L5212-13 LC. The scope of the right to reasonable accommodation has not been amended by Law no 2008-496, it therefore benefits only to employees who have received from official recognition, a status of disabled workers, to those who have suffered from an employment accident procuring a disability superior to 10% and who receive compensation in relation thereto, to beneficiaries of disability pensions and to disabled veterans. Therefore, non registered disabled people, non salaried disabled workers and disabled persons who are members of the professions are still not covered by the obligation of reasonable accommodation.

- With respect to the status of the army, France has prevailed itself of the exception of article 3 (4) of directive 2000/78 allowing derogation concerning criteria based on age and disability.
- The age discrimination requirements of directive 2000/78 have been implemented by the general legal regime of the Labor Code and the Penal Code, thus covering salaried workers and non salaried activities. It is also addressed in Law no 2008-496 discussed above, thereby benefiting from all legislative improvements. In addition, at article 6 Law no 2008-496 introduces precisions as to what are, in the Labour Code, authorized differential treatments based on age, by imposing a requirement of proportionality and by providing a list of examples of what are objective and reasonable objectives, such as the health and safety of workers, unemployment compensation, access to the workforce.
- As discussed in section 4.7.1 b), the Law no 2005-846 of July 26, 2005 was adopted in order to habilitate Government to adopt emergency measures for employment by way of Governmental Decree¹⁶, and was followed by many Executive orders: the first one, no 2005-901 of August 2nd, 2005 revisits conditions of access to public employment and abolishes age limitations except in limited cases that appear to comply with the requirements of the Mangold case (see section 4.7.1).

0.3 Case-law

Provide a list of any important case-law within the national legal system relating to the application and interpretation of the Directives. This should take the following format:

- a) Name of the court
- b) Date of decision and reference number (or place where the case is reported). If the decision is available electronically, provide the address of the webpage.

¹⁵ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/SMEAX.htm

¹⁶ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SOCX0500142L



- c) Name of the parties
- d) Brief summary of the key points of law (no more than several sentences. Please describe trends and patterns in cases brought by Roma and Travellers, and provide figures – if available).

→ Please use this section not only to update, complete or develop last year's report, but also to include information on important and relevant case law concerning the equality grounds of the 2 Directives, even if it does not relate to the legislation transposing them (e.g. if it concerns previous legislation unrelated to the transposition of the Directives)

For reasons explained in the introduction, we have selected the landmark decisions in matters related to the burden of proof, both in civil and criminal cases, and recent decisions that cover new grounds. Other leading cases relating to other issues are discussed in the rest of this report. Please note that while this list only highlights some of the recent developments, it is not exhaustive of jurisprudential developments on all grounds of discrimination in France or of developments in 2007.

General principles:

Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, March 28, 2000, no. 1027 P+B Fluchère, Dick and CFDT c./ SNCF

In matters related to discrimination on the ground of trade union activities, after having established unequal treatment of the trade union representative in the pursuit of his career over thirty years, the employer has the burden to establish that the difference in situation is attributable to objective elements unrelated to any discrimination. The court has the burden of verifying the conditions of the alleged discrimination by analysing the comparative career evolution of plaintiff and other comparable workers and the burden of proof is not entirely attributable to the employee.

Court of Cassation, Criminal Chamber, June 14, 2000, no 2792, 99-108, CFDT Interco www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=CASS&nod=CXRXAX2000X06X06X00226X000

In matters related to discrimination on the ground of trade union activities, the offence of discrimination may be established by comparative evidence and the judge must investigate the comparative situation of the employee with that of others. In addition, the burden of proof may be discharged even if discrimination is not the only motive of the decision taken against an employee.

Court of Appeal, Montpellier, March 25, 2003, no 0200504, IBM c. Buscail

The Court decided that the Defendant could not argue the insufficiency of the Plaintiff's evidence if he didn't communicate the documents ordered by the Court. The corollary consequence of the right to have access to the evidence between the hands of the opposing party is that failure to comply transfers the burden of proof on the Defendant.



Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, November 28, 2000, Harba, Dr. Soc. 2001, 315

www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=CASS&nod=CXCXAX2000X11X05X00395X000

First case implementing the protection of witnesses against employer victimization further to taking action for discrimination, on the basis of article L123-5 LC (new Article L1144-3 LC) protecting against victimization in cases related to discrimination on the ground of sex.

TGI Montauban, 3 mai 2002, no 02-00171, Mairie de Montauban c. George C. et al.

In this context, the town of Montauban, which had provided the Roma population with an insalubrious and dangerous site, was refused an injunction by the local Court to expel them from a sporting facility that they had subsequently occupied. The Court ruled that it is the local authority that was responsible for the public disorder it complained of, by failing to meet its obligation to provide a camping area compatible with proper living conditions. The right to decent housing is a constitutional principle, which is regarded as constitutive of the protection of human dignity.

Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, March 15, 2005, no 02-43.616, Renault c. Morange, Dictionnaire permanent social, 4114, Bulletin 814.

www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=CASS&nod=CXCXAX2005X03X05X00089X000

Article L122-45 LC (new Article 1132-1LC) provides for an action requesting the annulment of all discriminatory decisions and indemnification of discriminatory career progressions over a long period of time. Since according to article L143-14 LC (new Article L3245-1) actions for loss of wages are subject to a time limitation of five years, the question arose as to the time limitation applicable to actions for discrimination requesting damages for loss of wages. In this case the Court expressly decided for the application of the thirty years common law time limitation period for contractual damages. Further to this interpretation of the limitation period by the courts, there is an ongoing attempt by Parliament to bring the limitation period back to five years (Bill no 432, article 1 relating to article 2224 of the Civil Code)

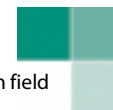
Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, February 16, 2005, no 02-43402,

www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=CASS&nod=CXCXAX2005X02X05X00434X002

In France during the probation period, the decision to interrupt the labour contract is discretionary and does not require justifying cause. However, in this case France's highest court decided that this discretionary power did not obviate the obligation of the employer to abide by the non-discrimination principle. Therefore, the Court decided that Article L122-45 LC (new Article 1132-1LC) prohibiting dismissal for discriminatory reasons was applicable to the probation period and that in this case the employer had dismissed the employee for discriminatory reasons based on a prohibited ground, his health.

Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, 9 January, 2007, no 05-43962

The Cour de cassation found for the first time indirect discrimination. In this case, relating to the calculation of wages in a situation of annualised working time where the employee was on sick leave for the period during which employees were called upon to work more. The Court concluded that defendant's interpretation of the collective agreement constituted indirect discrimination on the ground of health. Neither Plaintiff nor Defendant argued indirect discrimination.



In this case, the Court concluded that the chosen method of calculation is apparently neutral and is not in itself discriminatory, but that “it constitutes a measure with an adverse indirect impact by reason of the health of the employee”. The Court did not limit itself to the consideration of the intention of the parties but also looked at the resulting effect of the chosen interpretation of the agreement.

Constitutional Council no 2007-557 DC, November 15, 2007

<http://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/decision/2007/2007557/2007557dc.htm>

Government introduced legislation to regulate data collection in research relating to the measure of discrimination and origin. It did so by way of an amendment to the bill relating to the control of Immigration and Asylum. Article 63 of the law amended article 8 section II and article 25 section I of the Law of January 6, 1978 on Data Collection in order to allow the collection of personal data “showing, directly or indirectly, the racial or ethnic origin” of persons, for the purpose of studies under the supervision of the CNIL (Commission on Data Collection and the Protection of Personal Data). This provision was adopted and, challenged by the opposition before the Constitutional Council. The Council strikes the provision on the technical ground that it is a legislative rider, i.e. an amendment unrelated to the subject matter of the legislation under discussion. However, it further declares that studies relating to the diversity of origin, discrimination and integration could be based on objective information but that ethnic origin and race are not objective concepts and are contrary to Article 1 of the Constitution. This case is considered to prohibit the subjectivity of the concept of origin but does not close the door to studies which are currently being carried out on the basis of the parents’ nationality or native language.

Conseil d’Etat, December 18, 2007, no 310837

By ministerial instruction of September 28, 2007, the Minister of Foreign Affairs gave the faculty to consulate and diplomatic authorities to refuse to register community of life partnerships (PACS) between French and foreigners, thereby preventing these couples from prevailing themselves of attached spousal residential rights in France, on the ground that same sex couples were prohibited by law in certain countries and the fact that the registration of the PACS would put the concerned persons at risk. The Conseil d’Etat quashed this ministerial instruction on the ground that the alleged risks were more related to community of life than to the registration of the partnership and that the institution of a differential practice according to whether the two spouse were of French nationality or one was of foreign nationality, would be contrary to the principle of equality.

Age:

Conseil d’Etat, no 278105, 25/04/2006, Avenir Naviguant

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=JADE&nod=JGXAX2006X04X00000278105>

The NGO Avenir attacked decree no 2004-1427 of December 23, 2004 limiting on flight service of plane service personnel to the age of 55 years old, alleging discrimination on the ground of age on the basis of Directive 2000/78. The Conseil d’Etat dismissed this claim concluding that the underlying elements of expertise filed before the Court justified age limitations on the basis of the specific job description and its fitness requirements.



Conseil d'Etat, no 268130, 01/03/2006, Syndicat parisien des administrations centrales économiques et financières

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=JADE&nod=JGXAX2006X03X00000268130>

The Union of central administration attacked the age limitation for access to the internal recruitment competition to access The National School of Administration (ENA) set by decree no 20043-313 of March 29, 2004.

The Conseil d'Etat decided that this age limitation met the requirements of the exception foreseen at Article 6 of the Law no 83-684 regarding rights and obligations of public agents of July 13, 1983 which foresees that conditions of age can be determined in order to insure that training is followed by sufficient years of service and career perspectives in senior functions requiring sufficient experience.

HALDE Deliberation no 2006-53 of March 27, 2006

The HALDE recommends to a recruiting agent with a website to eliminate the field “date of birth” in the registration forms of the candidates.

HALDE Deliberation no 2006-60 of April 3, 2006

The HALDE considers that the conditions of a pension scheme cannot justify the age limitation for hiring maintained by the Paris public transport corporation (RATP). The same recommendations were made to the Public electricity corporation (EDF) and the public train corporation (SNCF) in Deliberations no 2006-62.

Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, December 12, 2006, no 05-4486

The forced retirement of an employee on the basis of age when he or she has not enough contribution to be entitled to full pension, is a dismissal based on age prohibited by Article L122-45-2 (new Article 1133-1LC) of the Labour Code.

HALDE Deliberation no 2007-306 of November 11, 2007

Plaintiff's job application was rejected because he was not junior. For a job profile requiring a duly trained professional, it is not possible to exclude applications by stipulating a limited number of years of experience which correspond to the minimal experience of a confirmed professional. The HALDE recommends that all references to experience be defined by level of competence and that it be strictly justified in relation to the job profile.

Origin:

Court of Cassation, Criminal chamber, June 27 1997, Bull. Crim. 1997 no 253 p. 864

In reference to accusations of provocation to discriminate, the terms “Invaders”, those occupying the land and disrespectful and “toxic foreigners” generate a feeling of aggression and intend to produce a feeling of hatred or acts of discrimination against immigrants considered as a group of persons who are not part of the French community. Foreigners living in France when they are targeted because they are not part of the French community constitute a group of persons according to Article 24 (6) of the Law on the press of July 29, 1881.



CE, 30 octobre 2001, no 204909, Association française des sociétés financières.

www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=JADE&nod=JGXAX2001X10X0000004909

The Conseil d'Etat heard an action for judicial review of a deliberation of the National Commission on Data Collection and the Protection of Personal Data, CNIL, of December 22, 1998, which forbade, on grounds of discrimination, the use of a person's nationality as a criterion in credit assessments. The Conseil d'Etat struck down the CNIL's decision on the grounds that, so long as nationality was merely one element in an automatic calculation that was not in itself determinative of a credit decisions made by a financial institution, the criteria of nationality was not discriminatory under the terms of article 13 TUE and the Criminal Code.

Nationality may be relevant as to the likelihood of a debtor leaving the country and, as a result, failing to repay a loan. It is therefore an admissible criterion and applicants for a loan may lawfully be required to provide it.

Conseil d'Etat, 30/ 11/ 2002, no 212179, 212211 DIOP,

The Conseil d'Etat granted the request for judicial review of pensions arrangements of a Senegalese former Army Sergeant-Major on the grounds that the relevant Law of 1961 was discriminatory. The Conseil d'Etat found, not only that nationality is an inappropriate consideration on which to base a difference in pension calculation, but furthermore that "if the objective of French law was to draw the consequences from the independence of the former colonies and their distinct development, the difference of treatment thus created cannot be regarded as based on a criterion consistent with the objective, and that the provisions are therefore inconsistent with article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights".

Cour de Cassation, Chambre sociale 10/12/2002, no 0042158, X c/ Institut Goethe,

www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=CASS&nod=CXCXAX2002X12X05X00373X000

Discrimination based on nationality -differential remuneration of EU citizens working in France- all employees must receive the same remuneration regardless of citizenship and origin.

CA Paris 17/10/2003 / appel de TGI Paris 22/11/2002, DO juillet 2003 p.284, Affaire « Moulin Rouge » SOS Racisme et Marega c/ Beuzit et Association du Moulin

The evidence introduced before the Court was based on the results of an investigation by a Labour Inspector, which showed that the table and bar staff were 97% European whereas "colored" workers were numerous in the kitchens, and on a taped telephone conversation in which the manager stated that "colored" staff were not hired for table and bar service. The Paris Criminal Court found that illegal discrimination leading to a racist management of the workforce had been established.

Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, June 2, 2004, no 02-45269, Sté Pavillon Montsouris c. X. and Sté Spot Image

An employee pronouncing racist insults against a subordinate or addressing an electronic email to his employer containing anti-Semitic menaces and insults necessarily commits a wrongful act generating a real and serious reason for dismissal.



T.A. Paris, March 16, 2005, no 0502805/9

www.gisti.org/doc/actions/2005/bnf/arret.html

The Court decides that article L312-1 of the Monetary and Financial Code, defining the conditions of the right to a bank account, does not foresee the obligation to prove legal residence in France before opening a bank account. Therefore, the Banque de France cannot refuse the right to open a bank account to illegal and non resident non nationals.

Conseil d'Etat, no 274664, 18/07/2006, GISTI

Comment : AJDA n° 33, 09/10/2006, p. 1833-1838

http://www.conseil-etat.fr/ce/jurispd/index_ac_ld0636.shtml

The Conseil d'Etat annuls Articles 4 and 5 of the decree of August 27, 2004 modifying the decree of May 27, 1999 and Article 2 of the decree of August 27, 2004 which condition the right to be elected and to vote in the Chamber of trade to being holder of French citizenship of a country of the European Union.

Cass. Civ. no 04-30837, 14/09/2006, Caisse d'allocations familiales du Gard

Comment: Semaine Juridique Social n° 41, 10/10/2006

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=CASS&nod=CXCXAX2006X09X02X00308X037>

The court confirms the right to family benefits for foreign children under the care of a person legally residing on the French territory, in this case, plaintiff was a legal foreign resident, his nephews were of Moroccan nationality and under his care.

HALDE Deliberation no 2006-192 of September 18 2006

The texts regulating access to the reduction card for families of three children or more set a condition of French nationality. The HALDE concludes that this constitutes indirect discrimination contrary to Directive 2000/43 and recommends its amendment to government.

CA Grenoble, no 06/0053, 08/11/2006, DEZEMPTTE, BOYER c. GHEZZAL

The Court of Appeal confirms the decision condemning the Mayor for discrimination in access to goods and services because he had abused his right to prevent the acquisition of a house by Mr GHEZZAL by reason of the origin of the buyer.

TGI Paris, no 0527808779, 16/11/2006, MRAP, ADIB c. TESSIAU

A landlord is condemned to a 3000€ fine for having refused to rent an apartment because the prospective tenant was not of French nationality. Article 225-1 PC prohibits discrimination by reason of nationality.

Court of cassation, criminal chamber, 28 November 2006, no 06-81060

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=CASS&nod=CXXRXAX2006X11X06X00294X000>

Public prosecution failed to criminally prosecute the landowner and the Mayor on the basis of the prosecution's discretion to prosecute. The victim chose to take advantage of his right to institute direct criminal proceedings (citation directe) exclusively against the Mayor. The Town Mayor was accused by the victim of having intervened towards the seller in order to prevent the sale of the land on the ground that there were already too many Romas, thereby committing discrimination in access to goods and services under article 225-2 PC.



The Court decided that the fact that the state itself had not prosecuted the landowner who refused to sell had no bearing on the constitutive elements of the offence and the criminal liability of the person (Mayor), who, by his own actions, made himself accomplice to this refusal to sell. The Mayor was convicted of discrimination by a person in public power (Article 432-7 PC) to a three month suspended prison sentence, one year ineligibility to hold or be elected to public office (which entails that his present elected mandate is revoked and that he is prevented to run for election for the post of Mayor).

HALDE Deliberation no 2007-114 of May 14, 2007

Job offers referring to linguistic abilities should refrain from making reference to competence in terms of “mother” language since this refers explicitly to a person’s origin, and substitute to such wordings neutral and objective appreciations of skills such as beginner, functional, fluent etc...without referring in the description to a person’s origin.

HALDE Deliberation no 2007-308 of November 26, 2007

The exam papers of candidates of Overseas territories to entry examinations to a number of Higher education institutions received inferior marks in comparison to overall averages. The enquiry revealed that they were corrected separately and that they arrived after the meeting of the commission harmonizing correction standards. In one case, plane tickets were paid to an agent to bring the copies in order to integrate them to the common correction session, and the results significantly improved. The HALDE therefore recommended that this experiment be set as a standard for all such examinations.

Religion:

CE April 14th 1995, Consistoire central des israélites de France, Mr Koen, (2 arrêts) Recueil Lebon page 169, Dalloz 1995, jur. page 481, note Koubi G.

This case concerns the applicability of children’s obligation to attend school when their religion requires worship on a day other than Sunday. In this case, the Conseil d’Etat has given priority to the protection of freedom of worship, arguing that compulsory school attendance is not intended to, and may not lawfully “deny to pupils who request it such individual leave of absence as may be necessary for worship or celebration of a religious festival, at least in so far as their absence is compatible with performance of the tasks entailed by their studies and with the maintenance of public order (ordre public) in the school”.

Cour de Cassation 3^{ème} Chambre civile 18/12/2002 no 01-00519, X c. Société d’investissement et de gestion de la Caisse centrale de réassurance

www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=CASS&nod=CXCXAX2002X12X03X00262X000

The installation of an electrical digicode to open the door to a housing building, to the exclusion of any key or mechanical device, does not violate the freedom of worship of people who, for religious reasons, cannot use electricity on Saturday and religious holidays. Religious practice does not create underlying contractual obligations under a lease unless the contract contains an express clause providing for accommodation of the lessee’s demands. No reference was made to the concept of reasonable accommodation in the Court’s analysis.

CA Paris 19/06/2003, Dallila Tahri c/ Téléperformance France – Appeal from the Conseil de Prud’hommes (Labour Court of Paris) 17/12/2002, RG n°0203547. An employee dismissed for refusing to take out her Islamic scarf obtained, on the basis of L122-45LC (new Article 1132-1 LC), the annulment of her dismissal and damages amounting to wages for the entire period, as well as moral damages and reintegration in her employment.

Administrative Court of Appeal of Paris, 19/07/2005, Chamber no 1, section A, jurisdata no 2005-282552

The administrative Court of Appeal of Paris considered that there is no discrimination on ground of religion when a student who carries a Sikh turban is expelled from school. Indeed, the Law of March 15, 2004 prohibits the wearing of external religious signs

T.A. Bordeaux, July, 20, 2005, no 0502605, Ali MERDJA

The refusal by the Prefect to renew the accreditation of a youth support association and its members on the basis of its educators’ involvement in Muslim religious organizations, is a violation of freedom of conscience and the Court orders the Prefect to review his decision.

HALDE Deliberation 2005-25 of September 19, 2005

A driving school admitted to having refused to register a woman to driving lessons because she refused to remove her Islamic veil in the teacher’s car. The High Authority concluded that this was an express violation of the principle of non discrimination on religious grounds and transmitted the file to the Public prosecution for action before the penal Court. The prosecution was dismissed by both the Criminal court and the Criminal court of appeal. The case has been submitted to the Cour de Cassation by the Minister of Justice.

HALDE Deliberation 2005-26 of September 19, 2005

The Bank of France refused access to the premises to people wearing a Sikh Turban on account of security directives taken in application of the anti-terrorist directives, prohibiting indiscriminately in very vague terms “*suspicion related to a person’s garments, the guard can ask a person to remove any head covering garment or accessory covering totally or partially a person’s face*” (our translation). The HALDE decided that by referring indiscriminately to religious and non religious garments, these instructions did not take into account the specificity of the latter, i.e. that a person cannot normally be asked to remove religious garments if freedom of religion will be respected. In the absence of a law, security measures must respect a principle of proportionality that conforms to freedom of religion. The HALDE asked the Bank of France to review its policy and the Banque de France reported back on December 27, 2005 to have changed its security instructions, allowing for identification without reference to the presence or not of religious garments.

Conseil d’Etat no 264464, December 7, 2005

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=JADE&nod=JGXAX2005X12X00000264464>

Plaintiff was denied access to the Consulate and therefore could not file her request for a visa, because she refused to momentarily remove her Islamic veil during security checks upon entering the French Consulate in Marrakech. The Conseil d’Etat decided that the right to wear the Islamic veil can be subject to restrictions in the interest of public order, and that a request for momentary removal of the Islamic veil for security control purposes is a proportionate restriction pursuing a legitimate aim. The European Court of Human Rights dismissed plaintiffs recourse (ECHR no 15585/06 March 8, 2008, EL MORSLI).



HALDE Deliberation 2006-131 of June 5 2006

Claimant was excluded of the citizenship ceremony organised by the Ministry of Interior, because she refused to remove her veil to enter the premises. The HALDE concluded to discrimination by the public service, reiterating that the duty of neutrality is strictly limited to civil servants and not opposable to citizens in their relations with the state in the absence of a law. The HALDE requested that the Minister of Interior reiterate express instructions stating the right of access to state services of persons wearing religious garments. An administrative instruction was delivered by the Minister in July 2006.

HALDE Deliberation 2006-132 of June 5 2006

Claimant was expelled by the tribunal of a Court hearing for public adjudication, because he was wearing a Sikh Turban. The HALDE's inquiry revealed the absence of an administrative instruction of the Minister of Justice on the issue. The HALDE stressed that each person has a right to wear religious garments in the Court house and concluded to discrimination by public agents, requesting that the Minister of Justice issue clear instructions to his judicial services in this regard. The Minister of Justice issued internal ministerial instructions, addressed to the President of the Cour de Cassation, the general inspector of judicial services, the presidents of all levels of judicial courts and the Director of the national school of magistrates, on November 17, 2006 reiterating the requirements of freedom of conscience and the right of citizens to appear before the court wearing religious garments, as long as this dress complies with the requirements of decency and public order.

TGI Créteil no 0603200504, 14/06/2006, Mme Boutaina Benkirane c/ Centre universitaire de formation par l'apprentissage Sup 2000

A post secondary training centre is condemned to a fine of 2000€ and damages in the amount of 10 000€ for having refused access to classes starting September 2005 to a young woman because she was wearing the Islamic veil. The Law no 2004-228 of March 15, 2004 is not applicable to post secondary training centres as they are not primary or secondary public schools.

Conseil d'Etat no 289947, March 6, 2006 no 289947, 06/03/2006, Association United Sikhs, M. Shingara Mann Singh c/ Ministère des Transports

http://www.conseil-etat.fr/ce/jurispd/index_ac_ld0609.shtml

The Ministerial order of the Minister of transport no 2005-80 of December 6, 2005 requires for the issuance or renewal of a driver's licence, that the photograph identifying the driver be taken "*de face et tête nue*" (in face and without head garment or any exterior element covering the driver's head, whether a scarf, turban or hat). It was challenged by the United Sikhs Association before the Conseil d'Etat. The Court decided that Article 9 of the European of Human Rights Convention, relating to freedom of religion, combined to Article 14, relating to the principle of non-discrimination, foresee that the freedom they aim to protect can be subject to restrictions set out in the interest of public safety and protection of public order. This requirement, that aims to protect against fraud and forgery by allowing an identification as thorough as possible, was not deemed disproportionate to its legitimate objective.



Cour administrative d'appel de Paris, 19 juillet 2005, ch.1 section A, no JurisData : 20005-282552

On July 19, 2005 the administrative Court of Appeal of Paris considered that there is no discrimination on the ground of religion when a student who carries a Sikh turban is expelled from public school. Indeed, the Law no 2004-228 of March 15, 2004 prohibits the wearing of ostentatious religious signs in public school. The Sikh Turban is a garment which is objectively religious and apparent, and that is therefore prohibited by the Law of March 15, 2004.

Conseil d'Etat, no 304053, 30/03/2007,

Refusal by a City Mayor to rent a municipal room to the local association of Jehovah's Witnesses on the ground that the city's tariffs are more favourable than that of private rental rooms and that such an advantage could be perceived as a subsidy to a cult contrary to the Law on the Secularity of the State of December 9, 1905. The Conseil d'Etat concludes that the refusal to rent is discriminatory and a serious violation to the freedom to reunite and associate.

HALDE Deliberation no 2007-117 of May 14, 2007

The exclusion of mothers of elementary public school students from participating to the supervision in special out of school visits, for wearing a head scarf, is a discrimination on the basis of religion and should be forbidden by way of ministerial instruction. The rule of secularity in no way applies to parents of public school students, and imposing restrictions to parents on the basis of a religious dress code is a violation of the freedom of religion guaranteed by the Constitution.

HALDE Deliberation 2007-210 of September 3, 2007

Is not a violation of freedom of religion, the refusal to admit a mother wearing a Niqab in a children's hospital reanimation ward. Since her presence might disturb waking sick young children, such limitation is reasonable considering that she was offered to assist her child in a separate room.

Conseil d'Etat, n° 285394, 05/12/2007, M. Singh

A student was excluded for wearing a Sikh Turban within the school. The Conseil d'Etat confirms that the turban is forbidden by the law on the basis of the principle of secularity in public schools and confirms the prohibition to wear ostensible religious signs, whatever the behaviour of the student.

Sexual orientation:

Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, April 17, 1991, Association Fraternité Sainte Pie

The dismissal of a Catholic Church employee by reason of his homosexuality is abusive if there is no evidence of fault or of a substantial disturbance to the community. The Court refused to consider any argument of principle opposing faith and homosexuality as a legitimate occupational conflict. In matters related to faith, the rule is that the behaviour of the employee must be provocative and generate a functional problem. This case is further discussed in the report (section 4.2).



HALDE Deliberation 2006 249 of November 20, 2006

In France same sex couples can officialise their union through a civil contract named PACS which gives rise to patrimonial rights and obligations comparable to those of married couples to mutual representation for all expenses and financial obligations of daily life. However, married couples can delegate their spouse to represent the couple on the board of a housing co-ownership corporation but not couples tied by a PACS. Since couples of same sex do not have access to marriage but only to the PACS this constitutes indirect discrimination. In this context the High Authority has recommended to the Ministers of Justice and of Housing to justify this distinction and in the absence of justification to amend the law in order to allow the mutual mandate of spouses on the board of co-ownership corporations to apply couples bound by a PACS.

HALDE Deliberation 2007-203 of September 3rd, 2007

Social security denied paternity leave to the same sex spouse of the mother of the child because she was not the father. However, the authorities managing family rights and national taxation authorities recognize the couple and the child as a family unit and therefore the mother was not allowed to increased allocations benefiting to single mothers. The HALDE alerted the Prime Minister to the inconsistencies of appreciation and asked that they be resolved in the context of the upcoming reforms on parental rights.

Nancy Court of Appeal, January 24, 2008 no 07NC00335

The Regional school authorities refused to certify an association dedicated to raising public awareness on homophobia that requested to be on list of NGOs authorised to give presentations in schools, on the ground that it did not pursue a discourse of public interest but rather the promotion of a specific community. The Administrative Court of Appeals quashed this decision on the ground that it was illegal considering homophobia is a matter of public interest combated by law.

Disability:

C.A. Paris, March 14, 2005, no 200108355, SNCF c. Thetier

The Plaintiff was disabled and needed to travel with an electric respiratory device. He informed the SNCF agent of this at the time of booking his train tickets in order to be seated near an electrical plug. This request was not taken into consideration and the Plaintiff had to travel in the lavatory. In the absence of a civil recourse in damages for discrimination in access to goods and services, the Plaintiff had to sue for contractual liability under article 1142 of the Civil Code and was awarded 2000€ in damages.

T.G.I Paris, 17th Chamber, June 28, 2005, no 0402608235, Poncelet c. Lassailly

The Defendant admitted to having refused to rent an apartment because of Plaintiff's disability and argued that this decision was justified because the apartment was on an upper floor and the elevator was not reliable. The Court concluded that the Defendant could not substitute her own appreciation of the reasonableness of the situation for that of the Plaintiff and condemned the Defendant to a fine under Article 225-2 of the PC.



C.A. Poitiers, September 1st, 2005, no 419/05, Association des paralysés de France c. Société Hellucha

The Defendant refused to sell cinema tickets to people in a wheel chair for safety reasons. After having failed to negotiate the installation of an access ramp to the Defendant's Movie theatre, the Plaintiff association asked a bailiff to certify the state of the installations and filed a criminal complaint. The Court decided that unless the Defendant demonstrated the technical impossibility of installing means of access to the theatre, or its disproportionate cost, the present condition of the premises did not constitute an acceptable ground of defence, since the file shows that the failure to install means of access was driven by a policy not to bother other clients with the presence of wheelchairs on the premises. The Court condemned the Defendant to a fine under article 225-2 of the PC and damages in the amount of 2000 €

T.A. Lyon, September 29, 2005, no 0403829, M. & Mme Hebri, AJDA, 2005, 1874

The failure of the State to provide access to school to a child with disability because of insufficient existing specialised facilities gives rise to the liability of the State in damages regardless of whether or not it is at fault, the additional burden on the family being unreasonable. The liability of the State in administrative law is based on a jurisprudential legal regime ensuing from the consequences of breach of equality regarding the French principle of equality before the law and the state.

Cass. Soc., n° 04-47168, 11/10/2006, Métallerie bayeusaine

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=CASS&nod=CXCXAX2006X10X05X00471X068>

The employer is condemned to damages for not having taken into account in the order of economic dismissal, the special condition of a disabled person who is thus in a less favourable position to find reemployment. According to article 321-1-1 LC (new Article 1233-5 al 3 LC), disability is one of the considerations to be taken into account in the order of economic redundancy

CAA de Douai, n° 05DA00663, 12/12/2006, Mme Bleitrach c/ Garde des Sceaux (in appeal)

Plaintiff is a lawyer who claims damages against the State for denial of access to the court room by reason of lack of accessibility in contravention of Directive 2000/78/CE. The Administrative appeal Court admits difficulty of access but accepts the Ministry of Justice's arguments that assistance was given allowing Plaintiff to plead effectively before the court, and concludes that there is no abnormal lack of access justifying the claim in damages. The liability of the State in administrative law is based on a specific jurisprudential legal regime.

HALDE Deliberation 2006-161 of July 3, 2006

Invoking the prohibition of discrimination in access to goods and services of Article 225-2 of the P C, the HALDE recommends to insurance companies to train their employees and take necessary measures to insure that insurance coverage is not denied on the basis of a client's disability.



HALDE Deliberation 2006-213 of October 9, 2006*

The HALDE recommends to the Minister of Education to take all necessary measures in application of article L112-4 of the Code of Education and decree 2005-1617 of December 21, 2005 relating to accommodation measures for examinations and entry competitions for candidates presenting a disability, in order to insure that when there are many examinations in the same day, students with disabilities who benefit from extended examination periods have sufficient recuperation time between examinations.

HALDE Deliberation 2007-178 of July 2nd, 2007

Recommendation to the Minister of Transports and driving licence authorities requiring that medial visits compulsory for all drivers that are subject by law to medial controls, be gratuitous.

Roma and Travellers cases:

Litigation in relation to Roma and travellers relates mainly to police controls and illegal parking contraventions which are related to the deficit of available parking accommodations (see question 5) and to criminal offences related to failure to submit to administrative control of travellers and to illegal parking of caravans.

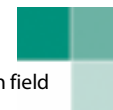
The insufficiency of parking space and increased police control has developed a trend of installation of caravans in non constructible land (called family land) which triggers many refusal on the part of cities to issue necessary authorisations for installing water and electricity or register children in school. There are no statistics available, but this litigation is regularly brought before the administrative tribunals.

In addition, litigation is often related to refusal on the part of Mayors to register in school children of families parked on the town's territory.

We see on the part of communal authorities a generalised strategy to prevent the long term installation of permanent Roma population on their territory by way of administrative recourse, delay in creating accommodations required by law, hindrance to access and use of private property, and access to education.

The National Equality Body, HALDE, receives few claims (approximately 50 in 3 years, on a total of 12 000 claims). They relate mostly to the conditions of parking accommodations, their insufficient number, the connection of family land to water, electricity etc., access to registration in public school, access to car insurance and refusal of the authorities to issue ordinary identity papers.

There have not yet been litigation challenging the conformity of the Law no 69-3 of July 16, 1969, regulating the issuance of special identity papers, elective residence for access to social rights and controls imposed on the travelling population, to Directive 2000/43. However, the HALDE has issued recommendations to Government for the abrogation of this special status (see section 7.g).



1. GENERAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Constitutional provisions on protection against discrimination and the promotion of equality

- a) *Briefly specify the grounds covered (explicitly and implicitly) and the material scope of the relevant provisions. Do they apply to all areas covered by the Directives? Are they broader than the material scope of the Directives?*
- b) *Are constitutional anti-discrimination provisions directly applicable?*
- c) *In particular, where a constitutional equality clause exists, can it (also) be enforced against private actors (as opposed to the State)?*

The French tradition derives from the Enlightenment conception of equality enshrined in the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. Like the preamble of the Constitution of 1946, the Declaration was constitutionalized by the Constitution of 1958. Both documents express opposition to racism based on an absolute conception of humanity and, inseparably, on respect for human dignity, human rights and the universality of the principle of equality.

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, 1789, states at article I: “Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions can have no other basis than common utility”.

The Preamble of the Constitution of 1946 states: “On the morrow of the victory of the free peoples of the world over those regimes that attempted to enslave and to degrade the human person, the French people reaffirms that each human being, irrespective of race, religion, or belief, possesses inalienable and sacred rights. (...) France constitutes with the peoples of Overseas (*Outre-mer*) a Union based on equality of rights and duties, irrespective of race or religion.” And adds: “Each has a duty to work and the right to obtain employment. No one can be attacked in his work or employment by reason of his origins, opinions or beliefs”.

Article 1st of the Constitution of 1958 states that: “France guarantees equality before the law to all citizens without distinction based on origin, race or religion. She respects all beliefs”. Article 2nd adds: “France is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic.” In addition article 10 states: “No one must be questioned on the basis of his opinions, even religious, as long as their manifestations do not constitute a threat to public order as foreseen by law ».

Administrative tribunals have consistently struck down decisions using the criteria of “origin” for purposes of adjudication: for instance, an instruction denying eligibility for leave to a category of civil servants on the grounds of ethnic origin,¹⁷ the denial of school registration to foreign children,¹⁸ or local policies giving preferential treatment to sections of the population on the basis of origin.

¹⁷ Conseil d’État, November 21st 1962, République Malgache c/ Mme Rasafindranaly, recueil Lebon page 618.

¹⁸ TA Bordeaux, June 14th 1988, El Rhazouani, recueil Lebon page 518.



More recently, the Constitutional Council decided that data collection necessary to the pursuit of studies measuring the diversity of the origin of persons, discrimination and integration could be based on objective information, but could not rely on “ethnic origin” or “race” without disregarding Article 1 of the Constitution.¹⁹

There is no constitutional text prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age, disability, health or sexual orientation even if the list of discriminatory criteria listed in the Constitution have not been deemed to be exhaustive by the Constitutional Council who decided that the list of grounds was open and subject to evolution²⁰. In addition, article 55 of the Constitution of 1958 specifies that Treaties and International conventions ratified by France are of superior value to national law, which therefore includes all criteria of discrimination enumerated therein.

- b) *Are constitutional anti-discrimination provisions directly applicable?*
- c) *In particular, where a constitutional equality clause exists, can it (also) be enforced against private actors (as opposed to the State)?*

Constitutional anti-discrimination provisions cannot be enforced by private actors before the Constitutional Council. The constitutional recourse against legislation is reserved to members of Parliament before enactment of the law by the President of the Republic. The Government is presenting to Parliament a proposed reform of the Constitution that would create a legal basis to circumvent constitutional law’s objection to the implementation of positive action measures, by integrating a concept of diversity, and create a Defensor of the Rights of Citizens²¹ that would receive claims relating to relations between persons and the State, its jurisdiction and means of action will later be defined by the organic law that will follow the adoption of constitutional legislation.

However, private citizens can attack secondary legislation on constitutional grounds before the Conseil d’Etat at the condition that the text is not the mere repetition of a duly enacted law²². Moreover, the realm of competence of the HALDE allows it to analyse the conformity of legislation to constitutional requirements when formulating recommendations to government after having challenged the conformity of regulations and legislations to Constitutional anti-discrimination provisions.

¹⁹ CC no 2007-557 of November 15, 2007, <http://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/decision/2007/2007557/2007557dc.htm>

²⁰ Mélin-Soucranian, Le principe d’égalité dans la jurisprudence du Conseil constitutionnel, RFDA, Economica, 1997, 92. Conseil d’Etat, Sur le principe d’égalité, La documentation Française, 1998.

²¹ Défenseur des droits des citoyens, article 31 du projet de loi :

http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/html/actualite/actualite_legislative/modernisation_institutions.html

²² Sect. 23 avril 1997, GISTI AJ 1997, 435 ; Chapus, Droit administratif général, 13e ed. Tome 1, p. 31 et ss



2. THE DEFINITION OF DISCRIMINATION

2.1 Grounds of unlawful discrimination

Which grounds of discrimination are explicitly prohibited in national law? All grounds covered by national law should be listed, including those not covered by the Directives.

Codified texts prohibiting discrimination in national legislation state a comparable list of prohibited grounds without defining them (Article 225-1 and 2 of the P C, Article L1132-1 and following and L1141-1 and following LC, Article 1 of the Law “Mermaz” relating to landlord and tenants no. 89-462 of July 6, 1989 further to amendments introduced by the Law of January 17, 2002, Article 6 of the Law no 83-634 of July, 13 1983 relating to the rights and obligations of civil servants, article 19 of the law HALDE) : real or assumed origin, appearance of origin, national and ethnical origin, race, sex, family situation, physical appearance, last name, health, disability, genetic characteristics, mores, sexual orientation, age, union activities, religion, political and religious convictions (which are interpreted broadly to encompass all philosophical or mystical endeavours however the term belief is not usual).

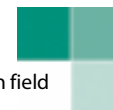
The Law no 2002-303 of March 4, 2002 relating to the rights of the sick and to the quality of the medical system has enacted an additional ground of discrimination based on genetic characteristics (article 4). It has been introduced in the Civil Code (article 16-13) and added to the list of prohibited grounds of the Penal Code and the Labour Code²³. The Law no 2006-340 of March 23, 2006, on Equal Opportunities has enacted an additional ground of discrimination based on pregnancy (article 13). It has been introduced in article 225-1 of the Penal Code and L1132-1 LC.

In addition, article L1110-3 of the Code of public health states a general principle of non discrimination in access to health without limiting its scope to a list of prohibited grounds.

Law no 2008-496 completing transposition of the european directives has created specific levels of protection for EC grounds that cover all areas that were not previously covered by codified law:

- The protections for race and ethnic origin extends to areas covered by directive 2000/43 beyond employment and housing law – social protection, health, social advantages, education, access to and supply of goods and services.
- The protection for article 13 grounds (origin, race, religion, convictions, disability, age and sexual orientation) extends to areas covered by directive 2000/78 that were not covered by the law on public service or labour law - affiliation and involvement in professional or trade organisation, independent non salaried workers.

²³ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=MESX0100092L



2.1.1 Definition of the grounds of unlawful discrimination within the Directives

- a) *How does national law on discrimination define the following terms: racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation?*
Is there a definition of disability on national level and how does it compare with the concept adopted by the European Court of Justice in case C-13/05, Chacón Navas, Paragraph 43, according to which "the concept of 'disability' must be understood as referring to a limitation which results in particular from physical, mental or psychological impairments and which hinders the participation of the person concerned in professional life"?

Each ground of discrimination is not defined in anti-discrimination legislation. French law actually refuses to validate the concept of race or to define it. Since the list is very broad, the judge does not approach a case of discrimination by identifying whether or not the complainant conforms to the definition of a group covered, the approach is more oriented toward an appreciation of adverse effect in comparison to a group or of defendant's differential behaviour in relation to a prohibited ground: mores, sexual orientation, sex, origin, appearance of origin, supposed race, physical appearance, last name, religious and philosophical convictions, family situation, union activities, political opinions, age, health, disability and genetic characteristics.

The Law no 2005-102 of February 11, 2005 for equal rights and opportunity of the disabled, (hereafter Law on disability)²⁴ has revisited the definition of disability at article L114 of the Code of social welfare (CSW). This definition applies for the purpose of implementing all relevant dispositions relating to equal opportunities for the disabled:

Is deemed to be disabled, a person who faces a complete limitation of activity or is restricted in the ability to participate in society encountered by a person in his or her environment by reason of a substantial, lasting or definitive alteration of one or more physical, sensory, mental, cognitive or psychological faculties, of multiple disabilities or of a disabling illness²⁵. (*Our translation*)

This definition is broader than that of the ECJ in case C-13/05, *Chacón Navas*, in that it is not limited to access to professional life and encompasses limitation in all areas of life. The legal regime created by this law intends to be comprehensive and proposes a coherent approach to issues relating to every stages of life, based on the rights to solidarity, equal treatment and full benefit of citizenship.

It is comparable however in that it does not include temporary impairment attributable to a temporary health condition. In France, health is already a distinct prohibited ground of discrimination, which is however not defined in legislation.

²⁴ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SANX0300217L

²⁵ «Art. L 114. – Constitue un handicap, au sens de la présente loi, toute limitation d'activité d'activité ou restriction de participation à la vie en société subie dans son environnement par une personne en raison d'une altération substantielle, durable ou définitive d'une ou plusieurs fonctions physiques, sensorielles, mentales, cognitives ou psychiques, d'un polyhandicap ou d'un trouble de santé invalidant. »



The requirement of the ECJ that it “hinders participation” appears to correspond to the requirement of the French definition that it be substantial, the comparable degree of importance of the impairment being a question of interpretation, on which comparable interpretation will have to wait further judicial decisions.

- b) *Where national law on discrimination does not define these grounds, how far have equivalent terms been used and interpreted elsewhere in national law (e.g. the interpretation of what is a ‘religion’)? Or a “disability”, sometimes defined only in social security legislation)? Is recital 17 of Directive 2000/78/EC reflected in the national legislation against discrimination?*

Origin and “race”:

As discussed in section 1 a), since the law prohibits taking these concepts into consideration, they are not defined. The concept of race is interpreted as being referred to in the Constitution as a forbidden concept. Ethnic origin is not interpreted either as it is deemed a euphemism of race. That is why “national origin”, as referring to objective information on the person’s ancestry, seems to be the only objectivable reference to origin admissible as per French reluctances.

Religion and belief:

In French law there is no legal definition of religion or belief. It is the Law of December 9, 1905 on the separation of Church and State that addresses the concepts of freedom of worship and beliefs. Article 1st of the law states: “*The republic guarantees freedom of belief. It guarantees freedom of worship, the only restrictions being stated therein in the pursuit of the interest of public order.*” Freedom of religion is considered as an aspect of freedom of opinion. According to Jean Rivéro, freedom of religion includes on the one hand freedom of belief, hence the freedom to choose between non belief and membership to a religion, and on the other hand freedom of worship, that is the individual or collective practice of a religion.

The Lyon Court of Appeal in its decision of July 28, 1997, offered the following definition: “a religion can be defined by the convergence of two elements, an objective element, the existence of a community even limited, and a subjective element, a common faith...”.

There exists in France however a legislative limitation on religious freedom. Indeed, sects are prohibited in France by article 223-15-2 to 223-15-4 of the Penal Code. Moreover, Law no. 2001-504 of June 12, 2001 allows the dissolution of any legal entity considered as a sect. Those can also incur penal sanctions²⁶. For example the church of scientology and Witnesses of Jehovah are considered as sects in France²⁷ (the Minister of Interior and the Protestant Church presently disagree with the committee of the National Assembly’s on sects as to the status of the Witnesses of Jehovah²⁸). However, the report of the Commission of enquiry on sects, concluded that French law offered no definition of “sects”. This law does not prohibit worship but outlaws such sectarian organisations, therefore it does not appear to us to have any impact on employment and therefore does not infringe upon the material scope of the

²⁶ <http://www.admi.net/jo/20010613/JUSX9903887L.html>

²⁷ For the official list of sects, see: http://www.cftf.com/french/Les_Sectes_en_France/sectes.html

²⁸ See Le Monde, October 19, 2006 : Querelles autour du statut des témoins de Jéhovah
<http://www.lemonde.fr/web/article/0,1-0@2-3226,36-825305,0.html>



directives. Persons who are discriminated in employment because of their belief, unrelated to their behaviour at work, will be protected.



Sexual orientation

In a decision of December 19, 1980, the Constitutional Council refused to include in the definition of discrimination based on sex, discrimination based on sexuality²⁹. The Protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation has been introduced in French law under the term “mores” first in the Penal Code in 1985 (Law 85-772 of July 25, 1985) then in the Labour Code in 1986 (Law 86-76 of January 17 1986 and Law 92-1446 of December 31 1992). However, the legislator chose to use the concept of “Mores” until the term “sexual orientation” was added to the Labour Code and the Penal Code by the Law of November 16, 2001. Henceforth, the two terms co-exist, although the term “mores” previously referred to homosexuality, and “sexual orientation” was not defined in the law and has not yet been defined by the jurisprudence.

Sexual orientation has not however been interpreted to cover transsexuality. Transsexuals will have to try to argue the use of the concept of discrimination based on “sex”, even if it was never used to protect homosexuals, or those of discrimination based on “mores” or physical appearance.

Disability

Disability is defined in the Law no 2005-102 of February 11, 2005, (cf. answer to question 2.1.1a). The extent of reasonable accommodations, concept that is translated by that of reasonable measures in article L5213-6 LC (cf. section 2.6), has not yet been interpreted by the courts but in the meantime, the HALDE has interpreted its limitations in accordance with Recital 17 of directive 2000/78 in Deliberation no 2007-295 of November 13, 2007. It decided that, when an employer hires a disabled person, the employer is not committing discrimination if he interrupts the trial period after finding that it is impossible to accommodate the work station in order allow the employee to perform the work and that after all reasonable accommodation measures have been taken, the worker continues to be held to be physically inapt to execute his or her work by the professional doctor.

- c) *Are there any restrictions related to the scope of ‘age’ as a protected ground (e.g. a minimum age below which the anti-discrimination law does not apply)?*

There is no restriction per se related to the scope of age other than exceptions discussed in section 4.7.

- d) *Please describe any legal rules (or plans for the adoption of rules) or case-law (and its outcome) in the field of anti-discrimination which deal with situations of multiple discrimination.*

There is no legal rule addressing multiple grounds of discrimination. However, in France, claimants can claim to be cumulatively discriminated for a number of grounds, for example in cases where access to university education or employment is based on the appreciation of a candidate which could be influenced by cumulative conditions of age and nationality, age and sex.

²⁹ 80-125 RJC I-88.



In its Deliberation no 2006 03 of January 23rd, 2006, the HALDE held that the erroneous refusal to admit plaintiff on the ground of her origin was influenced by a refusal to treat her situation on the basis of a subjective discrimination on the basis of her age, over 30, and the fact that she had young children. The same could be found in the refusal of a social housing administrator to take in consideration the priority situation of a disabled person, on the basis of her origin (Deliberation no n° 2007 162) or discrimination in hiring, the employer having evaluated the claimant, a woman of 48, as very efficient while she was a temporary employees, but not dynamic enough when she applied to be hired in competition with young inexperienced persons (Deliberation 2006-20). However, there is no method developed for each case in order to apprehend the specificity of multiple ground claims. It essentially impacts on evidence strategy and facts to be put in evidence. There is still too little research on intersectional discrimination and multiple grounds of discrimination in France to allow the development of a fact analysis methodology susceptible of being transposed in a legal approach. The possibility to argue multiple discriminations reveals itself after the judicial enquiry or the HALDE's investigation and is always conditional upon finding the most efficient legal framework for the victim.

2.1.2 Assumed and associated discrimination

- a) *Does national law prohibit discrimination based on assumed characteristics? e.g. where a woman is discriminated against because another person assumes that she is a Muslim, even though that turns out to be an incorrect assumption.*

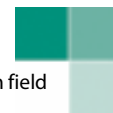
The wording of the prohibition to discriminate in the Penal Code, the Labour Code and the Civil Code expressly include the concept of assumed characteristics for the grounds of origin, race and religion: “the belonging or non belonging, real or assumed, to an ethnic group, a nation, a race or a determined religion”.

The systematic reference to physical appearance in the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination is also a way to cover assumed characteristics such as origin and sexual orientation.

Moreover, since the wording of all the legislation prohibits not only discrimination on the basis of one's characteristics but also the sheer fact of taking into account such characteristics, regardless of whether it is an attribute of the victim, we can consider that the definition of discrimination systematically integrates assumed characteristics.

The definition of the prohibition to discriminate on the basis of disability is based on the employer's perception of the employee coupled with the duty to accommodate³⁰. It can thus be considered to include assumed characteristics as well and covers discrimination on the ground that, although a person does not now have a disability and is not perceived to have one, they have had one in the past or are thought likely to acquire one in the future.

³⁰ Stated in the following terms at article L5213-6 LC LC: “employers take, in relation to need dictated by a concrete situation, all necessary measures “



- b) *Does national law or case law prohibit discrimination based on association with persons with particular characteristics (e.g. association with persons of a particular ethnic group)? If so, how?*

There is no specific provision in this regard.

In Articles L 1132-1 LC and 225-1 PC and Article 19 of the Law no 2004-1486 of December 30, 2004 (Law HALDE) prohibited ground refers to a person's own real or perceived characteristics, The HALDE has deemed that it excluded discrimination by association and has therefore recommended to government to extend the protection of the law to discrimination by association (Deliberation no 2007-75, 26/03/2007).

However, paragraph 2 of Article 225-1 PC and Law no 2008-496 Article 5 prohibit discrimination inflicted to legal persons, and in this regard, these can only be considered in terms of discrimination by association. In addition, Article L3122-26 LC provides for a right to request adaptation of work hours to the benefit of family members and care takers of a disabled person.

2.2 Direct discrimination (Article 2(2)(a))

- a) *How is direct discrimination defined in national law?*

Direct discrimination is covered by all legislation covering all prohibited grounds of discrimination³¹ (articles 225-1 and 2 PC, Article 1132-1 LC and following and L1141-1 LC, article 1 of the Law "Mermaz" relating to landlord and tenants no. 89-462 of July 6, 1989 further to amendments introduced by the Law of January, 17, 2002, article 6 of the Law no 83-634 of July, 13 1983 relating to the rights and obligations of civil servants, article 19 Law HALDE). These texts list the grounds and the prohibited discriminatory behaviours. The Penal Code and the Law on the Press of 1881 refer to direct discrimination and provide the following definition: "Constitutes discrimination any distinction by reason of origin, real or presumed belonging to an ethnic national or racial origin and religion."³²

Since the Law of November 16, 2001 implementing the directive 2000/78 and Law HALDE, other texts prohibiting discrimination expressly refer to direct and indirect discrimination without providing a definition.

³¹ The list of grounds is enumerated in section 2.1. It covers all grounds prohibited by Article 13 EC and a number of other grounds: origin, appearance of origin, race, sex, family situation, physical appearance, last name, health, disability, genetic characteristics, mores, sexual orientation, age, union activities, religion, political and religious convictions (which are interpreted broadly to encompass all philosophical or mystical endeavours).

³² « constitue une discrimination toute distinction ... en raison de leur origine... de leur appartenance ou de leur non-appartenance, vraie ou supposée, à une ethnie, une nation, une race, une religion déterminée. »



Law no 2008-496 introduces at Article 1 paragraph 1 a definition of direct discrimination, which provides as follows³³:

“Constitutes a direct discrimination the situation in which, on the basis of the belonging or non belonging, real or assumed, to an ethnic group, a nation, a race or of his or her religion, convictions, age, disability, sexual orientation or sex, a person is treated less favourably than another is, has been or will have been, in a comparable situation.”

- b) *Does the law permit justification of direct discrimination generally, or in relation to particular grounds? If so, what test must be satisfied to justify direct discrimination? (See also 4.7.1 below).*

Since transposition of Directives 2000/78 and 2000/43 in 2001, the French legal regime did not allow justifications to direct discrimination except in limited cases on the ground of age. In completing transposition of the directives, Law no 2008-496 created a general regime of justification applicable to all grounds in all situations, at article 2 paragraph 2³⁴:

This principle does not forbid difference of treatment which is based on a characteristic related to any of the grounds referred to in the above paragraph where such a characteristic constitutes a genuine and determining occupational requirement, provided that the objective is legitimate and the requirement is proportionate.

In addition, the law permits justification of direct discrimination generally, or in relation to a particular ground, as it provides for a uniform legal regime for all grounds of discrimination.

The Law no 2005 102 on disability, which defines the unjustified failure to make reasonable accommodation as a form of discrimination, continues to limit the duty of reasonable accommodation (see section 2.6 in answer to question B).

- c) *In relation to age discrimination, if the definition is based on ‘less favourable treatment’ does the law specify how a comparison is to be made?*

No, at Article 6 the Law no 2008 496 reiterates the possibility to provide for exceptions on the ground of age in private employment covered by article 1133-2 of the Labour Code, and extends the basis for justification to working conditions in relation to health, safety, professional insertion, maintaining employment, reclassification and indemnification in case of termination of employment, always subject to a justification that the said measures are necessary and appropriate. Law no 2008 496 does not modify the comparison mechanisms in matters related to age.

³³ Constitue une discrimination directe la situation dans laquelle, sur le fondement de son appartenance ou de sa non appartenance, vraie ou supposée, à une ethnie ou une race, sa religion, ses convictions, son âge, son handicap, son orientation sexuelle ou son sexe, une personne est traitée de manière moins favorable qu’une autre ne l’est, ne l’a été ou ne l’aura été dans une situation comparable.

³⁴ Ce principe ne fait pas obstacle aux différences de traitement fondées sur les motifs visés à l’alinéa précédent lorsqu’elles répondent à une exigence professionnelle essentielle et déterminante et pour autant que l’objectif soit légitime et l’exigence proportionnée.



2.2.1 Situation Testing

- a) *Does national law permit the use of ‘situational testing’? If so, how is this defined and what are the procedural conditions for admissibility of such evidence in court. For what discrimination grounds is situation testing permitted? If all grounds are not included, what are the reasons given for this limitation?*

Situation testing has been held admissible as evidence in criminal courts by the jurisprudence of the Cour de cassation, on the basis of the principle of complete freedom of evidence in criminal cases: evidence is admissible whether or not it has been obtained by legal and fair methods. In France, the illegality of the mean of access to evidence has no bearing on its admissibility in criminal cases. Under this principle, it would be admissible on any prohibited ground of discrimination.

It has not yet been used as evidence in civil cases. However, considering the inadmissibility of evidence obtained illegally in civil cases and the strict requirements of fairness enforced in civil procedure, it is doubtful that situation testing would be held admissible on the basis of general rules of evidence. In 1991, the Cour de cassation decided that video or sound recording, and even photocopies, obtained out of the knowledge of a party, was not admissible in civil matters³⁵.

In the landmark cases establishing admissibility of situation testing as evidence, the Court of Cassation does not provide any commentary or explanation on the methodology to be followed in order to conduct a situation test with decisive evidentiary value. The jurisprudence in this respect results from subsequent trial and appellate court decisions.

In September 2000³⁶, the Criminal Chamber of the Cour de cassation recognised that a situation test on limitations to access to goods and services, carried out by prospective clients (so-called ‘testers’), can be admitted as evidence of discrimination in the entry to night clubs in violation of articles 225-1 and 225-2 of the Penal Code. In its decision of June 11, 2002, the Cour de cassation further declared that the alleged unfairness and/or illegality of this mean of access to evidence had no bearing on its admissibility³⁷. In these cases, the results of the situation tests were established in court by the testimony of the prospective clients or third party witnesses (June 2000) and the filing of Police or Bailiffs reports (September 2002) on the situation test.

Although admissible as evidence in criminal matters of discrimination, the trial judge is not bound to attribute any value to this evidence unless he is satisfied if its reliability which is often challenged by defendants. The courts of appeal have set out clear criteria for evaluating the evidence since the first decision of the Cour de cassation of September 2000. The results of the situation testing must be certified by third party witnesses, preferably bailiffs and police officers, and the participants must not be members of the structure (NGO, Union etc...) organising the testing and appearing as a civil party before the court³⁸.

³⁵ Cass.soc. November 20, 1991.

³⁶ Court of Cassation, Criminal Chamber, September 12, 2000 no. 99-87.251, Fardeau www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=INCA&nod=IXRXCX2000X09X06X00872X051

³⁷ Court of Cassation, Criminal Chamber, June 11, 2002 no W01-85.560 F-D

³⁸ See C.A. , Grenoble, April 18, 2001, no. 00/00657

In its decision of 7 June 2005 no. 04-87354³⁹, the Criminal chamber of the Cour de Cassation admitted in evidence a telephone testing established by way of the testimony of a third party and the filing of the recording of the tape of the telephone conversation, in order to support criminal charges of discrimination in access to rental accommodation on the basis of article 225-1 and 225-2 of the Penal Code. The Court declared admissible recordings of telephone conversations which established that a real estate agent informed prospective clients that apartments were still available or not according to whether or not their surnames sounded “French”. The weight to be attributed to this evidence however is a matter for the trial judge.

Article 45 of the Law no 2006-396 on Equal Opportunities of March 31, 2006⁴⁰, created article 225-3-1 PC which codifies the higher court’s jurisprudence on the admissibility of situation testing for all prohibited grounds of discrimination under article 225-1 PC. It legally recognises its admissibility to prove the criminal offence of discrimination.

b) Is there any reluctance to use situational testing as evidence in court (e.g. ethical or methodology issues)? In this respect, does evolution in other countries influence your national law (European strategic litigation issue)?

There is no reference to foreign legal practice in the French court’s approach to situation testing. Further to the adoption of Article 225-3-1 PC the Ministry of Justice issued a ministerial instruction CRIM 2006-16 E8/26-06-2006 to public prosecutors and the President of each court in order to present the legislative amendment and provide indications as to its conditions of enforcement. It explains that evidence of discrimination is admissible even when it results from action perpetrated by the victim with the intention of provoking the differential treatment and with the intention to collect evidence of discriminatory behaviour. The intention of the victim has no bearing on the offence if the discriminator intentionally committed the discriminatory act. However, it cannot be used in the context of a fictitious offer or with persons acting under a false identity pursuing a false scenario. The victim has to act under his or her identity, be a truly unequally treated person. If the refusal was given to a false reality, the Ministry holds there is no offence and the situation cannot lead to condemnation.

Outline important case-law within the national legal system on this issue.

Cf. Answer a). There have been no cases implementing the new provisions of article 225-3-1 PC authorising situation testing in criminal cases for discrimination.

c) Outline how situation-testing is used in practice and by whom (e.g. NGOs)

Situation testing is a mean of evidence developed by anti-racist NGOs which is mostly used by them, but as well by individual plaintiffs. It has been used in racial and disability discrimination cases. Some associations have recently used it in age discrimination cases in access to employment.

³⁹ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=INCA&nod=IXRXCX2005X06X06X00873X054

⁴⁰ <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/SEEFB.htm>



It has been used to trap discriminating parties in situations leaving no trace of discriminatory behaviour, such as pre-contractual relation leading to refusal of access to goods and services (night clubs, rental housing) or access to employment.

It offers the record of an objective situation of which discrimination can be inferred in the absence of evidence by way of witnesses or written documents relating to the discriminatory basis for the decision.

The recognition of the admissibility of recordings of telephone testing and the simplicity of the process will open access to this mean of evidence to a greater number of victims.

2.3 Indirect discrimination (Article 2(2)(b))

a) *How is indirect discrimination defined in national law?*

Indirect discrimination and shift in the burden of proof in cases of discrimination have been introduced into French Law, first by the courts⁴¹, then by legislation, first in the Labour Code (section L. 1132-1 LC, added by the Law of November 16, 2001) and then in the Civil Code in matters related to a general principle forbidding racial discrimination (article 19 Law HALDE). All article 13 EC grounds are covered plus other grounds covered by French law⁴².

Further to the Commission's procedure of infringement, Government has introduced before Parliament Law no 2008-496 that introduces at article 1 paragraph 2 a definition of indirect discrimination, which provides as follows⁴³:

Constitutes an indirect discrimination a provision, criterion or practice, neutral in appearance, that is likely to give rise, for one of the grounds mentioned at paragraph one, to a particular disadvantage for persons in comparison with other persons, unless that provision, criterion or practice is objectively justified by a legitimate aim and the means of achieving that aim are appropriate and necessary.

It is important to note that indirect discrimination does not apply in criminal matters or to the Law on the Press of 1881, since the principles of criminal law require evidence of intentional discrimination.⁴⁴

b) *What test must be satisfied to justify indirect discrimination? What are the legitimate aims that can be accepted by courts? Do the legitimate aims as accepted by courts have the same value as the general principle of equality, from a human rights perspective as prescribed in domestic law? What is considered as an appropriate and necessary measure to pursue a legitimate aim?*

⁴¹ Cass. Soc. 9 April 1996, no. 1727 P, RJS 5/96 no. 550; Cass. Soc. 23 November 1999 no. 4290, RJS 5/00 no. 498

⁴² For the list of grounds covered see section 2.1 and supra note 28.

⁴³ Constitue une discrimination indirecte une disposition, un critère ou une pratique neutre en apparence, mais entraînant, pour l'un des motifs mentionnés au premier alinéa, un désavantage particulier pour des personnes par rapport à d'autres personnes, à moins que cette disposition, ce critère ou cette pratique ne soit objectivement justifié par un but légitime et que les moyens pour réaliser ce but ne soient nécessaires et appropriés.

⁴⁴ Art. 121-3 of the Penal Code: 'Il n'y a point de crime ou de délit sans intention de le commettre'.



The few cases referring to indirect discrimination resulted from the application of Directive 76/207 concerning equal treatment between men and women in national law⁴⁵. Most of them were the result of decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Communities and preceded implementation of the directives.

However, in matters of discrimination based on trade union activities, the Social Chamber of the Cour de cassation has applied a comparative situation approach inspired by the case law of the ECJ in order to establish direct discrimination, thereby making way to the implementation of the methodology underlying indirect discrimination.

In January 2007, the Social Chamber of the Cour de cassation adopted its first decision implementing the principle of indirect discrimination and clarifying the conditions of its applicability. The High judicial Court has chosen to do so in relation to discrimination on the basis of health and the interpretation of a collective agreement relating to the modulation of the computation of work time which foresaw that employment could vary between 44 hours per week of employment, in “high working periods”, and 21 hours per week in “low working periods” for an annual average of 35 hours. The agreement also provided that a uniform weekly salary would be calculated on the basis of the annual average, i.e. on the basis of the average 35 hours week, independently of the real number of hours worked in a given week, with an adjustment determined at the end of the year on the basis of the calculation of the employee’s real working time. In this context the labour code provides at Article L212-8 that health related absence is calculated as time worked for the purpose of the calculation of the annual working time. An employee had been in health related leave of absence during the “high working periods” over a period of two years. The issue was how to calculate the year end adjustment.

In the absence of an argument on the part of Claimant’s Counsel, the court itself raised *ex officio* an analysis based on the principle of indirect discrimination. While the Court had discussed the concept in previous cases relating to sex discrimination cases, it had always refused to make findings of indirect discrimination (Soc. April 9, 1996, Bull. Civ.V, no146). It concluded that the chosen method of calculation is apparently neutral and is not in itself discriminatory, but that “it constitutes a measure with an adverse indirect impact by reason of the health of the employee”. The Court did not limit itself to the consideration of the intention of the parties but also looked at the resulting effect of the chosen interpretation of the agreement.

The Court refused to seek a possible justification of the measure under scrutiny and declared it discriminatory, stating that collective agreements cannot be implemented when their provisions have discriminatory effects on the basis of prohibited grounds of discrimination, thereby implying that no legitimate aim can justify the discriminatory impact of collective agreements. This decision is considered to send a strong signal to the social partners on the necessity of a thorough review of collective agreements presently in force, in order to rectify provisions which could be indirectly discriminatory.

The Cour de cassation has commented however on arguments which could justify unequal remuneration.

⁴⁵ see USAI Champignons section 0.3.



It must be based on the justification of an objective difference proportionnal to the differential payment (Cass. Soc., no 03-40465, 16/02/2006, M. Gabriel Aguera et autres c/ société M2PCI et autres), and therefore defeats the argument of unequal treatment. In Cass. Soc., no 05-45601, 20/02/2008 it decided that difference in status alone (staff and employees) could not justify having access to lunch vouchers or not, that such difference had to be objective and relevant: a cut out date of employment cannot justify differences in salaries (Cass. Soc., no 03-42641, 31/10/2006, Sodemp, Le Méridien Paris Etoile); the failure to analyse the justification of the difference underlying differential treatment deserves to be quashed.

However, we can observe the evaluation of a legitimate aim to justify differential remuneration on economic grounds in Cass. Soc., no 03-47720, 09/11/2005, Soc ESRF c/ M. X., confirmed in another matter against ESRF on April 17, 2008 (Soc; 819 FS-P+B). In this case, the collective agreement foresaw since 1993 that employees of foreign nationality received a yearly bonus, even after having been in place for a number of years (in some cases 20 years). In this situation, the court was faced with unequal financial benefits that could not be justified by the specifics of the work performed by the employee. First, the Court decided that the situation was not targeted by Article 12 of the EC Treaty. On the argument of indirect discrimination on the ground of origin, it further held that, in a high technology research installation, the business necessity to attract talented scientists from abroad and the compensation of trouble related to the expatriation of their family were acceptable justifications of unequal remuneration based on nationality: attraction of workforce, when proportionate and objectively justified.

c) Is this compatible with the Directives?

Yes. But the transposition of the shift of the burden of proof resulting from Law no 2008 496 creates ambiguity. It is less favourable than the former drafting of the burden of proof which was based on the presentation of “elements of facts” from which it may be presumed...”

However, there are very few higher courts decisions and the decisions of lower courts remain at this stage inconsistent. Effective implementation by trial judges and non professional Labour courts judges will require time and training.

d) In relation to age discrimination, does the law specify how a comparison is to be made?

No. See 2.2 C)

e) Have differences in treatment based on language been perceived as indirect discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin?

There is no protection of foreign languages since in France there is one official language. Nevertheless, unjustified language requirements used to exclude candidates to employment have been judged to be direct discriminations punishable under the penal code, allowing therefore no justification.

Meanwhile, the positive value attributed to competence in foreign languages could be considered as a legitimate aim and reasonable justification to a criteria that would indirectly favour persons of foreign origin.



However in its Deliberations n° 2007-114, 14/05/2007, n° 2007-31, 12/02/2007 AND n° 2006-252, 27/11/200, the HALDE has decided that employment offers could not be drafted using language such as “mother tongue” requirements without committing direct discrimination, and should refer to the level of competence required in descriptive neutral terms such as native speaker level.

2.3.1 Statistical Evidence

- a) *Does national law permit the use of statistical evidence to establish indirect discrimination? If so, what are the conditions for it to be admissible in court.*

General principles of evidence in criminal cases allow the proof to be made by all means and consider means of evidence to be unlimited. Therefore admissible means of evidence should include the use of statistics. Situation testing is representative of the sort of statistics which the criminal courts regularly admit in evidence.

In labour law, the constant jurisprudence of the Social Chamber of the Cour de cassation in matters of discrimination has favoured an approach based on the comparative analysis of the situation of the Plaintiff against that of allegedly non discriminated parties. This comparative approach necessarily allows plaintiff to establish a statistically significant discrepancy based on the analysis of evidence emanating from the employer on the respective situations of employees based on the prohibited grounds of discrimination including ethnic origin, race, religion, age, sexual orientation and disability.

General rules of civil and criminal procedure and the provisions transposing directives 2000/43 and 2000/78 do not refer expressly to the use of statistical evidence. However, general principles of interpretation allow the national judge to refer to the directives in order to interpret national law and their explicit reference to the use of statistics as a legal mean of evidence of discrimination should be sufficient to justify admissibility of statistics in evidence. Civil and administrative recourses resulting from texts transposing directive 2000/43 and 2000/78 have not yet addressed the issue of the admissibility of statistics in evidence whether they be national statistics or resulting from the presentation of data emanating from defendant⁴⁶.

Finally article 8 II paragraph 5 of the Law 78-17 of January 6, 1978 relating to information systems, data and the protection of freedom⁴⁷ states that personal data can be used in the context of any administrative and judicial proceeding pursuant to the defence or the exercise of a legal right.

- b) *Is the use of such evidence commonly used? Is there any reluctance to use statistical data as evidence in court (e.g. ethical or methodology issues)? In this respect, does evolution in other countries influence your national law?*

⁴⁶ LANQUETIN, GREVY, Bilan de la mise en oeuvre de la loi du 16 novembre 2001, rapport final Direction de la Population et des Migration, Ministère des Affaires sociales, , December 2005 (not yet published)

⁴⁷ Loi n° 78-17 du 6 Janvier 1978 relative à l'informatique, aux fichiers et aux libertés : www.cnil.fr/index.php?id=301



Statistics resulting from the comparative situation of employees of a common employer are now commonly used in labour law on the basis of the comparative approach developed by the ECJ in discrimination cases, and repeatedly recognized by the Cour de cassation in anti-trade union discrimination⁴⁸. It no longer raises any reluctance.

According to a very recent study reviewing application of discrimination law by the courts since transposition of directives 2000/43 and 2000/78, beyond data analysis on the situation in the workplace, statistics have not yet been used before the civil courts⁴⁹. Statistics resulting from research reports have not been used in civil and administrative procedures either⁵⁰. Its admissibility would be subject to an issue of relevance to the case at bar but do not raise per se ethical or methodological problems. The concepts of race, origin and ethnica are not defined by French law as they are not legal categories. Sensitive data and data based on origin are admissible before the courts (article 8 II law CNIL no 78-17 of January 6, 1978). It is empirically constructed and is free, its value being essentially subject to the appreciation of the judge. It is however used regularly by the national body (HALDE).

There is no indication that foreign law would have been argued in order to justify the use of statistical evidence before the French courts.

In essence, the difficulty in adducing statistical evidence relates to the availability of data that can be relied upon in relation to a specific case. For instance, the HALDE reviewed all available studies and statistics relating to age and employment and this review revealed that on the matter of age the national indicators have not been constructed to sustain anti discrimination policy or legal action. Therefore, they are either too old or incomplete and do not allow to ascertain national trends or analysis on age discrimination in access to employment.

As regards the use of statistics in cases relating to the ground of origin, the problem is amplified by the absence of a recognised methodological framework to produce statistics on the ground of origin, and more generally the unavailability of data on origin in France .

In this context, though authorized by law, the use of statistics is rare and therefore risky and burdensome.

c) Please illustrate the most important case law in this area.

With respect to situation testing in criminal matters see 2.2.1.

In its decision of June 14, 2001⁵¹, the Cour de cassation decided that in matters related to discrimination on the ground of trade union activities, the offence of discrimination may be established by comparative evidence and the judge has the obligation to investigate the comparative situation of the employee with that of others and to actively request production of the necessary evidence by defendant.

⁴⁸ Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, March 28, 2000, no. 1027 P+B Fluchère, Dick and CFDT c./ SNCF ; CA Paris 17/10/2003 / appel de TGI Paris 22/11/2002, DO juillet 2003 p.284, Affaire « Moulin Rouge » SOS Racisme et Marega c/ Beuzit et Association du Moulin.

⁴⁹ LANQUETIN, GREVY, Op. Cit.

⁵⁰ LANQUETIN, GREVY, Op. Cit.

⁵¹ Court of Cassation, Criminal Chamber, June 14, 2000, no. 2792, 99-108, CFDT Interco; see above footnote no 41 as well.



Failure to proceed to such a comparative analysis is the equivalent of refusing plaintiff access to enforcement of his/her rights to protection against discrimination.

As discussed in section 2.3.1 a), the HALDE's systematic approach to investigation in matters of employment, and other matters when applicable, is the investigation of the comparative situation of the employee with the appropriate comparator, on the model of the Court of cassation's jurisprudence.

d) Are there national rules which permit data collection? Please answer in respect of all 5 grounds. Specifically, are statistical data used to design positive action measures? How are these data collected/ generated?

Data collection is governed by the Law 78-17 of January 6, 1978 relating to information systems, data and the protection of freedom⁵² and covers collection and manipulation personal information relating to both computerised and non-computerised information and files. This legislation is enforced by The *Commission nationale informatique et liberté* (CNIL/National Commission for data protection).

Personal information is defined at article 2 of the law as any information relating to an identified physical person or to a person, directly or indirectly identifiable in reference to a number of identification or personal attributes. Data collection and treatment activities are subject to a declaration for authorisation by the CNIL pursuant to articles 22 and following of the Law. Violation of the obligation to declare or obtain authorisation for collecting and treating data is subject to penal and administrative sanctions.

Article 8 II paragraph 5 of the Law states that personal data can be used to adduce and present evidence in the context of any administrative and judicial proceeding pursuant to the defence or the exercise of a legal right without declaration or authorization. Thus, Plaintiffs alleging racial discrimination are not required to obtain an authorisation from the CNIL in order to request a court order to collect personal data from an employer. The CNIL is not legally competent to interfere in the judicial process.

Article 8 II paragraph 7 of the Law authorises the statistical treatment of personal data by the governmental national statistics institutes, under the supervision of the Commission. There is no general principle forbidding the collection of data based on ethnic origin, religion, age, disability or sexual orientation. However, all collection and treatment is subject to authorisation - including for the purpose of research - except, as discussed above, for the purpose of presenting evidence in judicial and administrative proceedings.

National governmental statistical agencies (INSEE, DARES, DRESS, INED⁵³) refuse to collect data on race and ethnic origin in the national census except regarding nationality and the origin of first degree ascendants. Therefore, racial and ethnic statistical indicators allowing impact evaluation of policies, or created for monitoring purposes, do not exist.

⁵² Op. Cit.

⁵³ INSEE (Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques) ; DARES (Direction de l'animation de la recherche, des études et des statistiques) ; DRESS (Direction de la recherche, de l'évaluation, des études et des statistiques) ; INED (Institut national des études démographiques).



However, such data can be collected in small scale multi-criteria surveys and studies under the supervision of National statistical agencies (based on a maximum representative sample of 5000 selected people).

It is not collected in institutional or corporate records, for example employers' records. The treatment of such data must be confidential, anonymous and reserved to the group monitoring the implementation of the program.

After production of the study, the data collection program must be destroyed immediately. For studies conducted by survey, the answers must be anonymous and their use exclusively reserved to exploitation in the context of the study by the persons responsible for the study.

Recently many studies and reports, as well as public policy on racial discrimination, have launched a debate on the opportunity to revisit the position of the French institutions managing the national policy on statistics and data protection that prohibits the collection of data on national, ethnic and racial origin. With a particular focus on the field of employment, the CNIL decided to create a working group with the mandate to consult national statistics institutions, to audit the present research projects and to prepare recommendations on possible orientation of future developments on this issue. It issued a recommendation on July, 5, 2005,⁵⁴ on the collection of data by employers in order to monitor discrimination in the work place. It concludes that the use of data to induce ethno-racial profiles is not expressly authorised by law and considered abusive. However, there is no general methodology and indicators for ethno-racial indicators constructed by national institutions managing statistics in France, the relevance of such indicators being controversial and remaining contested. In this context, there is no reliable methodological framework to collect data or to allow comparative analysis on the basis of origin or race. Therefore, such studies cannot be improvised and they should not be allowed until such time as the legislator authorises them and only when authorised.

The CNIL has initiated a follow up working group, for which it has invited the HALDE as observer. After auditioning all actors and experts on the subject between November 2006 and September 2007, it issued recommendations favouring the creation of a legislative framework in order to allow research on origin⁵⁵. Further to these recommendations, Government introduced legislation to regulate data collection in research relating to the measure of discrimination and origin. It did so by way of an amendment to the bill relating to the control of Immigration and Asylum. Article 63 of the law amended article 8 section II and article 25 section I of the law of January 6, 1978 on data collection in order to allow the collection of personal data "showing, directly or indirectly, the racial or ethnic origin" of persons, for the purpose of studies under the supervision of the CNIL (Commission on Data collection and the Protection of Personal Data). This provision was adopted and challenged by the opposition before the Constitutional Council. The Council struck the provision on the technical ground that it was a legislative rider, i.e. an amendment unrelated to the subject matter of the legislation under discussion.

⁵⁴ CNIL recommendation on national, racial and ethnic data of July 5, 2005
[www.cnil.fr/index.php?id=1844&news\[uid\]=272&cHash=55f0416448](http://www.cnil.fr/index.php?id=1844&news[uid]=272&cHash=55f0416448) : summary:
www.cnil.fr/index.php?id=1845

⁵⁵ <http://www.cnil.fr/index.php?id=2251>

However, it further declared that studies relating to the diversity of origin, discrimination and integration could be based on objective information but that ethnic origin and race are not objective concepts and are contrary to Article 1 of the Constitution⁵⁶.

In the context of a large project relating to the “integration of immigrants, the future of second generations and discrimination”, INED has initiated a number of inter-related projects aiming at proposing a deepened exploitation of data obtained in a number of previous studies of the INSEE, INED and the CEREQ and developing a theoretical framework for the concept of “integration indicators”.

One of these projects relates to the INED’s participation to a comparative study launched by the European commission in several European cities in order to analyse and compare the integration of children of immigrant descent in Europe. In France this study will target 1500 persons living in Paris and Strasbourg comparing groups of 250 persons with a Moroccan or Turk parent, with 250 French persons with two French parents. The Administration responsible for INED, the Ministry of Education, and the CNIL have authorised data collection for the purpose of this study.

The CNIL authorised that groups be constituted on the basis of surname and last names identified ethnically, by consulting the telephone directory, drawing an ethnical inference from linguistic expertise, this inference being made before obtaining the investigated person’s consent. It reiterated that such procedure is forbidden unless it is intended for research purposes and expressly authorised by the CNIL on a ground of public interest. However, it considered that this study met requirements of public interest because it would contribute to compensate the present deficit in statistical data necessary to pursue and define policies for the integration of these populations, at a National and European level. The CNIL imposed a procedure of information of each person contacted in the context of this study, imposing that they receive explanations in relation to the method and procedure of selection of their phone number, to the fact that cooperating to the study is not compulsory and to each participant’s right to consult and rectify data gathered further to their participation to the study. In addition, the interview organised to complete the study’s questionnaire requires that a written authorisation of each participant be obtained.

The decree of the Ministry of Education dated September 3, 2006, expressly states that the INED and its partners are to be exclusive receivers of the information collected⁵⁷. SOS Racism and the MRAP have publicly stated their opposition to this investigation process maintaining their opposition to ethno-racial data.

2.4 Harassment (Article 2(3))

- a) *How is harassment defined in national law? Include reference to criminal offences of harassment insofar as these could be used to tackle discrimination falling within the scope of the Directives.*

⁵⁶ Constitutionnal Council no 2007-557 DC, November 15, 2007

<http://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/decision/2007/2007557/2007557dc.htm>

⁵⁷ INED program of studies on origin: http://www.ined.fr/fichier/t_recherche/NoteDetPhare2006/P0825.pdf



In French Law, harassment takes both the form of sexual harassment and moral harassment and is not defined in relation to a list of prohibited grounds of discrimination, but a regime applicable to any relevant employment situation. It is sanctioned by criminal law (Article 222-33 and 222-33-2 PC) and labour law (Articles L1152-1, L1153-1 and Article 6 of Law no 83 634 of July 13, 1983 concerning civil servants).

Prohibition of harassment is applicable to both the private and public sectors and its definition covers acts of superiors as well as acts perpetrated by colleagues. The Labour Code specifically states that no employee must be the victim of such behaviour or be sanctioned for having testified or complained in relation thereof (article L1152-2 LC).

According to the Law of January 17, 2002, moral harassment covers « *repeated acts which result in a degradation of working conditions such as to alter one's benefit of one's rights or dignity, to alter one's physical or psychological health or to jeopardise one's professional future.* » Moreover, since this law, article L1153-1 LC defines sexual harassment as “*the behaviour of any person which aims at obtaining sexual favours for one's own benefit or that of a third party.*” The courts have decided that homosexual sexual advances were covered by the prohibition of sexual harassment⁵⁸.

Article L1154-1 LC provides in labour law for the shift in the burden of proof in the same terms as those used in directives 2000/43 and 2000/78.

In addition, Law no 2008 496 includes at article 1, harassment as a form of discrimination, providing the following definition:

*Any behaviour related to one of the grounds mentioned at paragraph one and any sexually connoted behaviour, to which a person is subjected and pursuing the purpose or having the effect of violating his or her dignity or of creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment*⁵⁹

b) *Is harassment prohibited as a form of discrimination?*

Law no 2008 496 includes at article 1 par 3, harassment and sexual harassment as forms of discrimination.

c) *Are there any additional sources on the concept of harassment (e.g. an official Code of Practice)?*

No.

2.5 Instructions to discriminate (Article 2(4))

Does national law prohibit instructions to discriminate?

⁵⁸ Cour d'Appel Paris, 18^e Ch., section C, 8 octobre 1992, Stè Euro Disney c. Vallinas, Juris Data no 023467.

⁵⁹ 1° Tout agissement lié à l'un des motifs mentionnés au premier alinéa et tout agissement à connotation sexuelle, subis par une personne et ayant pour objet ou pour effet de porter atteinte à sa dignité ou de créer un environnement intimidant, hostile, dégradant, humiliant ou offensant.

Instructions to discriminate are not covered as such by the Labour Code, the Civil Code or the Penal Code. However, incitement and instructions to discriminate correspond to the notion of complicity of articles 121-6 and 121-7 PC and general principles of liability in civil law.

Thus in labour law an employee's superior and the employer will support liability for actions of their subordinates covered by L1132-1 LC which covers all article 13 EC grounds plus those listed in section 2.1 above, in situations of discrimination and by L 1152-1 LC in situations of harassment. In addition, L 1152-4 LC creates an obligation on the part of the employer to take all necessary measures to put an end to harassment in the workplace. In public service, the same principles apply.

In very few cases instructions to discriminate were presumed in criminal cases and the corporation was held liable for the discrimination perpetrated by its employees. However, criminal prosecutions against corporate entities remain extremely rare, as do prosecution arguments for penalties against employers when specific employees are prosecuted. In few isolated cases however, the exacting burden of proof with regard to the liability of senior management was met deductively because the court was persuaded of its active involvement in what was a discriminatory policy⁶⁰. In fact it is the manager giving instructions who is targeted in the procedure and in penal cases the court is looking for evidence of the involvement of the decision maker⁶¹.

The Law on the Press prohibits provocation to racial, religious, sex, disability and sexual orientation discrimination, as well as complicity (article 23 and 24 of the Law on the Press of 1881 in case of public provocation and article R625-7 PC in case of non public provocation). The Court of cassation has clearly established that the prohibited provocation refers to discriminations defined by article 225-1 and 225-2 PC.⁶²

Law no 2008-496 includes at article 1 par. 4, instructions to discriminate as a form of discrimination, providing the following definition:

The fact of instructing anyone of adopting behaviour defined at article 2.

2.6 Reasonable accommodation duties (Article 2(2)(b)(ii) and Article 5 Directive 2000/78)

- a) *How does national law implement the duty to provide reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities? In particular, specify when the duty applies, the criteria for assessing the extent of the duty and any definition of 'reasonable'. e.g. ➔ does national law define what would be a "disproportionate burden" for employers or is the availability of financial assistance from the State taken into account in assessing whether there is a disproportionate burden?*

⁶⁰ TGI Versailles, 2 avril 2001. CA Paris 20 mars 1997, Sté NIDEX Europarc, n° 4835/96.

⁶¹ CA Paris 17/10/2003 / appel de TGI Paris 22/11/2002, DO juillet 2003 p.284, Affaire « Moulin Rouge » SOS Racisme et Marega c/ Beuzit et Association du Moulin ; TGI November 14, 2002 no. 0019304084 Cantuel Horbette (Hotel La Villa), Essindi et al.

⁶² Cass. crim. April 12, 1976, Cass. crim. May 22, 1989.



Article L5212-2 LC creates an obligation of employment for private employers employing 20 or more full time salaried workers of 6% of disabled employees as defined under article L5212-13 LC.

Article L1131-1 L C provides: “No salaried employee can be sanctioned, dismissed or be subject to a discriminatory measure by reason of his or her disability as the law guarantees the principle of equal treatment towards disabled workers” and, at paragraph 2, that in the case of litigation relating to the application of this principle, the shift in the burden of proof provided for in Article L1134-1 LC, and resulting from the transposition of Directive 2000/78, is applicable.

In addition, the law creates Article L 5213-6 LC in order to ensure respect for the principle of equal treatment towards the disabled in the workplace, as defined in Article L114 of the CSW, and reasonable accommodation. It provides that “(...) towards the disabled workers mentioned in article 5212-13 LC, the employers are to take, in relation to the need dictated by a concrete situation, all necessary measures to allow disabled workers to have access to or to keep a position of employment that corresponds to their qualifications, to execute the work, progress therein or to have access to adapted professional training”⁶³ (*our translation*). This obligation does not find application in reference to the situation of a person meeting the general definition of disability at article L114 of the Code of Social Welfare (CSW), but subject to the additional requirement that the disabled worker form part of the group targeted by the employers’ “quota obligation of employment” and be listed in article 5212-13 LC. Reasonable accommodation obligations therefore benefit only to employees who benefit from official recognition, have a status of disabled workers, to those who have suffered from an employment accident procuring a disability superior to 10% and who benefit from compensation in relation thereto, to beneficiaries of disability pensions and to disabled veterans. Therefore, non registered disabled people, non salaried disabled workers and disable persons who are members of the professions are not covered by the obligation of reasonable accommodation.

The only applicable limitation to this obligation is “disproportionate costs”, as defined by Article 5213-6 par 2 LC, by taking into account any financial support available to the employer (cf. Article 37 of the law no 2005-102 on disability concerning Article L5213-10 LC on financial subsidies for the adaptation of the work environment awarded by the departmental director of labour). They are provided by article R5213-52 LC. Similar provisions are integrated into the Law 83-6345 of July 13 1983 relating to the rights and obligations of civil servants; Law 84-16 of January 11 1984 concerning the civil service of the State; Law 84-53 of January 26, 1984 civil service for local and regional levels of government and Law 86-33 of January 9, 1986 concerning the hospital civil service.

This law is supplemented by two decrees, one ministerial order and one ministerial instruction:

- Decree no 2006-134 of February 9, 2006 relating to the recognition of the importance of disability;

⁶³ Art. 323-9-1 LC « (...) les employeurs prennent, en fonction des besoins dans une situation concrète, les mesures appropriées pour permettre aux travailleurs handicapés d’accéder à un emploi ou de conserver un emploi correspondant à leur qualification, de l’exercer ou d’y progresser ou pour qu’une formation adaptée à leurs besoins leur soit dispensée ».



- Decree no 2006-501 of May 3, 2006 relating to the fund for professional integration of disabled persons;
- Ministerial order of February 9, 2006 determining the amount of the annual support to employment;
- Ministerial instruction DGEF 2006/07 of February 22, 2006 relating to the recognition of the importance of disability to determine the contribution of the Fund for professional integration of disabled persons;

They set criteria for the determination of the financial support given to the employer. They are based on the importance of the disability and the corresponding functional cost of employment.

The obligation of reasonable accommodation has not been extended to non salaried and independent workers by the Law no 2008-496. The scope of the duty of reasonable accommodation therefore remains incomplete. It is furthermore not applicable to the status of magistrates, since Directive 2000/78 has not been transposed in applicable Ordinance no 58-1270 of December 22, 2008.

- b) *Does failure to meet the duty count as discrimination? Is there a justification defence? How does this relate to the prohibition of direct and indirect discrimination?*

The second paragraph of Article L5212-6 par 2 LC provides that “the refusal to take such measures (*reasonable accommodation*) may constitute discrimination according to Article L1133-2 LC”. The claimant thus benefits from the legal regime of discrimination covering both direct and indirect discrimination, which gives him, or her, the benefit of the right to obtain access to evidence and of the shift in the burden of proof.

The law gives no precision as to when it will deem a refusal to make “accommodation” (or take “necessary measures”) to be discrimination. Moreover, the concept of reasonable accommodation has never been interpreted and is foreign to French law. Therefore, the specific content of this obligation will have to be defined by the courts before we can further present with respect to the burden it imposes on employers.

There has not yet been judicial decisions defining the justification defence and situations of disproportionate costs. However, the HALDE has repeatedly imposed on respondents the burden of establishing measures undertaken to meet the duty of reasonable accommodation. Moreover, in Deliberation 2007-294 of November 13, 2007, it was called upon to evaluate whether all necessary measures had been taken in a situation where the employer ended the trial period of a disabled worker candidate to a postman position on the ground that he could not adapt the working conditions to allow claimant to execute the job in conditions in which he could be considered to meet medical requirements of ability. The HALDE concluded that when the disabled person is unable to perform most of the essential functions inherent to the job he or she is hired for, the required accommodations are thus to be considered difficult, see impossible. Claimant’s employment was conditional upon a finding of medical ability to perform the essential functions of the job description after having effected reasonable accommodations.

- c) *Has national law implemented the duty to provide reasonable accommodation in respect of any of the other grounds?*



The Law no 2005-102 on disability provides for a duty to integrate disabled children in the mainstream school system (see section 3.2.8).

Article L3122-26 LC provides for a right to request adaptation of work hours not only for the disabled person but also to the benefit of family members and care takers of a disabled person.

On other grounds of discrimination there is no express provision providing for a duty of reasonable accommodation. However, the jurisprudence of the Conseil d'Etat clearly provides for a duty of reasonable accommodation on religious grounds of the duty of children to attend school (see section 0.3 and 3.2.8 CE April 14th 1995, Consistoire central des Israelites de France).

In the public service, ministerial instruction of the Ministry of Public Service no 2106 of November 14, 2005 regarding authorisations of absence on religious grounds for the year 2006, reiterates ministerial instruction no 901 of September 29, 1967 allowing immediate superiors in the public service to authorise requests for religious holidays not foreseen by the French legal holiday calendar. This instruction provides indicative information and lists the principal Orthodox, Armenian, Muslim, Jewish and Buddhist holidays.

In addition, the educational system provides for special classes to integrate newly arrived foreign migrant children⁶⁴. The Law no 2000-614 of July 5, 2000, on the accommodation of travelling people (euphemism that covers all travelling populations), provides for a duty to integrate occasional attendance to school of travelling Roma children⁶⁵.

Finally, the Law 2000-614 of July, 5, 2000 provides for a duty to implement parking space for Travelling Roma, failing which the local authorities must tolerate parking in the area, and the technical requirements of these areas are provided by Decree 2001- 569 of June 29, 2001 (see 3.2.10 infra).

d) Does national law require services available to the public, buildings and infrastructure to be designed and built in a disability-accessible way? If so, could and has a failure to comply with such legislation be relied upon in a discrimination case based on the legislation transposing Directive 2000/78?

Article L111-7 of the Code of construction requires public and residential buildings to be designed and built in a way accessible to the disabled. The conditions of enforceability of this principle and the regulation of any delay in proceeding to necessary adaptations were adopted by decree in 2006⁶⁶.

A building which does not conform to requirements of accessibility could be shut down by administrative order (article 111-8-3 of the Code of construction). Public subsidies to building construction and renovation projects are conditional upon respecting accessibility requirements (article 111-26 par IV of the Code of construction).

⁶⁴ FRANCHI, Vijé, Raxen 4 EUMC French national report on education. Policy document n° 2002-102 issued on the 25/04/2002.

⁶⁵ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/MEEAX.htm

⁶⁶ Decree no 2006-555 of May 17, 2006 relating to accessibility of buildings receiving the public and residential buildings et modifying the Code of construction, J.O. no 115, 18/05/2006.



According to the Law no 2005-102 of February 11, 2005, the mobility chain including sidewalks, buildings, streets, public facilities, must allow total accessibility for the disabled within ten years of publication of the Law on Disability, and public transport must offer complete accessibility within three years, or offer substitute transport services to the disabled.

Decrees of application of the law, programming adaptation of public infrastructures, were adopted in the course of 2006⁶⁷.

The regulation of building and infrastructure accessibility existed before the Law on Disability, but the obligation to modify existing buildings and reasonable accommodation requirements result from this law.

These provisions give rise to administrative remedies. In addition, they create a duty of reasonable accommodation in access to housing and employment. The failure to provide reasonable accommodation could give rise to remedies for discrimination in access to housing based on the Law no 2002-73 of Social Modernisation of January 17, 2002 and, as discussed in section 2.6 b), a recourse in discrimination in access to employment based on article L122-45-4 LC.

Moreover, the prohibition of discrimination on the ground of disability in access to goods and services provided by article 225-1 and 225-2 PC has been interpreted to impose a duty to comply with accessibility obligations. The Courts have held that the burden of establishing a defence of disproportionate costs of installing necessary equipment falls upon defendant (CA Poitiers, September 1st, 2005).

e) Please explain briefly the existing national legislation concerning people with disabilities (beyond the simple prohibition of discrimination). Does national law provide for special rights for people with disabilities?

The Law no 2005-102 on Disability reforms the legal scheme concerning assistance to the people with disabilities and revisits their rights as well as all support and administrative schemes in the light of the principles of non-discrimination and of integration to society. It completes transposition of Directive 2000/78.

It modifies the definition of “Disability” by articulating the rights of the person with disability around the principles of non-discrimination, access to the built and urban environment and integration in society. It proposes a timetable for the implementation of all necessary measures to ensure a right of access to local schools and higher education, access to public buildings and housing, access to public transport and urban mobility. The law also requires adaptations to be made in order to facilitate access to new technology of information, voting and television.

⁶⁷ Decree no 2006-1658 of December 21, 2006 concerning technical prescription for accessibility of sidewalks, streets and public spaces, J.O. no 297, 23/12/2006; Decree no 2006-138 of February 9, 2006 relating to accessibility of mortised public transport material, J.O. no 35, 10/02/2006; Decree no 2006-1657 of December 21, 2006 relating to accessibility of streets and public space, www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/MVHP5.htm.



Please note that, as discussed hereafter, the Law no 2005-102 on Disability translates the terms “reasonable accommodation” by those of “all necessary measures” (*mesures nécessaires*).

The definition of Disability at article L114 of the Code of Social Welfare (CSW) is immediately followed by the affirmation of the corresponding right to solidarity, equal treatment and the full benefit of citizenship, at article L114-1 of the same Code.

It is followed by article L114-1-1 which lays down the right to access local schools, the labour market, public institutions and financial support, including compensation for additional costs related to one’s disability as well as an allowance for each adult with disability (article 11 of the Law) and a similar compensation for children with disabilities before 2008 (article 13).

Title IV of the Law, entitled “Accessibility”, covers access to education in chapter I, employment, adapted employment and protected employment in chapter II, and structural modifications necessary to ensure accessibility to buildings and infrastructures in chapter III.

2.7 Sheltered or semi-sheltered accommodation/employment

a) To what extent does national law make provision for sheltered or semi-sheltered accommodation/employment for workers with disabilities?

Title IV Chapter II section 4 of the Law no 2005-102 on Disability reforms the provisions of the Labour Code on sheltered and semi-sheltered workers provided in articles L5213-13 and articles 313-23 and following CSW.

The Labour Code provisions provide for subsidized employments with a minimum wage determined by decree (article 5213-15 LC), in adapted businesses and sheltered employment centres for disabled person selected by a commission.

b) Would such activities be considered to constitute employment under national law?

Such activities are considered as employment and as such are covered by the Labour Code (article L1111-1 and following, L5213-18 LC) and subject to the principle of non discrimination.



3. PERSONAL AND MATERIAL SCOPE

3.1 Personal scope

3.1.1 EU and non-EU nationals (Recital 13 and article 3(2) Directive 2000/43 and Recital 12 and Article 3(2) Directive 2000/78)

Are there residence or citizenship/nationality requirements for protection under the relevant national laws transposing the Directives?

No. The general protection against discrimination covers all and the principle of equality is applicable to non nationals unless the legislator can justify a difference in treatment on the basis of conditions of public interest⁶⁸. However, the law conditions the access to certain rights, such as the right to work and some social benefits, to the status of legal foreign resident. In addition, the law creates some legal discrimination in access to specific professions and jobs (about 7000 named jobs), subjecting them to conditions of citizenship, whether national or from the European Union (see GELD publication no 1. on legal discriminations and employments inaccessible to foreigners⁶⁹).

3.1.2 Natural persons and legal persons (Recital 16 Directive 2000/43)

Does national law distinguish between natural persons and legal persons, either for purposes of protection against discrimination or liability for discrimination?

No. Physical and legal persons, whether public or private, are bound to uphold the prohibition to discriminate in penal Law (article 121-2 PC for legal persons and 432-7 PC for public authority), private law and public law. In addition, article 5 of Law no 2008-496 expressly provides that the law is applicable to all public and private persons.

3.1.3 Scope of liability

What is the scope of liability for discrimination (including harassment and instruction to discriminate)? Specifically, can employers or (in the case of racial or ethnic origin) service-providers (e.g. landlords, schools, hospitals) be held liable for the actions of employees? Can they be held liable for actions of third parties (e.g. tenants, clients or customers)? Can the individual harasser or discriminator (e.g. co-worker or client) be held liable? Can trade unions or other trade/professional associations be held liable for actions of their members?

See answers to questions 2.5 and 3.1.2. All direct or indirect perpetrators of discrimination or harassment can be held liable, whether public or private, natural or legal persons.

⁶⁸ Constitutional Council, January, 22, 1990, 89-296 DC, R.F.D.C. no. 2 1990, obs Favoreu

⁶⁹ www.le114.com/contenu.php?dossier=0&id_rubrique=4



3.2 Material Scope

3.2.1 Employment, self-employment and occupation

Does national legislation apply to all sectors of public and private employment and occupation, including contract work, self-employment, military service, holding statutory office?

In paragraphs 3.2.2 - 3.2.5, you should specify if each of the following areas is fully and expressly covered by national law for each of the grounds covered by the Directives.

Further to the adoption of Law no 2008-496, all employees, civil servants and civil agents are protected against discrimination with respect to all the grounds covered by article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty. The extent of the protection and the legal regimes vary according to whether the situation is covered by the Penal Code, the Labour Code or administrative law and according to the ground of discrimination.

However, the the Law of July 3rd 1983 no 83-634 on the rights and obligations of civil servants states at article 3 that, in conformity with article 64 of the Constitution of 1958, it does not cover the status of Magistrates who are not considered as civil servants. Ordonnance no 58-1270 of December 22, 1958 regulates the rules applicable to both prosecution and state magistrates and judges on the bench. Public agents working within parliament are as well not subject to the Law no 83-634 and are also governed by application of article 3 of the Law by separate in-house rules of parliament. These texts have not been amended to implement directive 2000/78 and do not foresee any protection against discrimination on any grounds.

Article L1132-1 LC covers, on all grounds, hiring practices, remuneration, appointment, promotion, transfer, qualification, classification, renewal of contract and redeployment. In addition, the Labour Code forbids discriminatory provisions (L1121-1 LC) in the in house regulations (L1321-3 LC) and collective bargaining agreements (L2251-1 LC). The right of alert of the employees' representative (the ER) in case of violations of human rights and freedoms in the workplace stipulated at article L2313-2 LC, entitles the ER to file an emergency recourse for injunctive relief before the Labour Court and applies to cases of discrimination⁷⁰.

With respect to labour court judges' elections, lists presented by a political party or an organisation favouring discrimination are illegal (L1441-23 LC).

The prohibition of discrimination applies to salaried workers as well as temporary employees and vocational apprenticeship.

With respect to the status of the army, France has prevailed itself of the exception of article 3 (4) of directive 2000/78 allowing derogation concerning criteria based on age and disability.

At article 2, Law no 2008-496 has extended the same uniform protection to independent and non salaried workers and to both the private and public sector.

⁷⁰ Cass. soc. May 26, 1999, Bull. Civ. V no. 238



In the public sector, article 6 quinquies of Law no 83-634 of July 13, 1983 as modified by the Law of May 29, 2008 no 2008-496, forbids distinctions between civil servants in reason of their political, philosophical or religious opinions, union activities, sex, health, disability, race or origin.

The penal regime (as provided by articles 225-1 and 225-2 PC and article 4 of Law no 2008-496) does not provide for a shift in the burden of proof and covers only direct discrimination. It protects against discrimination in recruiting, vocational apprenticeship and training, as well as sanctions and dismissal. It offers the only possible recourse in case of refusal of the benefit of a right granted by law and of hindrance to economic activity.

Article 226-19 PC further incriminates anyone who collects nominative data- i.e. information linked to a person's name- concerning race, political or religious opinions, union membership as well as a person's mores. Therefore, the employer and no one can, in the course of business, gather this information except in certain regulated circumstances related to specific small scale studies or in arguing a case before the courts (cf article 8II of Law CNIL).

3.2.2 Conditions for access to employment, to self-employment or to occupation, including selection criteria, recruitment conditions and promotion, whatever the branch of activity and at all levels of the professional hierarchy (Article 3(1)(a))
Is the public sector dealt with differently to the private sector?

Access to employment is specifically covered with respect to all Article 13 EC grounds and other grounds listed in section 2.1 by article 225-2 PC, article L1132-1 LC and article 6 of the Law no 83-634 of July 13, 1983 on the rights and obligations of civil servants. Access to self employment or occupation is covered by article 2 of Law no 2008-496 with respect to all Article 13 EC grounds.

In addition, the Penal Code (article 225-2) specifically targets the refusal of the benefit of a right granted by law and of hindrance to economic activity.

However, as discussed above (section 3.1.1), the law conditions the access to certain rights, such as the right to work, to the status of legal foreign resident and creates some legal discrimination in access to specific professions and jobs (about 7000 named jobs), subjecting them to conditions of citizenship, whether national or from the European Union (see GELD publication no 1. on Legal discriminations and employments inaccessible to foreigners, supra).

In France, access to the civil service is conditional upon being admitted further to a competitive entry examinations. The Law no 2005-102 on disability creates at article 19, an express obligation to adapt the examination processes to the benefit of the disabled. Government is just starting to adopt the decrees required to implement the Law no 2005-102 on Disability, and in this context has adopted on December 21, 2005, decree no. 2005-1617⁷¹ concerning accommodation for the disabled in competitive examinations for entry in the public service.(see section 2.6 a)).

⁷¹ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/PEH26.htm



Furthermore, in France, access to careers in the public service and to competitive entry examinations were subject to limitations based on maximum age requirements that are not opposable to disabled candidates (see sections 2.6 a) and 4.7.1 b)).

Executive Order no 2005-893 of August 2nd, 2005, creates the labour contract « new hiring ». The purpose of this new contract is to allow very small employers (20 employees or less) to recruit more easily as they hold unexploited reserves of employment, and facilitate employability. This contract is characterised by a two years probation period and a variable notice period - two weeks under six months employment, to a month for a period of employment of two years. In addition, it gives rise to increased indemnity (8%) and increased contribution to unemployment insurance. The contract and its execution must otherwise conform to all prescriptions of the Labour Code, including the prohibition of discrimination.

In France, during the probation period the decision to interrupt the labour contract is discretionary and does not require justifying cause. However, the Cour de cassation has decided that this discretionary power did not obviate the obligation of the employer to abide by the non-discrimination principle and that article L1132-1 et seq. LC prohibiting dismissal for discriminatory reasons was applicable to the probation period⁷².

Some legal scholars have argued, on the basis of the Seymour-Smith case that since this new contract targets person with difficulty to access employment, among which there is a substantially higher number of persons from discriminated groups, statistics may support an argument that it generates indirect discrimination⁷³. There is no formal claim at present raising this argument.

3.2.3 Employment and working conditions, including pay and dismissals (Article 3(1)(c))

a) *Note that this can include contractual conditions of employment as well as the conditions in which work is, or is expected to be, carried out.*

As discussed in section 3.2.1, employment and working conditions, including pay and dismissals, are covered by Article L1132-1 LC, article 6 quinquies of Law no 83-634 of July 13, 1983 and Law no 2008-496.

b) *In respect of occupational pensions, how does national law ensure the prohibition of discrimination on all the grounds covered by Directive 2000/78?*

The Conseil d'Etat, applying the principles set-out by the ECJ in the GRIESMAR case (ECJ November 21, 2001), considers that occupational pensions form part of remuneration and constitute a debt subject to article 14 and Protocol 11 of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR) guaranteeing protection of property rights, and that the non occupational pensions constitute social security protected as such by the same dispositions of the ECHR (CE, December 18, 2002, CE 30/11/2001 DIOP, no 212179 and 212211).

⁷² Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, February 16, 2005, no. 02-43402,

www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=CASS&nod=CXCXAX2005X02X05X00434X002

⁷³ BERTHOU, Katell, Contrat nouvelles embauches et droit communautaire, Semaine sociale lamy, 18 juillet 2005, no 1224.

The Cour de cassation has further interpreted the Labour Code, at article 3221-2, to set a general principle of equality of remuneration⁷⁴, and the Conseil d'Etat has decided that it applied to professional pension rights⁷⁵.

As regards reasonable accommodation regarding implementation of pension rights towards disabled persons see section 4.7.4 b).

3.2.4 Access to all types and to all levels of vocational guidance, vocational training, advanced vocational training and retraining, including practical work experience (Article 3(1)(b))

Note that there is an overlap between 'vocational training' and 'education'. For example, university courses have been treated as vocational training in the past by the Court of Justice. Other courses, especially those taken after leaving school, may fall into this category. Does the national Anti-discrimination law apply to vocational training outside the employment relationship, such as that provided by technical schools or universities, or such as adult life long learning course?

Vocational training and guidance is covered by article 225-2 PC, L1132-1 LC and Article 6 quinquies of Law no 83-634 of July 13, 1983 as modified by the Law of November 16, 2001 with respect to all Article 13 EC grounds and other grounds listed in section 2.1. In addition, Law no 2008-496 article 2 completes implementation of directives 2000/43 and 2000/78 by creating a general principle prohibiting direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of "race" and origin (article 2 par. 1.) and a protection against direct and indirect discrimination for independent and non salaried workers on all article 13 grounds (article 2 par. 2).

More generally, public schools are subject to the prohibition of discrimination based on origin provided at article 1 of Law no 2008-496, to an obligation of integration of disabled children provided by the Law no 2005-102 of February 11, 2005 (see section 3.2.8) and to general principles of administrative law which include general principles of non discrimination.

3.2.5 Membership of, and involvement in, an organisation of workers or employers, or any organisation whose members carry on a particular profession, including the benefits provided for by such organisations (Article 3(1)(d))

Further to the adoption of Law no 2008-496 article 6, Article 2141-1 LC states that « Any salaried employee, can freely become member of the union of his or her choice and cannot be excluded on grounds prohibited by article 1133-1 that is all article 13 EC grounds and morey" and article 2131-5 LC provides that any member of French or foreign citizenship can participate to its administration. Article 2314-16 LC provides that all salaried employees are eligible to become employees' representative if they are 18 years of age and have been employee in said business since at least one year.

With respect to labour court judges' elections, lists presented by a political party or an organisation favouring discrimination are illegal (L1441-23 LC). However, to be eligible, the candidate must have French citizenship.

⁷⁴ Cass.soc. October 29, 1996, Delzongle c. Ponsolle, Dr.ouv. 1997, 149 comments Pascal Moussy.

⁷⁵ Conseil d'État 13 décembre 2006 N° 291595 (9ème et 10ème sous-sections réunies).

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=JADE&nod=JGXBX2006X12X000000291595>



Article 6 paragraph 2 and article 8 paragraph 1 of Law no 83-634 of July 13, 1983 as modified by the Law of November 16, 2001 provides that in the public sector “Union rights are guaranteed to civil servants. The persons concerned can freely create unions, become members and be elected as representatives ».

Law no 2008-496 creates a specific protection of affiliation and involvement in a professional or trade organisation at article 2 par 2. for all grounds protected by directive 2000/78 as well as real or assumed ethnic origin and race.

Some professions are inaccessible by reason of nationality (cf. section 3.2.1). Many are regulated by specific statute but all are subject to the judicial control of the administrative judge who will apply general principles of administrative law.

Finally, the trade unions, employers associations and all other organisations have to abide by article 225-2 of the Penal Code prohibiting discrimination in access to goods and services, including services offered by the Union to its members. The list of prohibited grounds listed at article 225-1 includes health, age, disability, sexual orientation, racial and ethnic origin, convictions, religion, political opinions and sex.

In relation to paragraphs 3.2.6 – 3.2.10 you should focus on how discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin is covered by national law, but you should also mention if the law extends to other grounds.

3.2.6 Social protection, including social security and healthcare (Article 3(1)(e) Directive 2000/43)

In relation to religion or belief, age, disability and sexual orientation, does national law seek to rely on the exception in Article 3(3), Directive 2000/78?

Law no 2008-496 completes implementation of directive 2000/43 by integrating at article 2, a prohibition of direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of “race” and origin benefiting from the shift in the burden of proof as regards social protection, including social security and healthcare.

For the other grounds of discrimination, general principles of public Law are based on a general principle of equality towards the public service (see section 0.1 and section 1 - article 1st of the Constitution of 1958, the preamble of the Constitution of 1946, the declaration of human rights and of the citizen of 1789) and a universal principle of non discrimination in access to health care that is not restricted to any prohibited ground of discrimination (article 1110-3 SWC). These principles apply as well to civil servants. In addition, all residents benefit from the same social rights regardless of nationality.



3.2.7 Social advantages (Article 3(1) (f) Directive 2000/43)

This covers a broad category of benefits that may be provided by either public or private actors granted to people because of their employment or residence status, for example, e.g. reduced rate train travel for large families, child birth grants, funeral grants and discounts on access to municipal leisure facilities. It may be difficult to give an exhaustive analysis of whether this category is fully covered in national law, but you should indicate whether national law explicitly addresses the category of ‘social advantages’ or if discrimination in this area is likely to be unlawful.

Law no 2008-496 completes implementation of directive 2000/43 by integrating to the completion of transposition at article 2, a prohibition of direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of “race” and origin benefiting from the shift in the burden of proof as regards social advantages.

For the other grounds of discrimination, general principles of public Law are based on a general principle of equality towards the public service (see article 1st of the Constitution of 1958, the preamble of the Constitution of 1946, the declaration of human rights and of the citizen of 1789). These principles apply as well to civil servants. In addition, all residents benefit from the same social rights regardless of nationality. The price paid for access to municipal services for instance and social support can only be based on socio-economic considerations⁷⁶.

Otherwise, public agents taking into account a criteria based on a prohibited ground of discrimination, such as religion, have been held to violate article 225-1 and 432-7 PC and been sanctioned accordingly by the courts.

Despite the creation of the PACS, which procures similar rights to those of married couples in many areas (access to social security, rights of residence etc...), there remains some form of legal indirect discrimination against couples of same sex resulting from the present inaccessibility of marriage. Partners to a PACS cannot benefit from widowers’ pensions, transfer of pension rights, rights accessible to spouses in employments benefits or parental rights after the decease of the spouse holding the parental rights.⁷⁷

Finally, all social advantages that form part of remuneration are covered by the prohibitions of discrimination relating to equal pay.

3.2.8 Education (Article 3(1) (g) Directive 2000/43)

This covers all aspects of education, including all types of schools. Please also consider cases and/ or patterns of segregation and discrimination in schools, affecting notably the Roma community. If these cases and/ or patterns exist, please refer also to relevant legal/political discussions that may exist in your country on the issue.

⁷⁶ See section 0.1 and section 1

⁷⁷ See Borrillo et Fassin, 2003. Parliament has recently opposed adoption of amendments to the law proposed by the communist parliamentary group extending to partners of a PACS and to common law spouses benefits from pensions rights and from widowers pensions.



Origin

National education is considered as a public service accessible to all and subject to the respect of the general principle of equality, applicable to the public service. As explained in section 1, it is a general principle of administrative law of constitutional value that origin cannot be taken in consideration whether by legal texts or managing practices. Not only is the criteria of nationality not taken into account, but until university, the illegality of the presence of parents on the national territory cannot be taken into account to deny access to school or kinder garden⁷⁸. The Grenoble Court of appeal has condemned a mayor for refusing to register children of North African origin in schools and school cafeterias⁷⁹.

In this context, Roma children from new member states can, theoretically attend school if the conditions of their stay *de facto* allows for school registration.

Legal segregation on ethnic grounds is prohibited at all levels of the legal order and ethnic origin cannot form the basis of educational policy in France (see section 1). The identification of the child's public school is legally determined by his or her address. Geographical zoning has no impact on the educational program which is national and identical throughout the territory, except that some areas have an increased budget when they deal with socially underprivileged children. No official monitoring device takes in consideration origin. It is known however that due to geographical zoning there is a concentration of migrant children and children of foreign origin in specific schools, where overall educational achievements are lower than that of other schools.

The Law HALDE and the Law no 2008-496 complete implementation of directive 2000/43 by creating a general principle prohibiting direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of "race" and origin and judicial and administrative recourses in discrimination benefiting from the shift in the burden of proof as regards education. Any evidence of a segregative practice or a management taking origin in consideration, directly or indirectly, would give rise to a right of action before the administrative courts and the penal courts.

However, claims of discrimination in education involving the private sector, whether it be a private school or discrimination perpetrated by a private party in the context of internship, are covered by general principles of administrative law and therefore benefit from no means of recourse other than general private law civil liability recourses on the basis of article 1 of the Law of May 27, 2008 and criminal recourses based on article 225-2 of the Penal Code.

The educational system provides for special classes to integrate newly arrived foreign migrant children and travelling children⁸⁰, and the Law no 2000-614 of July 5, 2000, on the accommodation of travelling people (euphemism that covers all travelling populations) provides for a duty to integrate occasional attendance to school of travelling Roma children⁸¹.

⁷⁸ Ministerial instructions of national education, n° 84-246 dated July 16 1984 and n° 86-120 dated March 13, 1986.

⁷⁹ Grenoble Court of Appeal, November 13, 1991. TA Bordeaux, June 14, 1988, El Rhazouari recueil Lebon, p. 518.

⁸⁰ RANCHI, Vijé, Raxen 4 EUMC French national report on education.

http://www.raxen.eumc.eu.int/1/webmill.php?fx=r&id=32810&lin=result&modid%5B%5D=604&dstart=0&dorder=result_li ne1&junc=AND&s_qd=4&s_searched=1&column_1=neverendingbook&operator_1_1=6&keyc%5B%5D=54&key%5B%5D=54; Policy document n° 2002-102 issued on the 25/04/2002.

⁸¹ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/MEEAX.htm
www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/MEEAX.htm



Again, some mayors fail to respect the law. When they are brought before the courts they are sanctioned, but parents on the road will often leave without seeking enforcement.

The Ministry of Education has issued several directives in order to facilitate attendance to school of travelling children: notice (circulaire) no. 91-220 of July 30, 1991 has instructed school principals to admit children in class, even for a few days, without requirements as to formal registration with the city authorities. In 2002, the ministry of education has rationalised and put in place a formal notice instructing all Education administrations and school principals as to the organisation of support to for the education of Roma Children (notice no 2002-101 of April 25, 2002). Notice 2002-102 creates a coordinating training and documentation structure at the Rectorate level (local administrative unit of the national education) called the CASNAV, which is supposed to provide support to integration classes and local initiatives. There are 34 such missions that coordinate 104 local networks. Their efficiency depends upon political orientations at the local level.

4000 Children, not registered in the formal system, attend between 10 and 50 half days of school in mobile school buses in 13 departments. Social Affairs Governmental authorities stress that since the abolition of the military service, the degree of illiteracy is dramatically increasing since this period served as a means to teach every young man to read and write.

The CNED (Distance schooling system available to home schooled children) registers 750 travelling children in primary school and 5000 in secondary school, of which 1300 follow classical education and 3700 follow classes destined to combat illiteracy.

The national parking accommodation scheme aims at stabilising residence and favour school attendance for the children, as all mayors are obliged to accept registration children in school even for a few days, followed by registration by the school principal (article L131-10 and 131-11 of the Code of Education and 227-17-2 of the penal code). However, they tend to generate concentration and in some cities (Dijon- Nancy- Toulouse) where there are schools that count a majority of Roma children.

With respect to vocational training and access to apprenticeship, legal protections appear in the Labour Code and the Penal Code as well, as discussed in section 3.2.4.

Religion

The same principle of equality has been used to adjudicate on the applicability of the obligation to attend school to children whose religion enjoins worship on a day other than Sunday. In this case, the *Conseil d'État* has given priority to the protection of freedom of worship, arguing that compulsory school attendance is not intended to, and may not lawfully, deny to pupils who request it, such individual leave of absence as may be necessary for worship or celebration of a religious festival, at least in so far as their absence is compatible with performance of the tasks entailed by their studies and with the maintenance of good order (*ordre public*) in the school.”⁸²

⁸² CE April 14th 1995, Consistoire central des israélites de France, Mr Koen, (2 arrêts), Recueil Lebon page 169, Dalloz 1995, jur. page 481, note Koubi G.



Nonetheless, ten years after the first judgments of the Conseil d'Etat relating to the expression of faith within schools, there remains a debate about the limits of the principle of neutrality of the public sector and the prerogatives of private life, in application of the constitutional principle of religious neutrality, which is regarded as constitutive of French Republican identity⁸³. Previous parameters of secularity (*laïcité*) restricted to a universal rule of religious neutrality are brought into question by the practices and political demands of some groups, who claim that it must take into account the right to the public expression of faith.

The Law on the application of the principle of secularity in public schools was adopted on 15 March 2004 and published on 17 March 2004 (Law of March 15, 2004 no 2004-228)⁸⁴. It forbids "...in public elementary, secondary and high schools, the wearing of signs or clothes by which a student ostensibly manifests his or her religious beliefs" (our translation). Discreet religious signs remain authorized. The law further instructs each school to adopt in-house regulations for the school year 2004-2005 in order to put in place a procedure of enforcement by disciplinary decision preceded by a mediation and dialogue process with the student. In view of the debates raised by this new law, the text itself foresaw an evaluation of the results of its enforcement in September 2005.

The administrative instruction of 18 May 2004 on the conditions of enforcement of the above-mentioned law, which was redrafted three times, was published on 25 May 2004 (Ministerial instruction N°2004-084 of May 18, 2004)⁸⁵.

It states that "the prohibited signs and clothes are those by which one is immediately identified by his or her religious beliefs such as the Islamic Veil, whichever is the word by which it is designated, the Kippa or a cross of manifestly excessive dimension" (our translation). However, it emphasises the necessity of organising a true dialogue between the student, his parents or legal representatives and the head of school in order to limit disciplinary sanctions to cases of deliberate refusal by the student to abide by the law.

In parallel, in the prospect of implementing the principle of secularity, the Minister for Interior, Interior Security and Local Liberties, adopted an administrative instruction addressed to the Prefects of each Department⁸⁶ reiterating that secularity carries the respect of an equilibrium between freedom of religion and the separation of religious institutions from public institutions. It stressed that the action of the State was to concur to the prevention of manifestations of intolerance towards religious communities and the protection of individuals against violence of all sorts, whether or not they were committed in the name of one's allegiance to these communities. The Prefects were instructed, before the beginning of the school year 2004-2005 and in collaboration with the Regional Education Inspector (Inspecteur d'académie), to make their best efforts to confer with the representatives of each religion present in the Department in order to prepare all necessary measures of information, prevention and mediation.

⁸³ Charlier-Dagras, M-D, *La laïcité française à l'épreuve de l'intégration européenne. Pluralisme et convergences*, L'Harmattan – Coll. Logiques Juridiques, Paris, 2002, 452p.

⁸⁴ Internet link: www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/Visu?cid=25931&indice=1&table=CONSOLIDE&ligneDeb=1

⁸⁵ Internet link: www.education.gouv.fr/bo/2004/21/MENG0401138C.htm

⁸⁶ Circulaire N° NOR/INT/A/04/00086/C relative au respect de la laïcité et à la prévention des manifestations d'intolérance religieuse.



According to the Ministry of Education, in 2005 1200 young girls came to school on the first day wearing the Islamic veil⁸⁷. Most cases were concentrated in 6 of the 26 school districts. The Minister of Education further declared that after a true mediation, the number of girls refusing to remove their veil upon entering the school premises was substantially inferior to those of the preceding year⁸⁸. In 2006, unsolved cases were limited to boys of the Sikh community.

In addition, the Law of December 31, 1959 recognises religious private schools and provides for the financial support of the state towards those of these schools that follow the national education program.

In the meantime, some national education local authorities have held that parents wearing religious signs could not accompany their children's classes in school activities. The HALDE received a number of complaints from individual parents and NGOs and rendered a Deliberation no 2007-117 on May 14, 2007. The local educational authorities argued that since parents accompanying children are acting under delegation of public service, they are bound to uphold the obligation of neutrality of civil servants. The national educational authorities argued that as interventions of external people are made in the teaching context and during the educational time, head school must make sure it is conforming to the respect of the principle of secularity". The HALDE concluded that the volunteer contribution to public service could not assimilate parents to civil servants to impose upon them obligations of secularity without constituting an indirect discrimination on the basis of religion and more particularly against Muslim women. The HALDE recommended to the local and national authorities to put an end to this practice and to the Education Minister to take all necessary measures to put an end to this erroneous interpretation of the principle of secularity.

Disability

The Law on Disability no 2005-102 of February 11, 2005 was adopted after the Autism Europe case before the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe⁸⁹ and completely reforms assistance and education of disabled children⁹⁰.

This vast reform of the organisation of assistance to disabled persons provides an express obligation on the State to insure education of all disabled children. The right to education and to reasonable accommodation within education of disabled children is affirmed in articles 19 to 22 of the Law on Disability. Article 11 affirms a right of access to local mainstream schools and the right to a personalised educational project.

Title IV of the Law on Disability, entitled "Accessibility", covers access to education in chapter I. It creates a commission which will assess the child and propose to his or her parents' a personalised program of education that will also be taken into consideration when

⁸⁷ Libération, Le parisien 3 septembre 2004.

⁸⁸ Hanifa Cherifi, Application de la loi du 15 mars 2004, Rapport au mûinistre de l'éducation nationale (2005), <http://www.acb54.com/IMG/pdf/hanifa-cherifi.pdf>; <http://www.islamlaicite.org/article514.html>

⁸⁹ Resolution ResChS(2004)1, collective claim n° 13/2002

⁹⁰ As regards autism and access to facilities, education and support, a national plan was initiated in 2004 to provide resources at the regional level, and followed by a plan for 2005/ 2006 to provide resources at the local level. <http://autisme.france.free.fr/fichiers/Dossier%20de%20Presse%20Autisme%202005.pdf>



subsequently determining rights of the child under the general compensation scheme for all disabled people established by the law.

Article 19 III creates an obligation to provide education to each child at every level of education and a right to have access to mainstream school is conferred by article L112-1 of the Code of Education. Orientation towards a specialised structure is made only with the consent of the child's parents in the context of the child's personalised program (article L112-2 of the same Code). The parents cannot require a schooling orientation that differs from that proposed by the The Commission for the Rights and the Autonomy of Disabled Persons.

If access to the local ordinary school is not possible because of the physical condition of the premises, the extra cost of transportation to another school are met by the municipal authorities (article L112-1 par 8 of the Code of Education).

At article 75, the Law introduces Article L 312-9-1 to the Code of Education in order to officially recognise the French sign language for persons with impaired hearing.

The Law on disability no 2005-102 further creates at article L112-4 of the Code of Education an express obligation to adapt examination processes to the benefit of the disabled. The Government is still in the process of adopting the decrees required to implement the Law on disability no 2005-102, and in this context has adopted on December 21, 2005, decree no. 2005-1617⁹¹ concerning accommodations of school and upper school competitions and competitive examinations for the disabled. In its Deliberation 2006-213 of October 9, 2006, the HALDE recommended to the ministry of education to take necessary measures to insure that when there are many examinations in the same day, disabled students who benefit from extended examination periods have sufficient recuperation time between examinations.

In September 2005, the Administrative Tribunal of Lyon decided that the failure of the State to provide access to school to a disabled child because of insufficient available adapted facilities gave rise to the liability of the State in damages regardless of whether or not it is at fault, the additional burden on the family being unreasonable⁹².

The adoption of decrees necessary to implement institutional reforms pursuant to the adoption of the Law on Disability has been completed in 2006⁹³. Decree no 2005-1589 of December 19, 2005 has been adopted to enforce the administrative simplification of the management of the various rights of the disabled person. It substitutes to the many commissions which managed the various governmental schemes intervening in the life of a disabled person and educational orientation, a single body for each department, the Commission for the Rights and the Autonomy of Disabled Persons⁹⁴.

The Regional administration of National Education (Académie) participates in this commission, in coordination with all persons involved in the support and the education of the child.

⁹¹ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/PEH26.htm

⁹² T.A. Lyon, September 29, 2005, no. 0403829, M. & Mme Hebri, AJDA, 2005, 1874

⁹³ Decree no 2006-583 of May 23, 2006 relating to regulatory provisions of Book II of the Code of education J.O. no 120, 24/05/2006.

⁹⁴ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SANA0524617D



The Commission for the Rights and the Autonomy of Disabled Persons will, amongst other missions, determine, in accordance with his or her personal life project, whether a child should be placed either in the mainstream educational system, in some cases with special support, in specialised classes (CLIS) or in specialised institutions⁹⁵. Parents' remedies when they are opposed to the conclusions of the orientation process are dealt with in section 6.1 of this report.

3.2.9 Access to and supply of goods and services which are available to the public (Article 3(1)(h) Directive 2000/43)

Does the law distinguish between goods and services available to the public (e.g. in shops, restaurants, banks) and those only available privately (e.g. limited to members of a private association)? If so, explain the content of this distinction.

The Penal Code (article 225-2) covers all Article 13 EC grounds and other grounds listed in section 2.1 and punishes discrimination in access to goods and services in the private sector without distinguishing whether the offer is private or available to the public. In the public sector the same disposition punishes any public agent who refuses to any person the benefit of a right afforded by law or hinders the free exercise of an economic activity. The Perben Law of March 9, 2004 adapting justice to the evolutions of criminality creates an aggravated sanction in case of discriminatory refusal to sell or to provide access to public places.

In addition, the Law HALDE (incorporated in Law no 2008-496 at article 2) completes implementation of directive 2000/43 by creating at article 19 a general principle prohibiting direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of "race" and origin and administrative and jurisdictional recourses benefiting from the shift in the burden of proof as regards access and supply of goods and services, there again without distinction between goods available to the public or privately.

There have not yet been judicial decisions on the basis of this provision except in housing.

However, as regards the Travellers population, there are regularly administrative court decisions forcing reluctant mayors to register children in school (Deliberation 2007-30 of February 12, 2007) or relating to rights to the parking of caravans, in attempts to expel Travellers' caravans, whether or not they own the property on which they are parked (for example Conseil d'Etat, February 26, 2004 no 264907; Versailles Administrative Court of Appeal of September 21, 2006, no 04LE01586; Douai Administrative Court of Appeal of August 3, 2006 no 05DA01139; Bordeaux Administrative Court of Appeal of July, 25, 2006 no 03BX01608)

3.2.10 Housing (Article 3(1) (h) Directive 2000/43)

To which aspects of housing does the law apply? Are there any exceptions? Please also consider cases and patterns of housing segregation and discrimination of the Roma and other minorities or groups.

⁹⁵ Decree no 2005-1587 of December 19, 2005 relating to the departmental house for the disabled, J.O. no 295, 20/12/2005; Decree no 2005-1752 of December 20, 2005 relating to the schooling path of disabled students J.O. no 304, 31/12/2005.



The Law of January 17, 2002 amends article 1 paragraph 2 of Law no 89-462 of July 6, 1989 on relations between landlords and tenants, and forbids discrimination in access to rental housing, whether private or public, on all grounds of discrimination prohibited by French law, i.e. all grounds covered by the two directives, and provides for civil remedy and shift in the burden of proof.

In addition, at article 162, it forbids to the landlords the right to request copy of photographs, social insurance card, copy of statements of bank accounts and banking certification of good conduct and, creates an article 22-1 to the Law of July, 6, 1989, preventing landlords to refuse security on the basis that the warrantor is in a foreign country or of foreign nationality.

Furthermore, the Penal Code's prohibition of discrimination on all covered grounds in access to goods and services has been interpreted to cover housing whether in relation to rental or sale.

There can be no exception to the prohibition of racial discrimination in French law, and the law provides no exception to the principle of non discrimination in housing. Even safety considerations cannot justify discriminating in renting an apartment to a disabled person (see section 0.3⁹⁶).

However, social housing institutions have interpreted the concept of social mixity which must govern attribution as including a reference to origin in order to prevent concentration that would lead to segregation. In a context where the concentration of persons of foreign origin and migrants in social housing is a characteristic of the suburbs, the prohibition to take origin into account *de facto* conflicts with desegregation policies and management practices.

The Hamida case⁹⁷ is a illustration of penal sanction in a racial discrimination case. The owner refused to complete the transaction arguing that she was afraid of provoking problems with the neighbours because the buyer was "Arab", some of the neighbours being her own children. The basis for the refusal of the owner was also established by the testimony of the real estate agent.

On September 14, 2004, the Grenoble criminal court condemned the owner to important pecuniary sanctions, marking a turning point in the penal treatment of discrimination. The landowner condemned to a 10 000€ fine, four months imprisonment suspended sentence, 1500€ damages to the buyer and 500€ to his wife. The Court also ordered the publication of the condemnation in the professional bulletin of the federation of real estate brokers and awarded 1500€ in damages to the two NGOs supporting the victim, MRAP and SOS Racism. This decision has been appealed and the Court of Appeal of Grenoble increased the suspended imprisonment sentence to six months, while lowering the fine to 6 000€, on October 27, 2005⁹⁸.

As regards discrimination on religious grounds, on June 13, 2002 the Administrative Court of Poitiers decided that a municipality could not refuse to rent a municipal room to Jehovah

⁹⁶ T.G.I Paris, 17th Chamber, June 28, 2005, no. 0402608235, Poncelet c. Lassailly

⁹⁷ No 3122 MP 32 AM

⁹⁸ CA Grenoble, 27 October 2005, no 04/01355



Witnesses on the basis that their cult was considered as a sect by a Parliamentary Enquiry. This refusal was held to constitute a violation of the principle of equality of all citizens before the law.

The travelling population is subject to specific rules of accommodation. Municipalities of more than 5000 inhabitants have the obligation to accommodate travelling populations by providing settlement areas provided by Law no 2000-614 of July, 5, 2000, and the technical requirements of these areas are provided by decree 2001- 569 of June 29, 2001⁹⁹ reviewing legislation that was first adopted in 1990 (Law no 90-449 of May 31, 1990)

The installations of non authorised motor homes for illegal parking is sanctioned by administrative expelling measures created by the Law no 2003-239 of March 18 mars 2003 . Even if the law provides that a municipality that has not satisfied its legal obligation cannot expel illegally parked Roma travellers, the concentration of travellers and the insufficiency of available space is a major problem.

An audit of the implementation of these parking accommodations over more than 15 years by the Ministry of Equipment indicates that only 25 % of the required accommodations have been completed. Their manifest insufficiency therefore increases illegal parking, their control by the police and the criminalisation of their way of life, since they concentrate in areas that have satisfied their legal obligation while offering an insufficient number of available space.

When a municipality fails to put in place specific parking lots for the travelling population, it is barred from seeking removal of the travellers' trailers and from prohibiting parking (TGI de Montauban, May 3rd, 2002¹⁰⁰) and can be attacked for this failure before the administrative courts. The Conseil d'Etat decided in 2000 that the failure of a mayor to implement regulations and accommodations for the travellers could incur its liability. In addition, it also decided that unless he or she complied with accommodation requirements, a mayor could not forbid their presence on the territory for less than a period of time necessary for their transit until identifying a new destination.

In March 2007, the Government has decided to encourage municipalities to conform to their legal obligation by creating an incentive by way of financing and a special authorization for a period of two years to expel illegally parked Roma travellers on the condition that they manifest their desire to conform with parking requirements and initiate preparatory work.

In this context of insufficient parking accommodation, some families attempt to purchase land which for economic reasons is often situated in non constructible areas, and they thereby enter into complicated legal conflicts with municipalities with respect to their conditions of occupation of these lands. Many Mayors adopt decrees to forbid motor homes parking on the entire territory in order to prevent authorised parking on private lands. Even if such decrees have systematically been found illegal, it sustains control, eviction and an overall atmosphere of denial of access to rights (Bordeaux Appellate administrative Court, December 1st, 2005, no 03BX00379).

⁹⁹http://www.le114.com/contenu.php?dossier=0&id_rubrique=2&cns_mode=read&id_theme_fiche=1,2,3&id_fiche=40

¹⁰⁰www.rajf.org/article.php3?id_article=1043



The reluctance of the central government to insure enforcement of parking provisions in a context of increased repression could be deemed to be a *de facto* non compliance with respect to the 2000/143 Directive as regards housing rights.

A Mayor who used his preemption right to prevent the purchase of land by a Roma travelling family was condemned by the Appeal penal court for discrimination in access to goods and service contrary to article 225-2 PC¹⁰¹.

¹⁰¹ CA Grenoble 04/11/2004 MRAP c/ M. Bernard M.



4. EXCEPTIONS

4.1 Genuine and determining occupational requirements (Article 4)

Does national law provide an exception for genuine and determining occupational requirements? If so, does this comply with Article 4 of Directive 2000/43 and Article 4(1) of Directive 2000/78?

Law no 2008-496 has created the general possibility to raise an exception based on genuine and determining occupational requirement at article 2 par 3 and article 6 par 3. It appears to be a regression compared to the absence of such exception prior to the adoption of this law. In addition, it is framed in too broad terms, leaving open the possibility to justify occupational requirements in each individual case.

4.2 Employers with an ethos based on religion or belief

- a) *Does national law provide an exception for employers with an ethos based on religion or belief? If so, does this comply with Article 4(2) of Directive 2000/78?*
- b) *Are there any specific provisions or case-law in this area relating to conflicts between the rights of organisations with an ethos based on religion or belief and other rights to non-discrimination?*

For a time, the Court of Cassation considered that, although members of a religious community were considered by law to be party to an employment contract, this fact did not entail the applicability of all the dispositions of the Labour Code. Thus, it excluded for some time the application of former article L122-45 LC to dismissal or sanctions resulting from behaviour contravening prescriptions related to the requirements of the faith of the employer

However, ever since the decision of the Court of cassation on April 17, 1991 in *Fraternité Ste Pie*, the religious orientation of the employer does not justify an exception to the application of article L122-45 LC (now article L1133-1 and following LC). In this landmark case which preceded the directive, the court decided that the sexual orientation of the employee was not in and of itself sufficient to justify dismissal. It considered at the time that the employer was required to establish that the behaviour of the employee had, considering his function and his objective behaviour, generated substantial disruption (“*trouble caractérisé*”) within the community¹⁰². In 1993, the Court of appeal of Montpellier concluded that provocative distasteful behaviour could justify dismissal¹⁰³.

However, in transposing Directive 2000/78 by adopting the Law of November 16, 2001, the legislator did not foresee any exception to the principle of non discrimination on the basis of faith or opinions, and since 2001 the courts have not adjudicated on this issue. The new possibility to justify difference in treatment provided by article 2 of Law no 2008-496 and new article 1133-1 might bring about attempts to argue ethos and belief in the future.

As regards exterior signs of one’s religion such as the veil, they are forbidden to all members of the public service who must respect a principle of neutrality¹⁰⁴ whether or not they are in contact with the public.

¹⁰² Cour de Cassation, chambre sociale, 17 avril 1991, *Droit Social* 1991, 485.

¹⁰³ CA Montpellier, January, 28, 1993.

¹⁰⁴ Conseil d’Etat 3 Mai 2000 *Mlle Marteaux* N° 217017, Conseil d’Etat 15/10/2003 n°244428



4.3 Armed forces and other specific occupations

- a) *Does national law provide for an exception for the armed forces in relation to age or disability discrimination (Article 3(4), Directive 2000/78)?*

With respect to the status of the army, France has prevailed itself of the exception of article 3 (4) of directive 2000/78 allowing derogation concerning criteria based on age and disability. However, the formal job requirements for career under-officers does not contain requirements based on age or physical aptitude.

- b) *Are there any provisions or exceptions relating to employment in the police, prison or emergency services (Recital 18, Directive 2000/78)?*

The Law of Orientation and Program in Relation to Security of January 21, 1995 creates a specific derogatory status for the police by application of article 19 which clearly states: « By reason of the peculiar character of their missions and exceptional nature of their responsibilities, active personnel of the national police force constitute a special category of the public service. The special status of these personnel may derogate from the general status of public service. In compensation for their obligations and the constraints of their missions they are classified out of chart for the determination of their remuneration.” Meanwhile, article 5 of the Law no 83-634 of July, 13, 1984, states that the civil servant must have the physical aptitude to execute the assigned function. However, the French State has not manifested its intention to invoke derogation with respect to police officers which therefore benefit from the general legal regime.

- c) *Are there cases where religious institutions can select people (on the basis of their religion) to hire or to dismiss from a job - when that job is in a state entity or in an entity financed by the State (example: the Catholic Church in Italy or Spain can select religious teachers in state schools)? In what conditions is that selection done? Is this possibility provided for by national law only, or international agreements with the Holy See, or a combination of both?*

There are no such cases see 4.2.

4.4 Nationality discrimination

Both the Race Directive and the Framework Employment Directive include exceptions relating to difference of treatment based on nationality (Art 3(2) in both Directives).

- a) *How does national law treat nationality discrimination? Does this include stateless status?*

What is the relationship between ‘nationality’ and ‘race or ethnic origin’, in particular in the context of indirect discrimination?

Is there overlap in case law between discrimination on grounds of nationality and ethnicity (i.e. where nationality discrimination may constitute ethnic discrimination as well)?

- b) *Are there exceptions in anti-discrimination Law that seeks to rely on Art 3(2)?*



The principle of non discrimination bears no exception by reason of Nationality. However, the public service (article 5 Law no 83-634 of July 13, 1983) and some professions and careers are not accessible by law to non nationals or non European nationals. Further to a report published by the GELD in March 2000, *supra* section 3.1, commenting on the extent and incoherence of the regime of legal discrimination in employment against non nationals, some of these professions have been made accessible to non nationals but the list is exhaustive and addressed piecemeal.

In relation to discrimination based on race or ethnic origin, whether it is direct or indirect, nationality and nationality of origin is regularly treated as an acceptable indication to constitute the comparable group in order to establish unequal treatment. Nationality is often assimilated to origin when the law does not provide for restrictions based on nationality.

In many penal cases the criteria of nationality has been held to be a form of direct discrimination based on origin, as the penal code refers to discrimination based on the link with a nation. However, in civil cases the Cour de cassation has treated discrimination based on nationality as a source of apparent indirect discrimination which allows for justification on the part of the employer: in Cass. Soc., n° 03-47720, 09/11/2005, Soc ESRF c/ M. X., confirmed in another matter against ESRF on April 17, 2008 (Soc; 819 FS-P+B). In this case, the collective agreement foresaw since 1993 that employees of foreign nationality received a yearly bonus, even after having been in place for a number of years (in some cases 20 years). In this situation, the court was faced with unequal financial benefits that could not be justified by the specifics of the work performed by the employee. First, the Court decided that the situation was not targeted by Article 12 of the EC Treaty. On the argument of indirect discrimination on the ground of origin, it further held that, in a high technology research installation, the business necessity to attract talented scientists from abroad and the compensation of trouble related to the expatriation of their family were a acceptable justifications of the adverse effect on the basis of origin to unequal remuneration based on nationality: attraction of workforce when proportionate is objectively justified.

The definition of the scope of the protection against discrimination at Article 2 of the Law no 2008-496, eliminates the larger definition that appeared at Article 19 of the Law no 2004-1496 (Law creating the HALDE) that included national origin.

The requesting protection does not cover national origin except in Article 225-1 of the Penal Code and Article 1132-1 of the Labour Code.

The only exception provided by law would be the legislations that set conditions of nationality for access to specifically denied employment, such as public service, certain professions, etc.... see section 4.2).

French law provides for a differentiated regime for state less persons, subject to their legal presence on French territory. They are protected by law once their asylum application has been processed.

As regards research and statistical data, most French studies on discrimination based on origin use the parameter of nationality or nationality of origin for monitoring purposes, as no other is recognised by law.



Although it will have limited impact on the interpretation of legal residents' rights, Law no 2008-496 expressly states for the first time that the law prohibiting discrimination applies without prejudice to provisions governing the entry and residence of third-country nationals (article 5 par 2).

4.5 Work-related family benefits

Some employers, both public and private, provide benefits to employees in respect of their partners. For example, an employer might provide employees with free or subsidised private health insurance, covering both the employee and their partner. Certain employers limit these benefits to the married partners or unmarried opposite-sex partners of employees. This question aims to establish how national law treats such practices. Please note this question is focused on benefits provided by the employer. We are not looking for information on state social security arrangements.

- a) *Does national law permit an employer to provide benefits that are limited to those employees who are married?*

Marriage is a legal source of rights and the law creates some rights to the exclusive benefit of married couples, whether they are patrimonial rights (inheritance) or work related benefits created by law or collective agreements. The Labour Code awards holidays for getting married (article L3142-1 LC).

Meanwhile, the Civil Pact of Solidarity (PACS) created by the Law no 99-944 of November 15, 1999 is a registered partnership open to couples of same sex to organize the patrimonial aspect of their relationship which provides them with a status and rights in terms of access to a right of residence for the foreign partner, right of transfer in the public service, of days away from work in case of death or family matters, and a patrimonial partnership based on joint-ownership, common liability towards creditors and common taxation (article 6 of the General Tax Code) and, as a spouse, a right to be maintained on the premises of rented lodgings (article 515-1 et s Civil Code) . Parties to the Pact benefit from the social security rights of the eligible spouse (article L. 161-14 of the Social Security Code), they have priority, before children and parents, towards access to life insurance benefits.

However, the partners are considered as alien with respect to each others' Estates and they therefore must provide for succession benefits by way of a will, although they may benefit from taxation exemptions more favourable than the regime applicable to third parties (article 777 bis of the General Tax Code). They have similar rights to those of the spouse in term of priority in sharing the estate (article 515-8 CC). Since the PACS has entered into force there has been no discrimination in the law between concubines of same sex and heterosexual concubines.¹⁰⁵

¹⁰⁵ Art. 515-8 du code civil : 'Le concubinage est une union de fait, caractérisée par une vie commune présentant un caractère de stabilité et de continuité, entre deux personnes, de sexe différent ou de même sexe, qui vivent en couple'.



In case of work related benefits reserved to married couples and granted by collective agreements, they could be argued to constitute indirect discrimination in employment for homosexual couples since they cannot have access to marriage. Such cases have not yet been brought before the courts.

In its Deliberations no 2007-366 of February 11, 2008, the HALDE concluded that the fact of reserving some extra days of vacation to women who were married was a direct discrimination based on the family status and indirect discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In addition, some rights, such as access to pension by the surviving spouse in case of death are not accessible to couples who have underwritten a PACS, and thus to homosexual couples. Their exclusion from such benefits could as well be argued to constitute indirect discrimination but since the PACS is open to both heterosexual and homosexual couples, the French prohibited ground of discrimination related to “family status”, applicable to private employment, has been substituted in this argument, preventing the successful construction of arguments of indirect discrimination based on sexual orientation (HALDE deliberation 2007-366, February 11, 2007)¹⁰⁶.

b) Does national law permit an employer to provide benefits that are limited to those employees with opposite-sex partners?

No, Article L1132-1 LC covers the ground of sexual orientation and remuneration. This would be held to constitute direct discrimination but has not yet been brought before the courts.

4.6 Health and safety

Are there exceptions in relation to disability and health and safety (Article 7(2), Directive 2000/78)?

Are there exceptions relating to health and safety law in relation to other grounds, for example, ethnic origin or religion where there may be issues of dress or personal appearance (turbans, hair, beards, jewellery etc)?

Constitutional texts exclude inequality of treatment by reason of origin. Thus, no application of the exception of article 7(2) of the Directive on the ground of origin has been enacted.

Article 225-3 PC enumerates a list of admissible exceptions to the principle of non discrimination set out in article 225-1 and 225-2 PC: in relation to health, operations related to life, invalidity and incapacity insurance (paragraph 1) ; Refusal to hire related to health or disability when it results from a certificate of incapacity delivered by the employment medicine (paragraph 2).

With respect to dress codes, the general principle is that they must conform to the requirements of one's duty¹⁰⁷. Dress requirements may be imposed by law, collective agreements, in house regulation or the labour contract (article L 3121-1 LC).

¹⁰⁶ http://www.halde.fr/spip.php?page=article&id_article=12194&liens=ok

¹⁰⁷ Cass. 22 juillet 1986



In the private sector, safety occupational requirements are deemed to allow reasonable restrictions (article L1121-1LC, L1321-3 par 2LC) but otherwise, the courts have decided that freedom of religion was to prevail¹⁰⁸.

Further to the adoption of the Law on disability no 2005-102, articles 111-1 and following of the Code of construction create an obligation to provide accessibility to public buildings to the disabled people. The condition of conformity and delays to proceed to necessary improvements will be determined by decree. Decrees relating to the conditions of application of the Law on disability are still in the process of being adopted.

Article L111-7-2 of the Code of construction imposes that limitations to accessibility in housing be determined by decree with a duty to relocate disabled occupants. Article L111-7-3 of the same Code provides the same for buildings accessible to the public, but in this case the technical impossibility to proceed to required modifications are subject to the decision of a commission and in this case, the owner must propose alternative measures to compensate the disabled persons concerned.

4.7 Exceptions related to discrimination on the ground of age

4.7.1 Direct discrimination

- a) *Is it possible, generally, or in specified circumstances, to justify direct discrimination on the ground of age? If so, is the test compliant with the test in Article 6, Directive 2000/78, account being taken of the European Court of Justice in the Case C-144/04, Mangold ?*

Article L1133-2 LC which was amended by Article 6 of Law no 2008-496 allows the recognition of a legitimate reference to age in the following circumstances:

Differences in treatment on the basis of age are not discriminatory when they are reasonably and objectively justified by a legitimate objective, such as those specified in the law, namely health requirements and worker's safety, professional insertion, maintaining employment, reclassification or compensation in case of loss of employment, and when means to attain these objectives are appropriate and necessary. These differences may consist of the following:

- Interdiction to accede to employment or special working conditions in order to insure the protection of young and old workers;
- The determination of special rates of compensation over certain age limits.

The possibility for each employer to create and justify exceptions to the prohibition of discrimination on the ground of age seems too wide and appears to delegate to individual employers the possibility given to government to create legitimate differences in treatment aimed at the protection of employees victims of their age. Therefore it would not satisfy the requirements of the Mangold case.

¹⁰⁸ CA Paris 19/06/2003, Dallila Tahri c/ Téléperformance France – appeal Conseil de Prud'hommes of Paris 17/12/2002, RG n°0203547 ; Savatier Jean « Conditions de licéité d'un licenciement pour port du voile islamique » Droit social n°4 avril 2004, Paris.



b) Does national law permit differences of treatment based on age for any activities within the material scope of Directive 2000/78?

See Article L1133-2 LC above. In fact, national law takes into account age in limited circumstances: hiring conditions in the public service and the rules to determine the number of salaried workers relevant to the implementation of legal requirements relating to representation of personnel.

In the public sector, article 6 par. 4 of the Law no 83-634 of July 13, 1983 imposed conditions of age to the access of civil service. It was amended in July 2005 to eliminate the possibility to oppose age limitation in access to public employment to parents of three children and more and to single parents of one or more children (article 1 of the Law no 2005-843 of July 27, 2005 transposing community law to the civil service).

On July 26, 2005, the Law no 2005-846 of July 26, 2005 was adopted in order to habilitate Government to adopt emergency measures for employment by way of Governmental Decree¹⁰⁹, and followed by many Executive orders: The first one, no 2005-901 of August 2nd, 2005 revisits conditions of access to public employment. The second one no 2005-893 of August 2nd, 2005, creates a new labour contract to facilitate hiring by small business as a mean to fight unemployment.

Article 1 of Executive Order 2005-901 eliminates previous age limitations in access to public service except in the following cases:

- Agents in active armed service subject to early retirement (army, police, etc...)
- Conditions related to minimum age requirements in view of the experience called for by the function, for example to take on higher management responsibilities
- Entry examination conditions for admission to a specialised school to follow an education programme of two years or more financed by the State. In this case Government should raise the age limitations to 15 years from retirement.

In application of Executive order 2005-901, Government adopted decree n° 2005-1722 of December 30, 2005 modifying conditions of age to access the entry examination for the School of the higher civil service, Ecole nationale d'administration (ENA), to a minimum of 28 years of age and a maximum of forty years of age¹¹⁰. The minimum age requirement corresponds to the level of responsibility of the employment undertaken by graduates of the school. On the other hand, education at the ENA is financed by the State who also pays a salary to the student who becomes civil servant upon entry to the school. It is a very costly education in terms of salary paid and educational cost per student. The maximum age requirement corresponds to the number of years of services left before retirement required for the state to obtain a return on its three years investment.

¹⁰⁹ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SOCX0500142L

¹¹⁰ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=FPPA0500152D

Article 2 of the Executive Order provides new means of access to certain functions in the Public Service without entry examination, by combining formal training with internships, for people between 16 and 25 years of age who have left school without recognised diplomas or with an insufficient level of education to obtain level C employment in the Public Service (lowest level). In addition, article 27-1 of the Law 84-16, article 35 par 3 of the Law 84-53, Article 27 (1) eliminate all age limits for the access to public service of disabled persons.

The considerations based on age in the public sector appear to meet the requirements of the Mangold case as they pursue legitimate objectives and an effort has been made to meet the test of proportionality. The evaluation of an argument based on the non compliance of age limitation in access to ENA, or other similar Public service training, would first require a factual expertise on a reasonable ratio years of service versus cost of training that cannot be commented in this context. The age requirement set by decree no 2004-313 of March 29, 2004 for the entry examination at the National School of administration, offering the exclusive required training for access to a career in high level civil service, has been challenged before the Conseil d'Etat. The Court decided that this age limitation met the requirements of the exception foreseen at article 6 of the Law no 83-684 regarding rights and obligations of public agents of July 13, 1983 which foresees that conditions of age can be determined in order to insure that training is followed by sufficient years of service and career perspectives in senior functions requiring sufficient experience¹¹¹.

- c) *Does national legislation allow occupational pension schemes to fix ages for admission to the scheme or entitlement to benefits under it taking up the possibility provided for by article 6(2)?*

Rights to retirement benefits are subject to both conditions of age and number of years of contribution¹¹².

The general rule is that a salaried worker can claim rights to retirement benefits from 60 years of age given he or she has contributed 42 years (the number of years may vary according to the retirement regime). Exceptions to the general rule, identified in section 4.7.4 b) are also subject to age requirements. Article L1133-2LC provides for the possibility to derogate to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of employment policy.

4.7.2 Special conditions for young people, older workers and persons with caring responsibilities

Are there any special conditions set by law for older or younger workers in order to promote their vocational integration, or for persons with caring responsibilities to ensure their protection? If so, please describe these.

General principles concerning retirement are stated in section 4.7.1.

¹¹¹ Conseil d'Etat, n° 268130, 01/03/2006, Syndicat parisien des administrations centrales économiques et financiers

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnDocument?base=JADE&nod=JGXAX2006X03X000000268130>

Law 2003-775 of August 21, 2003 reforming old age pensions: www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/SSEAEM.htm

¹¹² Article 2 of the law on equal opportunities of March 31, 2006,

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=MENE0601527D>

Decree n° 2006-764 of June 30 2006, J.O n° 151 of July 1st 2006 page 9881



For younger workers articles L6325-1 et s. LC set a special regime for apprenticeship for the qualification contract for candidates under 25 years of age.

Article L1233-5 LC forces the employer to take into account age and disability as protecting factors in establishing the list of targeted employees in case of economic redundancy and article L1233-61 LC imposes to the employer to establish a plan to organise in priority the reclassification and reemployment of older workers. Article R5123-9 et s. LC sets a special regime to indemnify workers over 57 years of age until retirement age in case of dismissal.

Some dispositions foresee the possibility for caring parents to obtain leave of absence to take care of sick children (article L1225-62 LC), to accompany the end of life (article L3142-16 LC), extension of parental leave after having a disabled child (article L1225-61 LC) and adaptation of work hours for caring for disabled family members (article L3122-26 LC).

Article 2 of the governmental decree 2005-901 of August 2nd, 2005 provides new means of access to certain functions in the Public Service without entry examination, by combining formal training with internships, for people between 16 and 25 years of age who have left school without recognised diplomas or with an insufficient level of education to obtain level C employment in the Public Service (lowest level).

4.7.3 Minimum and maximum age requirements

Are there exceptions permitting minimum and/or maximum age requirements in relation to access to employment (notably in the public sector) and training?

The admissible age to enter the workforce is regulated by article L4153-1 LC which sets 16 years of age as the general norm, without prejudice to specific regimes (qualification and apprenticeship contracts L6325-1 LC et s. at 15¹¹³) and summer employment after the age of 14.

There is no maximum age in the private sector. Moreover, article L5331-2 LC forbids posting an offer of employment indicating a limitation of age which would not otherwise be imposed by law. The legal protection against dismissal is applicable to all workers regardless of age.

However, as mentioned above, article L1133-1 Par 2° LC allows for a maximum age requirement “for recruiting, based on the required formation for the function or the requirement of pursuing a reasonable period of employment before retirement.”

The general age limitation in public service is 65 years of age with specific derogations for specific corps (article 1, Law **no** 84-834 of September 13, 1984)

With respect to maximum age requirements see section 4.7.1 b).

¹¹³ Law 2003-775 of August 21, 2003 reform: <http://curia.europa.eu/jurisp/cgi-bin/gettext.pl?where=&lang=fr&num=79929881C19050385&doc=T&ouvert=T&seance=ARRET>



4.7.4 Retirement

In this question it is important to distinguish between pensionable age (the age set by the state, or by employers or by collective agreements, at which individuals become entitled to a state pension, as distinct from the age at which individuals retire from work), and mandatory retirement ages (which can be state-imposed, employer-imposed, imposed by an employee's employment contract or imposed by a collective agreement).

- a) *Is there a state pension age, at which individuals must begin to collect their state pensions? Can this be deferred if an individual wishes to work for longer, or can an individual collect a pension and still work?*

There is not compulsory pension age.

- b) *Is there a normal age when individuals can begin to receive payments from occupational pension schemes and other employer-funded pension arrangements? Can payments from such occupational pension schemes be deferred if an individual wishes to work for longer, or can an individual collect a pension and still work?*

Rights to retirement benefits are subject to both conditions of age and number of years of contribution¹¹⁴. The general rule is that a salaried worker can claim rights to retirement benefits from 60 years of age given he or she has contributed 42 years (the number of years may vary according to the retirement regime).

However, people who began to work before 15 years of age can claim rights to retirement at 56 years of age given he or she contributed for 42 years. Disabled employees and employees caring for a disabled child can benefit as well from the possibility of early retirement¹¹⁵. Article 24 of the Law no 2003-775 of August 21, 2003 has lowered retirement age giving right to full pension from 60 to 55 years of age in the private sector for disabled persons with a recognized disability rate of 80%. On June 27, 2006 Law no 2006-737 has been adopted increasing retirement benefits for disabled public agents, and decree no 2006-1687 was adopted on December 12, 2006 to increase retirement benefits of 30% for each year of disability during service and lowering retirement age accordingly. Employees caring for a disabled child can benefit as well from the possibility for early retirement¹¹⁶.

Since 1984, in order to receive a pension, a salaried worker must resign from his or her current employment, but he can thereafter find another employment in the private sector.

¹¹⁴ Law 2003-775 of August 21, 2003 reforming old age pensions: www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/SSEAEM.htm. Article 2 of the law on equal opportunities of March 31, 2006,

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=MENE0601527D>;

Decree n° 2006-764 of June 30 2006, J.O n° 151 of July 1st 2006 page 9881 Law 2003-775 of August 21, 2003 reforming old age pensions: www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/SSEAEM.htm

¹¹⁵ Decree n° 2005-1774 of December 30 Journal officiel, n° 304, 31/12/2005, p. 20856

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SANS0524551D>; Decree n° 2005-1761 of December 29, 2005 Journal officiel, n° 303, 30/12/2005, p. 20444

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SANS0524152D>

¹¹⁶ Decree n° 2005-1774 of December 30 Journal officiel, n° 304, 31/12/2005, p. 20856

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SANS0524551D>;

Decree n° 2005-1761 of December 29, 2005 Journal officiel, n° 303, 30/12/2005, p. 20444

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SANS0524152D>



- c) *Is there a state-imposed mandatory retirement age(s)? Please state whether this is generally applicable or only in respect of certain sectors, if so please state which. Have there been recent changes in this respect or are any planned in the near future?*

There is not compulsory retirement age in the private sector. However, articles L1237-5-1 and 1237-8 LC provide for the right of the employer to put an end to the employment contract on the basis of rights to retirement with respect to individuals who have acquired rights to full retirement pension according to article L351-1 of the Social security Code.

There exists a compulsory retirement age in the public sector (65 years of age subject to some derogations (article 1, Law no 84-834 of September 13, 1984).

- d) *Does national law permit employers to set retirement ages (or ages at which the termination of an employment contract is possible) by contract, collective bargaining or unilaterally?*

Article L1237-5-1 LC states that conditions of retirement in collective agreements and labour contracts are applicable as long as they do not contradict legal principles. Thus, are null and void all provisions of collective agreements and other labour contracts which would provide for the automatic interruption of the labour contract in reason of the age of the employee or because he or she would be entitled to benefit from old age pension.

- e) *Does the law on protection against dismissal and other laws protecting employment rights apply to all workers irrespective of age, if they remain in employment or are these rights lost on attaining pensionable age or another age (please specify)?*

The legal protection against dismissal is applicable to all workers regardless of age.

For these above questions, please indicate whether the ages are different for women and men.

Until recently, difference in treatment as regards retirement between men and women did not target age requirements but the number of years of required contributions before being fully pensioned. Women could prevail themselves of early retirement if they had three children or more.

This scheme was held to be discriminatory on the basis of sex in 2002 by the Conseil d'Etat in the Giesmar case¹¹⁷. Therefore, the right to retire at an earlier age and the rebate on the number of year of contribution required to obtain full pension must benefits to both men and women who are parent of three children or more. Further to the reform of pensions, these benefits will continue to apply to all civil servants hired prior to 1989, but are repealed for those who started their activity in 1990 and after.

Litigation over application to men of these special retirement benefits account for 40% of the HALDE's complaints in discrimination based upon sex.

¹¹⁷ Conseil d'Etat, July 29, 2002, n° 141112, M. Griesmar



4.7.5 Redundancy

- a) *Does national law permit age or seniority to be taken into account in selecting workers for redundancy?*

Article L1233-61 LC provides that in case of redundancy by an employer hiring 50 employee or more, rights to dismissal are limited and conditions of dismissal are complicated towards employee beyond 50 years of age.

- b) *If national law provides compensation for redundancy, is this affected by the age of the worker?*

The legal protection against dismissal is applicable to all workers regardless of age. Article R5123-9 et s. LC sets a special regime to indemnify workers over 57 years of age until retirement age in case of dismissal after a certain age.

4.8 Public security, public order, criminal offences, protection of health, protection of the rights and freedoms of others (Article 2(5), Directive 2000/78)

Does national law include any exceptions that seek to rely on Article 2(5) of the Framework Employment Directive?

No.

4.9 Any other exceptions

Please mention any other exceptions to the prohibition of discrimination (on any ground) provided in national law.

None.



5. POSITIVE ACTION (Article 5 Directive 2000/43, Article 7 Directive 2000/78)

- a) *What scope does national law provide for taking positive action in respect of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation? Please refer to any important case-law or relevant legal/political discussions on this topic.*

French positive action, as it has been conceived by the jurisprudence of the Conseil d'Etat, is based on neutral and general grounds of distinction such as sex, disability, territory or socio-economic condition¹¹⁸. France does not enforce such programs in terms of "race" or origin. Nevertheless, the criteria of socio-economic condition and territory are means to indirectly target discriminations based on origin. In this context, some specialists regard some recent equal opportunity policies as promoting a "differentialist" approach, leading to indirectly implementing quota or targeting systems that are deliberately designed in formally neutral terms but in such a way as to take account of the social reality of "origin".¹¹⁹

In its opening disposition, the Law on disability no 2005-102 affirms the right of the disabled to the support of all members of the nation and at article 11 the right to the compensation of one's disability (article L114-1 1 CSW).

Art. 1133-3 LC states that positive action measures taken to promote equal opportunity to the benefit of disabled persons are not to be construed as discriminations.

- b) *Do measures of positive action exist in your country? Which are the most important? Please provide a list and short description of the measures adopted, classifying them into broad social policy measures, quotas, or preferential treatment narrowly tailored. Refer to measures taken in respect of all 5 grounds, in particular refer to the measures related to disability and any quotas for access of people with disabilities to the labour market and any related to Roma, any related to Roma and regarding minority rights based measures.*

Origin

The territorial policy specific to disadvantaged suburbs, called « **politique de la ville** », concentrates a number of actions targeting populations of immigrant origin encouraging integration and fighting discrimination. The major instruments of this policy are municipality contracts - "**Contrats de Ville**"- including thematic agreements addressing issues of discrimination, Great City projects - **Grands Projets de Ville** – Urban stimulation zones - **Zones de redynamisation urbaine** (ZRU) and Priority educational measure zone – **les Zones d'éducation prioritaires** (ZEP).

However, there is no policy targeting ethnic groups or groups designated in term of their origin, whether they are North African, African or Roma.

The only policies targeting the Roma – who are not designated by their ethnic group – are framed as an administrative category aimed at accommodating their travelling way of life in terms of controls, social rights, housing (see section 3.2.10) and education (see section 3.2.8).

¹¹⁸ Conseil d'Etat, 1996, public report n° 48, p. 86 et 91).

¹¹⁹ Maisonneuve, M., Les discriminations positives ethniques ou raciales en droit public interne : vers la fin de la discrimination positive à la française, AFDA, May-June 2002, 561.



They are represented and consulted in a national governmental commission, The National Consultative Commission for the Travellers, which is consulted and kept informed of policy measures and difficulties facing the travelling population.

In order to accommodate the travelling way of life, Travellers are administratively linked to a municipality of binding (Law no 69-3 of January 3rd, 1969, followed by the Law of July 10, 1985 and the Law of May 31, 1990) and managed by a specific bureau of the prefect's office where they are bound to report upon their arrival in any local district (department). Although this status submits access to some legal rights, such as the right to vote in local elections, to specific modalities, it should not impact upon access to social rights and benefits. However, since this municipality of binding is seldom that where they are actually living, it does in fact marginalise them and their relations with the local authorities are often difficult. It impacts upon their access to social housing, to parking grounds and health care. The issue of the specific administrative status of the travelling population has constantly been denounced by anti-racist NGOs¹²⁰.

The cases brought in matters of access to social protection on behalf of the Traveller population have been initiated by NGOs. None has based its arguments on Directive 2000/43. The most recent case was brought in 2002 by NGOs attacking a ministerial instruction of August 3, 1999 relating to conditions of evidence of domicile for travelling people and the principle of being linked to a municipality of binding in accessing a next scheme of universal health insurance (Universal medical coverage – CMU). Arguments raised were based on the classical French theory of equality alleging a violation of equality and the Conseil d'Etat dismissed the case because since in this regard the ministerial instruction was merely repeating the Law of 1969, a recourse in excess of power against the minister could not be used to attack the Law (Conseil d'Etat of December 6, 2002 no 223570).

The HALDE has issued a recommendation to government for the abrogation of this special status (HALDE deliberation 2007-372 of December 17, 2007, discussed in section 7g)).

Meanwhile, as regards racial discrimination, governmental services have also initiated projects in the context of their general attributions. In 2002, the DGEFP (General delegation to employment and vocational training), DPM (Direction of population and migration), and ANPE (National Employment Agency) and the FASILD (National fund for the support of immigration and actions against discrimination now ACCSES) have concluded a general agreement to construct action to fight racial discrimination and favour access of these populations to vocational training and employment.

A sponsoring program following youngsters towards employment since 1993, mainly targets youth of immigrant origin, with low levels of qualification or from disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Their results have been conclusive, leading to a professional insertion rate of 60%. Its actions have been largely developed since 1999, leading to a rate of insertion exceeding 15000 a year and its extension to an adult public and the development of regional conventions with representatives of employers and business development actors.

¹²⁰ <http://www.gisti.org/doc/plein-droit/46/voyage.html>



2004 marks a turning point in terms of National focus on the issue of racial discrimination and positive action. Lobbying groups are organizing within the political parties, publishing reports¹²¹ and organizing debates. In this context the Minister of Social Cohesion has adopted an ambitious program set out in the Executive order no 2005-901 of August 2nd, 2005 relative to conditions of age for access to the public service and new means of access to public service. It outlines a vast system of vocational training and support to integrate some 800 000 unemployed to the work force in non commercial activities and promote equal chances, at a cost of 13 billion € over five years. Title III of the Law expressly addresses “equality of chances” with one chapter on tax support to disadvantaged municipalities (Chapter III), one on reception and integration of immigrants. It creates a National agency for the welcome of foreigners and migrants dedicated to the support of immigrants with a first legal authorization to reside on the National territory and the management of the Immigration contracts (article 61).

The employment aspect of this program intends to create 300 regional centres of employment concentrating all reinsertion programs and services to the benefit of the long term unemployed (L5313-1), reinforces the missions of the offices dedicated to youth professional insertion (L5314-1). It further implements two substantial measures: the first one intends to put an end to the fatalism of unemployment and creates a contract of professional activity of two or three years paid at minimum wage up to twenty six hours a week offered to one million of the persons receiving social benefits in the next four years, for a cost of 5.2 billion euros.

The second measure targets disadvantaged youth and intends to offer a professional future to persons under 25 through apprenticeship and vocational training in the private sector as well as the public sector, where they will for the first time have access to employment without the traditional entrance competitive examination. The Minister of the Public Service added that this program would be opened to long term unemployed over fifty years of age.

The second aspect of this social cohesion program is to face the national housing crisis by investing massively in public housing in order to construct 120 000 social homes per year and 600 000 in five years, to create 12 000 more place in emergency housing and a special fund of 600 million euros for disadvantaged neighbourhoods. This long term project has been continued by the new government¹²².

In terms of education, the effort has been reoriented towards the integration of after school support within the educational structure.

Except for actions directed at new migrants which will be managed by the National Agency for Migrants (Agence nationale de l'accueil des étrangers et des migrations ANAEM), the FASILD and urban policy institutions have been integrated in a new structure called Agence nationale pour la cohésion sociale et l'égalité des chances (ANCSEC) by Article 36 of the Law of March 31, 2006 on Equal Opportunities which act jointly with the institutions managing urban renovation, the Agence nationale de rénovation urbaine (ANRU).

¹²¹ Circulaire du 30 janvier 2008 : www.juri-logement.org/les_textes/2008/C-30janv2008ConstructionLogtsSociaux.htm

¹²² Sabeg, Y., Les oubliés de l'égalité des chances, Institut Montaigne 2004 ; Sabeg, Y., Discrimination positive, Calman-Lévy 2004 ; Blivet, L. L'entreprise et l'égalité positive, 2004, www.institutmontaigne.org/pub.php?id=60



All initiatives targeting publics of foreign origin have been regrouped under the authority of a new governmental portfolio: the Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Development (Ministère de l'immigration, de l'intégration, de l'identité nationale et du développement solidaire).

Meanwhile, on October 22, 2004, at the initiative of the Montaigne Institute, 35 important French businesses were signing a Charter against discrimination in the workplace. Among the signing parties were, PSA Peugeot-Citroën, Adecco, Adia, France-Télévision, Accor, Casino or Axa. As well: Sodexho, Lafarge, Schneider Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, Total, Carrefour, Air Liquide. They all undertake to abstain from any discriminatory hiring policy and to combat discrimination in their promotion system. This initiative has evolved towards a trend to sign the Charter of promotion of diversity and now, more than 1700 French businesses, including most of those present on the stock exchange, have signed the Charter of diversity and undertake actions to improve equal chances in the work place¹²³.

Finally, in the face of the *de facto* inaccessibility of higher specialized education bodies – elite schools specific to the French system- to children of disadvantaged neighbourhoods in reason of the eliminatory aspect of their recruiting system, the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (one of these schools) has entered into partnerships with Schools of these neighbourhoods in order to select their best students and create a parallel recruiting system¹²⁴. This program is spreading to other similar “Grandes Ecoles” and has led to the adoption of Article 11 of the Law on equal opportunities of March 31, 2006 that provides for special admission mechanisms for the underprivileged.

Disability

Disabled persons enjoy special protection in the field of employment under articles L.5211-1 to L.5215-1 and R.5212-1 to R.5215-1 LC. They can work in a mainstream environment or a sheltered environment, including work aid centres (CAT), sheltered workshops and outwork distribution centres. Under the new law, CATs will keep their classification as sheltered environment, but sheltered workshops will become adapted businesses and be included in the mainstream environment. (In French the law uses the following terms “ordinary environment for employment and school”).

Article 27-1 of Law no 84-16, article 35 par 3 of Law 84-53 and article 27 (1) of Law 86-33 eliminate all age limits for the access to public service of disabled persons. In addition, disabled persons are not subject to the competition process by examination specific to recruitment of civil servants and benefit from a special recruitment procedure by way of contract and probation period leading to full civil servant status (Decree no 95-979 for State civil service, Decree no 2006-565 for hospital civil service and Decree 2006-148 for territorial civil service). (from section 2.6 at LW's request).

Art. L3122-26 LC provides that disabled employees have a right to request flexible work hours in order to facilitate their professional integration or their continued employment.

¹²³ www.charte-diversite.com

¹²⁴ This program was challenged unsuccessfully on the basis of the principle of formal equality: CAA Paris 6 novembre 2003, UNI (Union nationale inter-universitaire) c/ résolutions du 3 septembre 2001 du conseil de direction de l'institut d'études politiques de Paris (IEP), N° 02PA02821



Finally, disabled workers enjoy special protection in the event of dismissal, with an extension of the period of notice if it does not amount to at least three months (art. 5213-9 LC) and, since March 2004, they can take early retirement¹²⁵ on advantageous terms.

The Disabled Persons Employment Act 87-157 instituted a quota system.. Despite the cost of the employment obligation, the Cour de cassation decided in May 2003 that disabled workers were not obliged to disclose their status to their employer, because the provisions relating to the employment of disabled persons are designed solely for their protection¹²⁶. The Law no 2005-102 on disability creates a fund for the integration of the disabled in both private and public employment as well as sanctions if the employment quota of 6% set forth in the Law is not respected (article 36 creating article 5212-12 LC). Article 36 of the Law maintains the possibility to comply with the obligation to employ a minimal quota of 6% of disabled salaried workers provided by Article 5212-2 LC by making a financial contribution to the AGEFIPH, which finances the integration of disabled workers, but increases that maximum penalty to 1500 times the minimum wage, and creates a similar obligation for the public sector. (See section 2.6 for reasonable accommodation financing)

Article 26 of the Law no 2005-102 on Disability creates an additional reporting obligation on the employer in Article L2241-5 LC by imposing an annual evaluation of measures taken to integrate the disabled employee into the workplace.

In addition, a number of positive action measures have been taken in order to improve access to education of disabled children. The Law no 2005-102 on Disability provides for a duty to integrate disabled children in the mainstream school system. It was adopted after the Autism Europe case brought before the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe¹²⁷ -which condemned France for violation of the rights of disabled children under the Article 9 of the additional protocol to the European Social Charter - and completely reforms assistance and education of disabled children¹²⁸. The right to education and to reasonable accommodation within education of disabled children is affirmed in articles 19 to 22 of the Law. Article 11 affirms a right of access to local mainstream schools and the right to a personalised educational project¹²⁹.

It creates a commission which will assess the child and propose to his or her parents a personalised program of education that will also be taken into consideration when subsequently determining rights of the child in application under the general compensation scheme for all disabled people established by the law. Article 19 III creates an obligation to provide education to each child at every level of education and a right to have access to mainstream school is conferred by article L112-1 of the Code of Education. Orientation towards a specialised structure is made only with the consent of the child's parents in the context of the child's personalised program (article L112-2 of the same Code).

¹²⁵ J.O no. 66 of 18 March 2004 page 5253, Decree no. 2004-232 of 17 March 2004, relating to a reduction in the retirement age for disabled persons who pay social security contributions

¹²⁶ Cass. Soc. no. 1083, 6 May 2003, Revue de jurisprudence sociale 8-9/03 p. 733

¹²⁷ Resolution ResChS(2004)1, collective complaint n° 13/2002

¹²⁸ As regards autism and access to facilities, education and support, a national plan was initiated in 2004 to provide resources at the regional level, and followed by a plan for 2005/ 2006 to provide resources at the local level.

<http://autisme.france.free.fr/fichiers/Dossier%20de%20Presse%20Autisme%202005.pdf>

¹²⁹ Ministerial instruction (Circulaire) no 2006-126 of Auguste 17, 2006 relating to the implementation of the personalized education project.



If access to the local ordinary school is not possible because of the physical condition of the premises, the extra cost of transportation to another school are met by the municipal authorities (article L112-1 par 8 of the Code of Education).

At article 75, the Law introduces Article L 312-9-1 to the Code of Education in order to officially recognise the French sign language for persons with impaired hearing.

The Law no 2005-102 on Disability further creates at Article L112-4 of the Code of Education an express obligation to adapt examination processes to the benefit of the disabled.

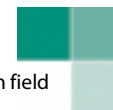
Sexual orientation

No affirmative action measures have been put in place with respect to sexual orientation. Moreover, the NGO's denounces the absence of political and governmental authorities responsible for addressing LGBT issues.

Religion

In School, the principle of equality has been used to adjudicate on the applicability of the obligation to attend school to children whose religion enjoins worship on a day other than Sunday (see the decision of the Conseil d'Etat jurisprudence p. 13)¹³⁰.

¹³⁰ CE April 14th 1995, Consistoire central des israélites de France, Mr Koen, (2 arrêts), Recueil Lebon page 169, Dalloz 1995, jur. page 481, note Koubi G.



6. REMEDIES AND ENFORCEMENT

6.1 Judicial and/or administrative procedures (Article 7 Directive 2000/43, Article 9 Directive 2000/78)

- a) *What procedures exist for enforcing the principle of equal treatment (judicial/administrative/alternative dispute resolution such as mediation)?*
- b) *Are these binding or non-binding?*
- c) *Can a person bring a case after the employment relationship has ended?*

In relation to each, please note whether there are different procedures for employment in the private and public sectors.

In relation to the procedures described, please indicate any costs or other barriers litigants will face (e.g. necessity to instruct a lawyer?) and any other factors that may act as deterrents to seeking redress (e.g. strict time limits, complex procedures, location of court or other relevant body)?

Are there available statistics on the number of cases related to discrimination brought to justice? If so, please provide recent data.

As regards recourses to a specialised body, including mediation and penal transaction, see section 7.

There are in France judicial and non-judicial recourses, the latter being initiated by the employer when called upon by the victim of harassment or if he suspects discrimination, as he warrants a work environment exempt from such practices. In addition, the personnel representative, the human resources manager or the business comity (Comité d'entreprise) have power to request social dialogue on integration of disabled workers (L2241-5, L2242-13 and L2242-14), and working conditions (L2241-3, L2241-44) .

All recourses alleging discrimination against a private party - employer, service provider, landlord etc... - must be brought before the civil courts. In matters related to employment, the salaried employee in the private sector or contractual agent of an industrial or commercial public service, will bring his recourse before the Labour Court. In all other cases recourses will be brought before the District court (Tribunal d'instance) or High district court (Tribunal de grande instance) depending upon the amounts involved or claimed.

All claims against the public service, in matters related to employment of public agents and to access to public service (such as access to school and social rights), whether in application the Law no. 2008-496 completing implementation of Directives 2000/43 and 2000/78 in all matters dealing with the public service including education, or of general principles of administrative law that also provide recourses against discrimination, must be brought before the administrative courts that may correct the situation and/or award damages.

There are no specific recourse or sanctions in matters related to education and or housing. For instance, in case of harassment in education related to internship programs with a private employer, there is no foreseen recourse. Plaintiffs must put their claim before the civil courts or, when attacking the state in case of public housing and public education, the administrative court as any other claimant.



Concerning the existence of a desegregation recourse, since segregation is forbidden by law, there cannot be a recourse in desegregation.

Recourses in discrimination before the Civil courts created by explicit statute (Law of November 16, 2001, Law of January 17, 2002 and Law no 2008-496) benefit from the shift in the burden of proof (see section 6.3) but remain difficult to enforce. The judicial tradition is to go to civil court with the element of evidence readily available to the party, which explains why plaintiffs often go to criminal court to obtain access to evidence. In addition, in cases of discrimination, the evidence is very often in the hands of the defendant and not accessible to plaintiff without intervention of a judge. Moreover, in France, making copy of the documents of the employer is considered as theft. The rules of civil procedure make access to evidence in the hands of the other party or a third party, by way of what is called “measures of instruction”, very difficult as it is considered as an exceptional measure and it is conditional upon having already brought sufficient evidence before the Court. It is not in the legal culture of judicial actors, judges and lawyers, to use these procedural means of access to evidence, as the judge in civil matters is seen as not inquisitive and not taking part to the process leading to the introduction of evidence before the court.

In cases of discrimination in employment, article L1133-3 LC provides for a recourse in damages as well as the possibility to request annulment of a discriminatory measure before the Labour Court.

It is important to stress however, that there has recently been a reversal of jurisprudence and on December 12, 2006, the Cour de cassation has decided that the Labour Courts had jurisdiction over pre-contractual matters and were competent in cases related to access to employment and apprenticeship (Cass soc. 20 December 2006, no 06-40662, 06-40799 and 06-40.864). Moreover, the Cour de cassation has decided to put in place a specialised chamber of the social chamber to deal with the enforcement of discrimination Law in Labour cases and that its annual thematic report on law enforcement in 2008 would be dedicated to discrimination Law.

Since the Law of November 16, 2001, Labour Inspectors have reinforced investigation means. They can enter all premises (article L8113-5 LC), obtain communication of any document or information supporting evidence of the facts, whatever their material support (L8113-4. LC). They may as well draft a contravention report certifying their observations (L8113-7 LC) and transmit this report to the Public Prosecutor (article 40 Code of Penal Procedure - CPP). However, the limited number of inspectors who have the burden of pursuing all violations to the Labour Code diminish the efficiency of this corps, whose members are entirely free to choose the situations they investigate. In addition, their enquiry exclusively leads to a penal recourse and they do not transmit the result of their investigations to the parties or to the civil judge.

Articles 121-1 and 121-2 PC provide for the penal responsibility of physical and moral persons. 225-2 and 432-7 PC provide for a penal complaint to the police or Public Prosecutor. The prosecution acts on the basis of police enquiries (article 15-3 CPP) after the victim's complaint or further to notice given by any public agent (article 40 CPP). Victims and NGOs can as well directly notify the public prosecution.



The main reason so many people resort to the penal court is that it gives them access to evidence through the judge's enquiry. Otherwise, in civil cases, rules of civil procedure as they are interpreted by judicial actors give little access to evidence to the plaintiff. In addition, in the context of the penal recourse, they don't have to get involved or need a lawyer, the prosecution takes charge of the enquiry and of the prosecution.

However, the public prosecutor has the choice to investigate and pursue the matter or not in the name of the state. For a long period, very few discrimination complaints were prosecuted. However, on July 11, 2007, Justice Minister has put in place a policy of specialisation instituting a dedicated service to treat discrimination penal complaints at the public prosecutor's office with the objective of increasing the rate of penal prosecution¹³¹. When the public prosecutor fails to pursue the matter, the civil party may bring action on his own before the penal courts (article 85 CPP), but will then require the assistance of a lawyer and will be obliged to bring about evidence of the penal discrimination without the support of the instructing judge.

Civil servants and contractual employees of the public sector must bring their recourse before the administrative courts (article 6 et. s.). So must any citizen bringing action against the state or questioning the decision of a state representative. In addition, Art. 6 quinquies states the principle of disciplinary sanction against any agent proceeding to discriminatory actions. Meanwhile, civil servants remain liable before the penal courts.

Representation by an attorney is not mandatory before the Labour Court, the lower courts (TI) and the correctional court, or before the Appeals Court when appealing from the latter jurisdictions. Representation by an attorney is mandatory before the High Court (TGI), the Commerce Tribunal (Law no 71-1130 of December 31, 1974), the Administrative Courts (regulation of May 4, 2000) and the Cour de Cassation (article 974 et s. of the New Code of Civil procedure - NCCP).

Legal aid is available to low income individuals (Law no 91-647 of July, 1991 regarding Legal aid ; Decree n° 91-1266 of November 19, 1991, Decree n° 2003-300 of April 2, 2003).

As regards mediation, articles 21 and 131 NCCP expressly refer to the duty of the judge to favour mediation and to designate a third party mediator upon obtaining their consent to that end. Conciliation is the first stage of any recourse before the Labour Court in application of Article L1423-13 LC. These non-judicial means of action can also be initiated by the Labour Inspector (*L611-1 et S.*).

The Law no 2005-102 on Disability recognises a right of persons with impaired hearing to an interpreter in sign language before the civil and penal courts, and the right of the visually impaired to the reading in Braille of civil and penal court records at article 76, all these measures being ensured at the cost of the State. Public buildings and courts must be accessible to the public (article L111-7 of the Code of construction) unless they have obtained a special authorisation of the prefect (Ministerial Instruction no 94-55 of July 7, 1994, R111.19.3 CCH /Code of construction). Article L152-4 of the Code of construction foresees enforcement of this principle through penal fines and injunctive relief.

¹³¹ <http://www.textes.justice.gouv.fr/index.php?rubrique=10182&article=14410>



Article 64 of the Law no 2005-102 on Disability creates a Departmental House (Maison départementale) for the disabled that is intended to centralise all administrative procedures to enforce the rights of the disabled person. It further creates a claim referee within these Departmental Houses at article 146-13 CSW, who will transmit the disabled person's claim to the competent authority or jurisdiction. The decree implementing this House of the disabled has been adopted on December 19, 2005 (Decree no 2005-1587¹³²).

Article 76 of the Law no 2005-102 on Disability recognises a right of persons with impaired hearing to a sign language interpreter before the civil and penal courts, and the right of the visually impaired to the reading aloud of civil and penal court records, all these measures being ensured at the cost of the State.

With respect to claims against public service, mediation is the prerogative of the Médiateur de la République and is initiated by formal application through a Member of Parliament. This mediation is pursued without prejudice to the administrative recourse which must be pursued independently. Many administrations have their own mediator (ombudsman) such as the Ministry of Education, the postal service and public transports.

As discussed in section 3.2.10, when a municipality fails to put in place specific parking lots for the travelling population, it is barred from seeking removal of the travellers' trailers and from prohibiting parking (TGI de Montauban of May 3rd, 2002¹³³) and can be attacked for this failure before the administrative courts.

There are no statistics relating to the number of civil complaints filed and their results. All quantitative studies must be done by going to each district and evaluating archives. In addition the only statistics available concern judgment of condemnation on the basis of Article 225-2 of the Penal Code and relate only to condemnations registered in the individual's criminal records. Therefore there are no statistics concerning the number of complaints lodged or the treatment they receive. Since 1998, the statistics show an average of 10 condemnations per year for an approximate number of complaints evaluated at about 7000.

c) Can a person bring a case after the employment relationship has ended?

In matters related to discrimination in the workplace, the Labour Code, the Law no 83-843 of July, 1983 relating to the Rights and Obligations of Civil Servants and the Law no 2004-14 of December 30, cover discrimination leading to loss of employment and the Labour Court, the Administrative court and the Tribunal de grande instance have jurisdiction to adjudicate a case after the termination of employment and may even annul the dismissal measure and order reintegration in the workplace with full compensation and retroactive pay.

The time limitation to take action with respect to payment of salaries is 5 years (L143-14 LC).

¹³² www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SANA0524615D

¹³³ www.rajf.org/article.php3?id_article=1043



However in 2005, the Cour de cassation has decided that claims for discrimination related to execution of the contract and were subject to a time limitation of 30 years (article 2262 CC)¹³⁴, this position lead to complaints on the part of employers as to the unmanageable scope of their risk. The employers therefore lobbied in the context of the over all reform of the statute of limitations for the adoption of a time limitation to institute action lowered to 5 years, as is the case for claims for salaries. This reform, which entails an important regression on the scope of the protection against discrimination, was adopted on June 5, 2008. The Law no 2008-561¹³⁵ of June, 17, 2008 creates article L1134-5 of the Labour Code, limiting delay before taking action before the courts to five years in the following terms:

“The action is compensation of the prejudice resulting from a discrimination is prescribed after five years from the knowledge of the discrimination.
Damages compensate the entire prejudice resulting from the discrimination for its entire duration.”

Hence, not only does it modify the period within which to pursue the claim, but it alerts the indemnification scheme. In French labour law, plaintiff could obtain annulment of a discriminatory decision and correction of their impact in order, for example, to be reinstated at the level that should have been his or hers, the judgement also having effect for the future. Now, compensation is limited to damages.

In other civil cases, the applicable time limitation would be that of ten years applicable to civil liability (article 2270-1 CC).

The penal courts are competent in matters related to hiring, sanction and dismissal in the workplace, access to goods and services (including all public service such as public housing, education, social rights etc...). They may condemn to penal sanctions (i.e. fines, prison, privation of civil rights) and to damages if plaintiff has lodged a civil complaint before the penal court. The time limits to prosecute the penal action for discrimination is three years (article 8 CPP).

6.2 Legal standing and associations (Article 7(2) Directive 2000/43, Article 9(2) Directive 2000/78)

a) *Please list the ways in which associations may engage in judicial or other procedures in support of a complainant*

The Law of November 16, 2001 gives the possibility to representative trade unions and NGOs, which have been in existence for over five years, to intervene in the action for any apprentice, trainee, employment candidate or employee who alleges to have been victim of discrimination (article L1132-1 LC et seq., Law no 83-634 of July 13, 1983 in the public sector article 8 par. 1 et 2). In addition, the Labour Code has been amended by the Law no 2005-102 on Disability and article L1134-3 created in order to provide standing to NGOs acting for the rights of disabled persons before the Courts in matters of discrimination.

¹³⁴ Court of Cassation, Social Chamber, March 15, 2005, no- 02-43.616, Renault c. Morange, Dictionnaire permanent social, 4114, Bulletin 814.

¹³⁵ http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/13/dossiers/prescription_civile.asp



However, when the discrimination will have been perpetrated against individual persons, the NGO or the trade union (L1134-2 LC) will be able to pursue the action only if it establishes having received the consent of each person in writing (also article 6 of the Law no 83-634 of July 13, 1983 on the rights and obligations of civil servants), or if the victim is a minor, a written consent from his or her responsible parent or tutor.

Article 31 NCCP recognises the standing of any person who has a legitimate interest in the dismissal or granting of the action in all civil cases. This principle has been created in order to award standing to NGOs when they established that the facts in issue were violating the collective interest they represented (Civ. 2e, July 21, 1986: Bull. Civ. II no. 119).

In case of discrimination in housing, the Law of January 17, 2002 extends the right of action of NGOs to collective and individual recourses (article 24-1 Law of July 6, 1989). Besides this possibility, civil action does not allow for class action. Each Plaintiff must initiate a civil action that may be joined for the purpose of simplifying the hearing. However, this will not allow joining the court records. Therefore, legally, each record will be treated separately and evidence adduced in one action will not benefit the others.

Penal actions are initiated by the Public prosecutor. Victims and NGO's can join as civil parties.

Article 48-1 of the Law on the Press of July 29, 1881 provides for the action of victims and NGOs defending the rights of victims of racial discrimination that can establish an existence of five years, in matters of provocation to discrimination, incitement to hatred and violence, defamation (articles 24, 32, 33).

Article 2-1 CPP further foresees the possibility of NGOs combating discrimination on the ground of origin, race and religion to become civil party to penal actions pursuant to a violation of article 225-2 CP. Article 2-6 CPP foresees the same possibility for discrimination on the basis of sex or mores, and article 2-8 CPP in matters of discrimination based on health and disability. In all cases, it must have been regularly declared for over five years and obtain consent of the victim when it represents an individual victim.

The Code of Administrative Justice does not define standing before the courts. However, NGOs interventions are common practice: administrative courts systematically hold that NGOs have standing to intervene if their associative purpose, as defined in their constitutive statutes, correspond to the subject matter of the case.

The regime defining the legal standing of associations has not been modified by Law no 2008-496 of May 27, 2008.

b) On behalf of one or more complaints (please indicate if class actions are possible)

There are no collective mechanisms of complaints in internal law other than the collective complaint mechanism of the European Social Charter.



A bill no 3430 to create a class action was presented for discussion before Parliament on November 6, 2006, but has not yet been pursued by the new government. However it continues to be discussed by civil society and political actors¹³⁶.

6.3 Burden of proof (Article 8 Directive 2000/43, Article 10 Directive 2000/78)

Does national law require or permit a shift of the burden of proof from the complainant to the respondent? Identify the criteria applicable in the full range of existing procedures and concerning the different types of discrimination, as defined by the Directives (including harassment).

The shift in the burden of proof has expressly been transposed in all matters that concern Directives 2000/43 and Directive 2000/78 by Law no 2008-496 at article 4 and article 158 of the Law of January 17, 2002 in matters of Housing (modifying article 1 par. 3 of Law 89-462 of July 6, 1989).

- The plaintiff must present facts leading to a presumption of direct or indirect discrimination. In the former text, plaintiff had a lesser burden and was only required to present facts.
- Upon having satisfied this burden, the defendant must establish that his or her decision was justified by objective elements which have nothing to do with discrimination. It does not require that defendant justify proportionality and necessity. Since this requirement is not intrinsically included in the definition of direct discrimination at article 7, the burden of proof ends up being lighter for defendant in direct discrimination cases than in indirect discrimination cases. This does not appear to comply with the requirements of the directive.
- The judge forms his inner conviction after having ordered, if necessary, all enquiry orders it considers useful.

This shift in the burden of proof is thus applicable in all non penal recourses (in the case of self employed workers and the liberal profession, private and public employees, access to goods and services in the private and public sector, claims against state services) For claims relating to the public sector brought before the administrative court, the administrative procedure is inquisitive and is covered by the derogation provided in article 8 par 5 of directive 2000/43 and article 10 paragraph 5 of directive 2000/78. Article R411-1 of the Code of administrative justice provides that “the procedure alleges the facts, arguments and conclusions submitted to the judge”. Thus, the plaintiff is deemed not to have the burden of proof.

¹³⁶ http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/12/dossiers/information_protection_consommateurs.asp



6.4 Victimisation (Article 9 Directive 2000/43, Article 11 Directive 2000/78)

What protection exists against victimisation? Does the protection against victimisation extend to persons other than the complainant? (e.g. witnesses or person that help the victim of discrimination to present a complaint)

Law no 2008-496 has created at article 3 a specific protection against victimisation applicable to the entire scope of civil recourses alleging direct or indirect discrimination covered by the directives, which provides:

- No one having testified in good faith of discriminatory behaviour or having reported it can thus be treated in an unfavourable manner.
- No unfavourable measure can be taken against a person because he or she was a victim of discrimination or because of his or her refusal to submit to a discrimination prohibited at article 2.

This protection clarifies that it extends to victims and non victims but does not provide any indication as to the applicable burden of proof applicable to claims of retorsion.

Finally, the Penal Code protects victims and witnesses. Article 434-15 CP sanctions treats and intimidation towards a witness, and article 434-5 CP towards a victim, by a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment.

It is important to note that in reaction to actions for discrimination and sexual harassment, there have been an ever growing defence strategy leading to filing a penal complaint for slanderous complaint (226-10 PC) in order to intimidate complainants. They have sometimes given rise to investigation. As for other grounds of criminal complaints, there are no statistics as to the number of such complaints and their results since they are integrated to all complaints for slanderous complaints.

6.5 Sanctions and remedies (Article 15 Directive 2000/43, Article 17 Directive 2000/78)

- a) *What are the sanctions applicable where unlawful discrimination has occurred? Consider the different sanctions that may apply where the discrimination occurs in private or public employment, or in a field outside employment.*
- b) *Is there any ceiling on the maximum amount of compensation that can be awarded?*
- c) *Is there any information available concerning:*
 - *the average amount of compensation available to victims*
 - *the extent to which the available sanctions have been shown to be - or are likely to be - effective, proportionate and dissuasive, as is required by the Directives?*

The general principle in French civil Law is to remedy the prejudice by the award of compensatory pecuniary damages, indemnifying the financial and moral damage, without further pecuniary sanction or punitive damages. The legislator has foreseen in the Labour Code the possibility to request the annulment of the discriminatory measure, allowing for reintegration in case of dismissal, retroactive indemnity (financial compensation of the loss in wages for the entire period of discrimination) and legal modification of the employee's status in his working environment (articles L1134-4.



The Cour de cassation has many times ordered the reconstitution of the career of the employee with retroactive indemnification plus reinstating plaintiff in his rights for the future, the ensuing cost to the employer being substantial.

However, other recourses, in matters of housing or non salaried employees (Law no 2008-496) do not benefit from this possibility and remedy is limited to damages. There is no statutory upper limit but the French legal practice is still very conservative in calculating pecuniary loss, and amounts awarded remain rather low.

The first civil case against a private real estate agent has successfully been brought before the civil courts this fall. The court awarded 3 000€ in moral damages, stating for the first time that suffering discrimination deserved specific compensation for moral damages, that ought to be significant¹³⁷.

The Law Perben II for the Adaptation of Justice to the Evolutions of Criminality has been adopted on March 16, 2004¹³⁸. Sanctions incurred in relation to the offence of discrimination are increased to a maximum of three year imprisonment and a 45 000 € fine (article 225-2 PC). The Law creates an aggravating factor in relation to discriminatory refusal to sell or give access to a public place (discos, shops, public services etc...), sanctioned by a maximum of 5 years imprisonment and a 75 000 € fine. In addition, the Penal Code allows accessory sanctions at article 225-19 PC: posting or publication of the judgement, closing down of a public place, exclusion from procurement contracts, confiscation of a business, suspension of civil rights, and a list of further penalties which are seldom ordered. The same sentence is applicable to discriminations by public services (article 432-7 PC).

Moral persons, including the state and all public services, can be condemned as well, and this liability does not exclude that of the physical person. Since 2000, the level of penal fines and the number of prison sentences has evolved from insignificant amounts to amounts of 3000€ to 15 000€ and suspended prison sentences. In addition, publication of sentences in local papers has been ordered in a number of cases. However, beyond bad publicity, in case of a business strategy based on a discriminatory practice, the amount of these condemnations is not yet a significant deterrent unless assorted to a suspended sentence which entails substantial consequences in case of relapse.

In non penal matters involving the public service, the recourse must be brought before the administrative tribunal. Two recourses are available: one for excess of power to annul the decision attacked or the full jurisdiction recourse, in order to obtain not only annulment of the decision but damages as well.

In addition to penal and administrative recourses, a civil servant can as well be the object of disciplinary sanctions in application of article 66 of the Law no 84-16 of January, 11, 1984, article 89 of Law no 84-53 of January 26, 1984, and article 81 of Law no 86-33 of January 9, 1986.

¹³⁷ Tribunal d'Instance de Montpellier, April 3, 2008, Drucker c. Galerie Gregoire RG no. 11-07-001540

¹³⁸ Law n° 2004-204 March 9, 2004 (JORF n°59 du 10 mars 2004 page 4567)
<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=JUSX0300028L>



In order to facilitate enforcement and encourage systematic sanction of penal discrimination, the Law no 2008-396 on Equal Opportunities of March 31, 2006 has given to the HALDE a power of penal transaction (see section 7). It empowers the HALDE to propose fines in the amount of 3000€ for a physical person and 15 000€ for moral persons together with compensation of the victim, posting of announcements (articles 11-1 and 11-2 Law HALDE).



7. SPECIALISED BODIES

Body for the promotion of equal treatment (Article 13 Directive 2000/43)

When answering this question if there is any data regarding the activities of the body (or bodies), include reference to this (keeping in mind the need to examine whether the race equality body is functioning properly). For example, annual reports, statistics on the number of complaints received in each year or the number of complainants assisted in bringing legal proceedings.

- a) Does a 'specialised body' or 'bodies' exist for the promotion of equal treatment irrespective of racial or ethnic origin?*
- b) Describe briefly the status of this body (or bodies) including how its governing body is selected, its sources of funding and to whom it is accountable.*
- c) Describe the competences of this body (or bodies), including a reference to whether it deals with other grounds of discrimination and/or wider human rights issues.*
- d) Does it / do they have the competence to provide assistance to victims, conduct surveys and publish reports and issue recommendations on discrimination issues?*
- e) Does the body (or bodies) have legal standing to bring discrimination complaints or to intervene in legal cases concerning discrimination?*
- f) Is the work undertaken independently?*
- g) Does the body treat Roma and Travellers as a priority issue? If so, please summarise its approach relating to Roma and Travellers.*

The Law creating the High Authority against Discrimination and for Equality (HALDE) was adopted on December 30, 2004, and is in force since February 1st, 2005¹³⁹. A commission of eleven members acts as decisional body. On March 4, 2005, the decree of enforcement of the Law creating the High Authority was published¹⁴⁰, and the High Authority formally started its activities in June 2005. Since its opening, Parliament has voted a constant budget of 10 Million Euros. It has attained 80 staff members in 2007.

It has competence on all forms of discriminations, direct and indirect, forbidden by the laws of the Republic, therefore readily adaptable to any future legal evolutions. It covers discrimination by reason of real or imputed race or origin, sex, disability, age, health, religion, sexual orientation, opinions, appearance, and trade union activities in all domains regulated by law. Its realm of power goes beyond the requirements of Directives 2000/43 and 2002/73.

In addition to investigative powers, the High Authority ensures the promotion of equal treatment, has the power to make recommendations on all issues relating to discrimination, to identify and promote good professional practices and to coordinate and conduct studies and research.

The High Authority has competence to investigate individual and collective complaints, whether the investigation is initiated of its own accord or by written demand of the claimant.

¹³⁹ www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/PFECT.htm

¹⁴⁰ Decree 2005-215 of march 4, 2005 : www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SOCN0510296D



Its investigative powers allow it to request explanations from any public or private person, including the communication of documents and the hearing of relevant witnesses. In case of non-cooperation with the investigation services of the High Authority, it can request a court order. It may also ask that all required investigations be carried out by any service of the state and the High Authority may proceed to visits in all non-private premises after due notice and consent of the owner. Finally, the Law no 2006-396 on Equal Opportunities of March 31, 2006 has given its investigators authority to issue a sworn statement concluding to discrimination, which can only be contradicted by way of substantial evidence before the courts (article 2 Law HALDE).

In the case of a criminal offence, it may transmit the claim to the penal courts or proceed with a penal transaction.

In 2006, Section 2 (Articles 41 to 44) of the Law on Equal Opportunities was adopted to reinforce the powers of the High Authority against discrimination and for Equality (HALDE). By virtue of Articles 11-1, 11-2 and 11-3 of Law no 2004-1486, as amended by the Law on Equal Opportunities and Article D.1-1 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as amended by Decree 2006-641 of June 1, 2006 a new power was conferred upon the HALDE, that of proposing a so-called “*transaction pénale*” - a kind of negotiated criminal sanction - to perpetrators of direct discrimination. This entails that the HALDE, following an investigation of a complaint resulting in a finding of direct intentional discrimination by the person or entity investigated, proposes a specific criminal sanction to the perpetrator, which he can either accept or reject. This could be a fine (see section 6.5) or publication (for instance in a press release) of the fact that discrimination has taken place and, if relevant, an award of compensation to the victim. In case of rejection of the proposed negotiated criminal sanction or of a subsequent failure to comply with it, the HALDE can initiate a criminal prosecution, in place of the public prosecutor, before the criminal court. This system has much in common with the procedures followed by other administrative authorities which have the power to propose on-the-spot fines for an infringement of the criminal law, such as the tax, customs, water or woodland authorities.

Otherwise, the HALDE may offer mediation to the parties or complete the investigation, in which case it will issue its conclusions and recommendations to the parties who will have a certain amount of time to comply. In case of non-compliance, it has the power to call public attention to its recommendations. In addition, it may alert the relevant authorities in cases that require disciplinary sanctions against the respondent.

The High Authority has also been conceived as an ‘auxiliary of Justice’: the law creates the possibility for the criminal, civil and administrative courts to seek its observations in cases under adjudication. In addition, the Law on Equal Opportunities has extended its power to the submission of observations of its own accord before the criminal, civil and administrative courts.

In 2007, it has received 6222 complaints based on all grounds and areas of discrimination, an increase of 53%. It has solved 7369 complaints and its Commission has rendered 340 recommendations. It has presented observations before the courts in 115 cases, proceeded to 49 mediations and concluded 28 penal transactions.



In 2007, it has audited its mediation process and put in place a specific mediation procedure and training this first step has been followed by the training of more than 100 independent mediators in order to provide an independent service, specific to discrimination, throughout the territory.

Since September 2005, statistics relating to incoming claims remain stable. 56 % of the complaints are lodged by men and 42% by women, the remainder being complaints transmitted by members of Parliament and NGOs.

27.1 % of the claims allege discrimination based on origin (including race) on all grounds and 50 % of all claims concern employment, both private and public. Claims based on origin in employment amount to 16 %. Health and disability is in progression. It concerns 12 % of the claims and deals mainly with access to the public service and goods and services, or reclassification of disabled employees. Discrimination in access to housing represents 6 % of the claims, and alleges mostly discrimination based on origin or disability. Education, including primary, secondary school, university and other types of training, covers 5 % of the claims, that allege as grounds of discrimination, origin first and disability in second. Age represents 6 % of claims and concentrates mainly on the issue of access to employment. Sexual orientation represents 2 % of the claims and concerns mainly access to goods and services and the public service. Religion represents only 2 % of the claims that concentrate on access to the public service and raise issues related to dress codes. Finally, discrimination based on sex only represents 6 % of the claims and half of them have been brought by men in order to claim benefits similar to those of women in relation to pension rights after having raised three children or more. Very few women raise discrimination based on sex in employment.

The High Authority presents its reports to the President of the Republic and the Parliament in April of each year since its creation.

As regards the Roma and traveller population, observing insufficient claims, in 2006 the HALDE decided to constitute a working group to look into their specific status and its conformity to community law in order to submit recommendations to the Government in order to insure the pursuit of all necessary reforms. The conclusions of the working group were adopted by the HALDE in December 2007.

There has been Romani populations (Tziganes, Gitans, Sinti, Romani) on the French territory since the 15th century and they have always been the subject of specific status and obligations. In 1912, their status was defined in accordance to their way of life, and ever since the laws regulating the specific obligations to which they are subject have been based on the necessity to keep a certain control over the travelling population by reason of its way of life. The Law no 69-3 creates an obligation on the part of citizens without permanent domicile who are travelling on the National territory, to hold special travelling identity papers which must be validated at the Ministry of Interior local office within 48 hours of arriving in the department (préfecture) and can be controlled by the police at any time. The HALDE has concluded (HALDE deliberation no 2007- 372 of December 17, 2007, recommending to reform the legal regime applicable to national Romani population under the name of travellers (gens du voyage)) that this was a violation of their right to circulate and their right to privacy and has recommended a reform of the status of travelling persons in order to eliminate all specific identity papers and all measure resulting in increased police control.



In addition, these citizens must specify a designated city to be domiciliated, but do not have the right to vote before 3 years, were the general population, as well as homeless, are only required to have been registered for a period of 6 months in order to acquire the right to vote.

The HALDE further decided to pursue the working group in 2008 in order to report on implementation of targeted policies relating to access to camping space, housing and education and the situation of Eastern European Roma populations that are being denied access to social rights and are being driven back to Romania and Bulgaria.

Further to the HALDE's deliberation, government has announced that it intended to reform the Law no 69-3 to eliminate special circulation papers, facilitate access to the National Identity card and reform conditions for registration on the voting lists.



8. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

8.1 Dissemination of information, dialogue with NGOs and between social partners

Describe briefly the action taken by the Member State

- a) *to disseminate information about legal protection against discrimination (Article 10 Directive 2000/43 and Article 12 Directive 2000/78)*
- b) *to encourage dialogue with NGOs with a view to promoting the principle of equal treatment (Article 12 Directive 2000/43 and Article 14 Directive 2000/78) and*
- c) *to promote dialogue between social partners to give effect to the principle of equal treatment within workplace practices, codes of practice, workforce monitoring (Article 11 Directive 2000/43 and Article 13 Directive 2000/78)*
- d) *to specifically address Roma and Travellers*

A. Dissemination

Over the years, the public service has developed at a national level a number of information and awareness programs, and mainly the Ministry of employment (DGEFP, DPM, ANPE and the FASILD now Agence Nationale pour la cohésion sociale et l'égalité des chances (ANCSEC), contributing as well to its dissemination at a regional and departmental level. In 2002, racial discrimination was elected Great National cause which provided to NGOs acting in this field, a global subsidy of over 1 million euros and cheaper TV diffusion costs. In 2002, a TV advertisement campaign was launched between April 11 and 20, 2002 on the main national Channels (it was aired 200 times over this period over a variety of channels: TF1, France 2, France 3, Canal +, M6 and LCI). In 2004, Disability was elected Great National cause and again, a TV advertisement campaign was produced and aired. All these campaigns were adapted for the visually and hearing impaired.

The GELD, a public structure created in 1999 to study and, in 2001, to combat discrimination by managing the 114 hotline, created in 2001 a website dedicated to racial discrimination and covering news, research, national, european and international legal texts and activity, communication and legal information tools, an actors directory and internet links for all intervening actors, experts and victims: www.le114.com. The resources of its website were transferred to the High Authority against Discrimination and for Equality (HALDE). The HALDE launched its own website in February 2006: www.halde.fr.

In addition, most NGOs, whether anti-racist or promoting the rights of the disabled, of gays, of the sick, of the aged (amongst which MRAP, SOS RACISM, LICRA, LDH, SIDA Info services, AIDES, LGBT, APH etc...) are subsidized by the State and pursue dissemination activities among which, the diffusion of their own website presenting legal precedents and legal tools, many of which are adapted for the visually impaired, as well as seminars and events. In November 2002, the MRAP and APAHF have published legal guides for victims of discrimination, for rights in matters related to access of disabled children to schools, etc...All these structures, as well as trade unions and the FASILD (now ANCSEC), organise seminars and training for actors and the general public.

In 2007, the HALDE has coordinated dissemination actions financed through the European Year.



B. Dialogue with NGOs

The major reforms undertaken with respect to the entire indemnification and support structure towards the disabled, the creation of the National Specialised Body (HALDE), the creation of the National Museum on the History of Immigration, the plan of social cohesion, and the legal reforms with respect to criminalisation of hateful speech based on sexism and homophobia, have all followed a similar approach based on consultation and dialogue with NGOs, social actors, representatives of the public service by way of mandates given to prominent personalities by the prime minister.

Meanwhile, the CNCDH (National Human Rights Consultative Commission), counsel to the Prime Minister, is composed of delegates of all major human rights and anti-racist NGOs, representative trade unions and branches of the public sector. It is consulted on all legislative reforms affecting human rights and provides counsel and recommendations to the government. It is organised in six sub-commissions, one of which is responsible for the annual publication of a report on racism and anti-Semitism.

As well, the High Authority benefits from a consultative body (*Comité consultatif*) composed of representatives of civil society i.e. NGOs, Trade Union and experts, which has been very active in pursuing the working group on Travellers' rights which has lead to the adoption of deliberation no 2007- 372 of December 17, 2007 (see section 7).

At the departmental level, the CODAC (Departmental Commission of Access to Citizenship) – which used to be dedicated to racial discrimination – has been re-baptised COPEC (Commission for the promotion of equality) and seen its mission redefined in September 2004¹⁴¹. It gathers all local actors under the authority of the representative of the State in the department, the Prefect, and is intended to generate cooperation and dialogue for the promotion of equality on all grounds of discrimination.

Even if it was covered by existing legislation regulating the exercise of faith in France¹⁴², Islam, second national faith with four to five million followers, was the only major religion that did not have a national representative organisation. The Ministry of Interior in 2002 organised a consultation with all the Islamic faiths' institutions under the supervision of the COMOR (Commission of Organisation of the Consultation of French Muslims) and a preliminary agreement for the creation of a French Council of Muslim Worship (Conseil français du culte musulman- CFCM) was signed on December 9, 2002 by the three main component of the Muslim community in France (FNMF, GMP, UOIF). In February 2003, the COMOR reached a final agreement on the organisation of the CFCM, the organisation of their 17 regional councils (CRCM) for the management and animation of Muslim Worship and the organisation of elections to these regional councils in April 2003. The CFCM is a federation of associations governed by the Law of July, 1st of 1901. Its general assembly reunites the elected representatives of the CRCMs (regional councils) which represent 995 communities, and elects a president and two vice-presidents.

¹⁴¹ Circulaire COPEC NOR/INT/K/04/00117/C, 20 / 09 / 2004, Missions nouvelles des commissions départementales d'accès à la citoyenneté (CODAC), commissions pour la promotion de l'égalité des chances et la citoyenneté" (COPEC) www.interieur.gouv.fr/rubriques/b/b5_lois_decrets/04_00117

¹⁴² Marongui O. et D'un monde à l'autre, Droit français des cultes appliqués à l'Islam, 2002 ; Open society Institute of Budapest, La situation des musulmans en France, 2002.



The Law no 2005-102 on Disability structures all the national and local structures involved in establishing policies concerning the disabled and enforcing their rights, such as the National consultative council of the disabled and its local counterpart, on the participation of NGOs representing the disabled (Article 1 of the Law creating article L146-1 A CSW). It further creates a Departmental Commission for the Rights and the Autonomy of the Disabled competent for all decisions relating to the orientation of the disabled person (see section 6.1). Its members are representatives of public service, NGOs, trade unions and social partners and at least 30% of representatives of the disabled (Article 66 of the Law relating to Title 1V of the Code of social welfare). Its organisation is determined by decree (not yet adopted). NGOs, who in France have traditionally been delegated the task of the public sector in terms of support to the disabled and their families.

It is important to note that the Law no 2006-396 on Equal Opportunities has created the National Agency for Social Cohesion and Equal Opportunities (Agence nationale pour la cohésion sociale et l'égalité des chances (ANCSEC) to replace the FASILD, combining the budgets of the FASILD and local city policy contracts for 500 000 € Conceived as a complement to the National Urban renovation Agency (Agence nationale de rénovation urbaine ANRU) to coordinate local action for education, prevention of crime, social cohesion and integration, it will as well implement the new voluntary civil service for the 18-25.

C. Dialogue with social partners

Article 4 of the Law of November 16, 2001, integrates the fight against discriminations as an objective in collective bargaining, in branch (sub-sections of the labour force) negotiations and national negotiations dealt at the level of the National commission of collective bargaining. Article L2261-22 LC was modified in order to extend the equality objective not only in terms of access to employment but in terms of training and the employees' career as well. However, it limits this objective to the criteria of race and ethnic origin.

In addition, the Commission responsible for monitoring professional equality between men and women has seen its competence extended to discrimination based on race and origin (article L2271-1 par. 8 LC). Elements concerning racial and sex discrimination have become a mandatory disposition in all branches collective agreements.

In the public service, social dialogue is a basic organisational principle since all levels of human resources management are dealt with in a joint decisional system were representative of the State and unions are equally represented (Law no 83-634 of July 1st, 1983, article 9 par.1).

Article 25 of the Law no 2005-102 on Disability modifies articles L2241-1 and L2242-1 LC, which concern mandatory annual negotiations among social partners, to create the obligation to hold annual negotiations concerning measures necessary for the professional integration of the disabled.

In addition, as discussed in section b), social partners participate to the Departmental Commission for the Rights and Autonomy of the Disabled.



In 2006, government has given mandate to the High Authority to organise a “Consensus Conference” in order to present recommendations as regards necessary evolutions to the management of social housing in order to take into account discrimination. This consensus conference process involves consultation and hearing of field representatives by designated experts, leading to a report to government in 2007.

It is important to note that however dynamic the NGOs on issues relating to sexual orientation, employers and trade union have initiated no satisfactory work in this respect and all actors underline the deficit of initiatives and social dialogue as regards homophobia in the workplace. This has been one of the conclusions of the study effected on account of the HALDE by Christophe Falcoz, in 2007¹⁴³, which has given rise to the adoption of a set of recommendations of the HALDE addressed to social partners adopted by way of Deliberation no 2007-371 of December 17, 2008.

D. To address Romas and Travellers

There is a national consultative body, reuniting representatives of NGOs of Governmental services, of Parliament, to discuss draft legislation and policy that concerns the travelling population (Commission nationale consultative des gens du voyage). Such a commission also exists at the departmental level and is used by the prefect (head of local state services) to coordinate implementation of local parking accommodations, local action and interventions and organise large travelling movements for important annual reunions. This National Consultative Commission of the Travellers has been reactivated to follow up on implementation of HALDE’s recommendations. The service dealing with exclusion in the department of social affair, is responsible for policies relating to Romas and works together with NGOs, and particularly one NGO federating the others: FNASAT.

In 2000, the Besson Law no 2000-614 relating to the accommodation of the travelling population, imposed on all departments the adoption of accommodation schemes for travellers and an obligation on all towns of 5000 people and more to put in place short term and long term parking accommodation for travellers. After many extensions, in 2005 there were 93 departmental schemes adopted but only 25% of the required parking accommodation (8000 parking areas), where the authorities recognise that 20 000 are needed (NGOs consider that 60 000 are needed). There has been a two year extension (2007) and an ultimate proposition for funding for 2008, in order to encourage compliance with the obligation to provide for the required parking space.

The scheme aims at stabilising residence and favour school attendance for the children , as all mayors are obliged to register children in school even for a few days (article L131-10 and 131-11 of the Code of Education and 227-17-2 of the penal code). However, they tend to generate concentration and in some cities (Dijon- Nancy- Toulouse) there are schools that count a majority of Roma children.

In the meantime, access to private property and the acquisition of land faces many administrative barriers which are amplified by most mayors’ reluctance to see Roma family units get settled on their territory.

¹⁴³ [FALCOZ, Christophe, Homophobie dans l’entreprise, La Documentation Française, 2008](#)



In pursuance of dissemination activities initiated during the European year, the HALDE is presently working together with the FNASAT (national travellers NGO) on the production of training and informative material for the travelling population on Directive 2000/43 and discrimination based on origin dissemination. By way of a DVD and a training guide should be assured throughout the territory by training sessions organized by the FNASAT.

8.2 Compliance (Article 14 Directive 2000/43, Article 16 Directive 2000/78)

- a) *Are there mechanisms to ensure that contracts, collective agreements, internal rules of undertakings and the rules governing independent occupations, professions, workers' associations or employers' associations do not conflict with the principle of equal treatment? These may include general principles of the national system, such as, for example, "lex specialis derogat legi generali (special rules prevail over general rules) and lex posteriori derogat legi priori (more recent rules prevail over less recent rules).*
- b) *Are any laws, regulations or rules contrary to the principle of equality still in force?*

French law does not require that express legislation be introduced in order to insure the superiority of the principle of equality to other sources of rights. Equal treatment between persons is a constitutional principle and a rule of public order sanctioned by the Penal Code. Article 6 of the Civil Code further expresses the following general principle: "One cannot derogate to public order by way of a particular convention", this type of agreement being null and void. Articles 1382 et s. and 1146 et s. of the Civil Code implement a general regime of civil and contractual liability which adapts to the evolution of custom and of superior rules of law thereby adapting to directives 2000/43 and 2000/78. Article L1134-4 LC further expressly state that any such act is null and void.

Article 6 and 6 quinquies of Law no 83-634 of July 1st, 1983 are rules of general application and public order. They must be respected in all regulatory acts or decision regarding a public agent.

Finally the general principle *lex posterior derogate lege priori* applies to human rights and therefore implies the inapplicability of all non conforming legislation and conventions.

There is however no process of periodical legislative audit or restatement in France, and the State has not undertaken an audit in order to verify compliance of all texts in force with the directives. Such legislation must be attacked before the Conseil d'Etat or the European Court on a case by case basis. The HALDE regularly raises problems related to the non conformity of the law with European anti-discrimination law. In some cases, though rarely, Government openly refuses to follow the HALDE's recommendation: it is the case as regards the discriminatory status of travellers under law 69-3, and the criminalisation of the control of their whereabouts.

The same applies to national collective agreements and contractual undertakings, which could be questioned by way of social dialogue but otherwise must be challenged before the Courts.



9. OVERVIEW

France has adopted the legislation to protect victims of discrimination and taken advantage of the review of the transposition to make it more flexible and create the defence mechanisms it had omitted in 2001.

Civil society is shocked and helpless in the face of the importance and range of the problem, particularly as regards racial discrimination and assuring a true integration of the disabled. We assist to a significant evolution of public awareness and a substantial mobilisation of actors in favour of the promotion of equality. More cases reach trial and are successful but they concern mainly direct discrimination in penal or labour cases on the grounds of origin and disability¹⁴⁴. Indirect discrimination is still a misunderstood concept.

Criminal law only sanctions intentional direct discrimination and is not subject to the requirements of community law.

There are many barriers however to systematic implementation in France. Legal action is not considered as a mean of advocacy. Very few NGOs are knowledgeable in the management of judicial recourses¹⁴⁵ or have the means to pursue judicial cases.

In addition, anti-discrimination Law is perceived by legal actors as foreign and undermining traditional civil Law. Judicial actors in civil matters do not perceive rules of evidence as a central aspect of the civil judicial process and lack experience in making a systematic use of them. Meanwhile, the traditional formal theory of equality and the concept of fault in civil matters remain the ultimate reference and there is significant resistance at trial level to the concept of indirect discrimination that is perceived as a mean to condemn liability without fault. Until judicial precedents are established by the higher courts and a clear jurisprudence is in place, the Plaintiffs will be required to be ready to face multiple appeals before winning their cases.

Implementing discrimination Law entails considerable modification in the practice of judicial actors and in the way NGOs and trade unions perceive their function in the judicial process and social dialogue. Funding of NGOs and trade unions to pursue test cases and targeted training of judges, lawyers, trade unions and NGOs in this regard seems indispensable.

¹⁴⁴ LANQUETIN, GREVY, Op. Cit. Bilan de la mise en oeuvre de la loi du 16 novembre 2001, rapport final DPM, December 2005 (not yet published)

¹⁴⁵ In the field covered by the all anti-discrimination directives, including discrimination based on sex, there are only two NGOs specialised in bringing about legal action. The first is acting in the sector of sexual and moral harassment. It's name AVFT. The second in the legal rights of foreigners : the GISTI. Generalist NGOs mostly intervene in penal actions, but do not focus their activity on legal actions.



The Specialised body has been conceived to answer some of the evidentiary problems resulting from judicial practice in civil matters and to contribute to a more systematic repression of discrimination¹⁴⁶. It is in this context that the Law on Equal Opportunities of March 31, 2006 has conferred to the HALDE a power of penal transaction to improve sanction of minor acts of discrimination (see section 7).

Meanwhile, the HALDE's contribution to the evolution of judicial practice will depend upon the attitude of NGOs, lawyers and the courts, and their willingness to resort to the HALDE as a mean to support the action of the judicial system. In this perspective, it has concentrated important efforts to promoting training for legal actors and has put in place with the National Bar Association (Conseil National des Barreaux) a formal training program forming part of initial training in bar school, as well as a program for practising lawyers.

As for professional judges (magistrates), the HALDE has organised a seminar for student magistrates at the Magistrates' National School (Ecole nationale de la magistrature) that is responsible for initial training and ongoing professional training.

Since 2005, it has presented observations in 120 cases and 83% of its observations have been followed.

Meanwhile an Equal project has focused on the training of Labour Court non professional judges in Paris with respect to enforcement of discrimination Law, which has started to impact on the practice of the Court in terms of providing access to evidence and implementing the shift in the burden of proof. However, there are 271 such courts on the French Territory. Training of these non professional judges is funded by the Ministry of justice (article 513 LC) but managed by the social partners' local organisations. Hence, very few have undertaken this type of program, as it does not form part of their basic training.

¹⁴⁶ Law n° 2006-396 of March 31 2006 for Equal Opportunities,
<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT0000000268539&fastPos=1&fastReqId=201891393&categorieLien=cid&oldAction=rechTexte>



10. CO-ORDINATION AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Which government department/ other authority is/ are responsible for dealing with or co-ordinating issues regarding anti-discrimination on the grounds covered by this report?

Government:

Ministry of Interior -Ministry of Education - Ministry of Justice- Ministry of Social affairs- , the Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Development (Ministère de l'immigration, de l'intégration, de l'identité nationale et du développement solidaire)

Governmental departments:

Women's Rights Service (S des F) - Direction of Population and Migration (DPM) - Direction of Labour Relations (DRT) - General Direction of Social Affairs (DGSA) - General Direction for Health (DGS) - General Delegation for Employment and Professional Training (DGEFP) - DARESS (Direction of the coordination of Research, studies and statistics) - DRESS (Direction of research, evaluation and statistics), Direction of public liberties, ministry of Interior (Roma and Travellers); General Direction of the Management of the Public Service (DGAFP).

National Research Institutes:

INSEE (National Statistical Institute)
INED (National Demographics Institute)

Interministerial Delegations:

Interministerial Delegation for the Rights of the Disabled
Interministerial Delegation to the City and urban development
Interministerial comity to fight against racism and anti-Semitism
Interministerial comity for integration

Public bodies:

Agence Nationale pour la cohésion sociale et l'égalité des chances (ANCSEC)
Agence nationale de rénovation urbaine (ANRU)
Agence nationale de l'accueil et des migrations (ANAEM) –

Consultative bodies:

National consultative commission of the Travellers
National consultative commission of Human Rights
National consultative commission of the retired and older people
National consultative commission for the Disabled
High Council for Integration
Higher Council for professional equality between men and women
Commission for political equality between men and women



Specialised administrative bodies:

Médiateur de la République (Ombudsman for the public sector)

CNIL (National Commission for IT and Liberty)

CNDS (National Commission for ethics and security)

CSA (Higher Council for Radio and Television)

CADA (Commission for Access to Administrative Documents)

Défenseur des enfants (Children's Defensor)

HALDE (High Authority against Discrimination and for Equality/ Haute autorité de lutte contre les discriminations et pour l'égalité)



Annex

1. Table of key national anti-discrimination legislation
2. Table of international instruments

ANNEX 1: TABLE OF KEY NATIONAL ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION

France

Date 7 January 2007

Title of Legislation (including amending legislation)	In force from:	Grounds covered	Civil/Administrative /Criminal law	Material Scope	Principal content
This table concerns only key national legislation; please list not more than 10 anti-discrimination laws (which may be included as parts of laws with wider scope). Where the legislation is available electronically, provide the webpage address.	Please give month / year			e.g. public employment, private employment, access to goods or services (including housing), social protection, social advantages, education	e.g. prohibition of direct and indirect discrimination harassment, instruction to discriminate or creation of a specialised body
Law on the press of 1881 www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/PCEAA.htm	Évolutive Last 02/ 2005	All grounds The Law on the HALDE incorporates prohibition of provocation to discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual orientation and disability	Criminal law	All fields	Provocation to discrimination as defined by article 225-1 and 225-2
Law of social modernisation n°2002-73 www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/SPECE.htm	01/2002	All grounds	Civil. Administrative and criminal law	Private and public housing, Harassment	prohibition of direct and indirect discrimination in public and private housing Harassment in public and private



					employment Harassment in the Penal Code
Law no. 2001-434 of recognition of slavery and human trade as crime against humanity http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/PPEDY.htm	05/23/2001	Racial	criminal	All fields	
Law no 2004-1486 of December 30, 2004 creating the Specialised Body (HALDEHALDE) http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/PFECT.htm	Last amendment: 31/03/ 2006	All grounds	Civil and Administrative law	All fields	Completes transposition vsvs. Ethnic, national and racial origin creation of a specialised body
Law no 2005-102 of February 11, 2005 for the equality of rights and chances and the social participation of the disabled d http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SANX0300217L	11/02/2005	disability	Civil. Administrative law	Employment education, goods and services social rights	Completes transposition vsvs. reasonable accommodation duties and positive action
Law of social cohesion adopted December 20, 2004 http://ameli.senat.fr/publication/pl/2004-2005/110.html	12/2004	Origin, race, religion	Administrative law	Employment housing in public and private sector	Program promoting access to employment and housing



<p>Law no 2005-846 of July 26, 2005 habilitating the Government to adopt emergency measures for employment by way of Governmental Decree: http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=SOCX0500142L Governmental Decree 2005-901 of August 2nd, 2005: http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/WAspad/UnTexteDeJorf?numjo=FPX0500189R</p>	07/2005	age	Administrative law	Employment public sector	Remove age limits for recruitment in the public sector
<p>Law no 2006-396 of March 31, 2006 on Equal opportunities http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/texteconsolide/SEEFB.htm</p>	31/2006	All grounds	Administrative law	All fields	Increased power for the HALDE Creation of ANCSEC Education and employment provisions for integration of the youth



Law no 2008-496 of May 27 2008 adapting to community law in matters of discrimination (hereafter Law no 2008-496)	05/2008	Article 13 EC Grounds	Civil. Administrative and criminal law	All fields	Correcting implementation of directives 2000/43 and 2000/78 by providing definitions of direct and indirect discrimination, including harassment and instructions to discriminate to the definition of discrimination, completing prohibition of retorsion and creating new exceptions.
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ANNEX 2: TABLE OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

France

Date 7 January 2007

Instrument	Signed (Yes/no)	Ratified (Yes/no)	Derogations/ reservations relevant to equality and non discrimination	Right individual petition accepted?	of	Can this instrument be directly relied upon in domestic courts by individuals?
European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes		Yes
Protocol 12, ECHR	No	No	No	No		No
Revised European Social Charter	Yes	Yes	No	Ratified collective Complaints protocol? Yes		No
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	Yes	Yes	Yes, article 13 towards rights relating to the expulsion of foreigners	No		No
Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities	No	No	N/A			
International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Yes	Yes	Yes, articles 6, 9, 11 and 13 must not be interpreted as limiting sovereignty over access to work and social rights of foreigners	NO		No
Convention on the Elimination of All	Yes	Yes	No	No		No



Forms of Racial Discrimination					
Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
ILO Convention No. 111 on Discrimination	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Convention on the Rights of the Child	Yes	Yes	Yes, article 6 cannot be interpreted to limit the application of French law on abortion; Article 30 cannot apply because of article 2 of The French constitution; Article 40 par 2b)V shall be interpreted as a general principle to which limited exception can be opposed by way of legislation, such as for certain criminal infractions.	No.	Yes, some dispositions have been interpreted by the Conseil d'Etat as directly opposable to the State. CE, September 22, 1997, GISTI,
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Yes	No	No	No	No