

Beat: News

PRES. MACRON KEEPS HIS PROMISE OF LAUNCHING OF GENERAL COUNCIL OF INFORMATION

NEXT SEPT LED BY C.DELOIRE & B.LASSERE

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USPA NEWS - President Macron is honoring his presidential campaign promise in 2022, to launch the States General of Information, by announcing on July 13, at the Elysee Palace, French Presidency, that this event will take place next September. In France, since 1789, the right to information is just as much the right to be informed as the right to inform is part of the foundation in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.

Thus "Access to free, independent and trustworthy information is indeed one of the conditions of democracy: it allows everyone to fully and clearly exercise their citizenship in a pluralistic framework. We have a collective duty to allow citizens to have access to this information and to preserve this right." Source: Elysee, French Presidency

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GENERAL COUNCIL OF INFORMATION TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER LED BY C. DELOIRE SG OF RSF & B. LASSERRE PRES. OF CADA

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Christophe Deloire, Secretary General of Reporters Without Borders (RSF), and Bruno Lasserre, President of the Commission for Access to Administrative Documents (CADA), will lead the independent steering committee which will have to submit its conclusions by the summer. 2024. This announcement comes at a time when the JDD newspaper (Journal du Dimanche) has been on strike for several weeks (starting its fourth week), in protest at the arrival at the head of their editorial team Geoffroy Lejeune, former director of the Magazine Valeurs Actuelles, considered too close to the extreme right.

Another controversy has swelled in recent times around the desalinization of the Minister of National Education Pape Niamey who for his part qualified the continuous news channel, TV Cnews TV, as "extreme right" neglecting its essential principle of the independence of the press, even if this media belongs to the tycoon Vincent Bolloré, to the opinions of the hard right.

We publish the press release resale by the French Presidency, (Elysee, on the launch of the States General of Information, July 13, 2023, as it was delivered "

STATEMENT BY FRENCH PRESIDENCY OVER THE LAUNCHING OF GENERAL COUNCIL OF INFORMATION

Finding its basis in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 1789, the right to information is as much the right to be informed as the right to inform. Access to free, independent information that can be trusted is indeed one of the conditions of democracy: it allows everyone to fully and clearly exercise their citizenship in a pluralistic framework. We have a collective duty to allow citizens to have access to this information and to preserve this right.

However, unprecedented technological innovations combined with evolving uses have upset the conditions of production, distribution and reception of information. Fake news, deepfake, artificial intelligence, interference, changing modes of consumption by interposed screen, distancing from the relationship to the truth, acceleration of the means of dissemination, new economic constraints... are all factors that disrupt our relationship to information and this , against a backdrop of global mistrust. To guarantee free and independent information, new balances must necessarily be found.

As he had promised to do before the French in 2022, and following initiatives already taken, particularly at European and international level, the President of the Republic has decided to launch the States General of Information. Their ambition will be to establish a diagnosis of all the issues related to information today, to anticipate future developments, to propose concrete actions that can be deployed at national, European and international level.

For everyone to see their right to free, independent and reliable information respected, it will be necessary to question the considerable impact of technological innovations, on the development of media and information literacy, on the conditions of exercise of the profession of journalist, on the economic model and the regulation of the information sector and the role of the various actors, on interference and manipulation in this field.

BRUNO LASSERRE CEO OF CADA & CHRISTOPHE DELOIRE SG OF REPORTERS WITHOUT BORDERS TO LEAD THIS COMMITTEE

In complete transparency and within the framework of an open and contradictory process, the Estates General will have to involve all the stakeholders as well as the citizens. To this end, the President of the Republic wanted them to be organized and led by an independent steering committee.

This independent committee will be composed of:

- Bruno LASSERRE, former vice-president of the Council of State, who will chair the committee;
- Christophe DELOIRE, secretary general of Reporters Without Borders (RSF), who will be its general delegate;
- Nathalie COLLIN, deputy managing director of the La Poste group, former co-chairman of the management board of Libération and former managing director of the Le Nouvel Observateur group;
- Camille FRANÇOIS, researcher at Columbia University;
- Anne PERROT, Inspector General of Finance.

This committee will also work in liaison with Maria RESSA, journalist, Nobel Peace Prize 2021.

Each of these personalities will contribute in their own name and in complete independence to these Estates General, the work of which will begin next September, and which will have to submit their conclusions by the summer of 2024." Source: French Presidency

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