

1. OVERALL
CONTEXT

2. CURRENT
SITUATION

FRANCE

3. THE FRENCH
PARADOX

LAW & POLITICS

How the EU and the
European members deal with the
challenges of the current refugee crisis?



OVERALL CONTEXT

France, like most European countries, have welcomed numerous waves of migrants for centuries and is still doing so

Heritage

French
Institutions

Key Figures

As early as the WWI, France, with its languid demography, appealed to foreign labor (for its armies and industries)

France also welcomed Spaniards during Francoist Spain

https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Histoire_de_l'immigration_en_France





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French Institutions

France is a Republic composed of 3 branches of government:

The Executive branch - The French President is elected for a 5 year-term by French citizens

The Legislative branch - The Parliament applies or denies laws proposals by the Legislative Branch

The Judiciary branch - makes sure that rules are applied and respected within the frame of the *French Constitution*

Because France is part of the **European Union**, its three branches (are supposed to) follow European rulings and regulations



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In 2014, **65.8 million people** were living in France. Nearly **6 million** people living in France are **immigrants**, of whom **2.3 million** have **acquired French nationality**

According to the OECD (*Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development*) report, **France hosted** in 2014 a little over **256.000 foreign people** on its soil (all categories included : family migrations, seasonal migration, temporary workers, foreign students, asylum seekers)

France registered just over **100,000 asylum application** in **2017**

Florence I.
Morgane R.

www.la-croix.com/Journal/chiffres-flux-migratoires-France-2018-01-13-1100905517





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CURRENT SITUATION

Since the 2008 economic crisis that hit the USA as well as Europe, views towards migrants have shifted. They, in some places, have become scapegoats. France is no exception.

Public
Opinion

Political
Response

Public Opinion

“polls have consistently shown a majority of French people believe there are too many migrants in France”

The Guardian - 21/02/18

vs.

“In France, more than 4 in 10 residents (44%) would like to see immigration levels decreased, and a similar number would like the levels to stay the same (40%) or increase (6%)”

International Organisation for Migration - 2015

Lana S. & Florence I.

Table 4.2: Attitudes towards immigration in top 10 international migrant destination countries (%)

In your view, should immigration in this country be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?

| | Present level | Increased | Decreased | Don't know/Refused to answer |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| United States | 33 | 23 | 40 | 4 |
| Canada | 45 | 22 | 30 | 4 |
| United Arab Emirates | 49 | 21 | 13 | 17 |
| Russian Federation | 12 | 5 | 70 | 12 |
| United Kingdom | 24 | 5 | 69 | 2 |
| Spain | 35 | 5 | 56 | 5 |
| Germany | 49 | 14 | 34 | 2 |
| France | 40 | 6 | 44 | 10 |
| Australia | 40 | 30 | 25 | 6 |
| Saudi Arabia | 36 | 32 | 24 | 9 |

Note: Figures might not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Double-click on the table for more details

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Political Response

The Washington Post
Article

The Guardian
Article

Law Reinforcement

"The plan [...] will reduce the consideration period for an application for asylum to a maximum of six months, down from about a year including appeal. Human rights activists say this will make it more difficult for asylum seekers to defend their rights."

The Guardian

Pro-Active Refugee Protection

"The OFPRA missions are an important way to help the victims of persecution and conflict. They make it possible to provide assistance to transit states while preventing refugees, especially the most vulnerable, from undertaking a terrible and dangerous voyage."

The Washington Post

Milo C. & Marilou R.

Emmanuel Macron unveils plans to crack down on immigration

Activists say proposals to speed up requests threaten rights of asylum seekers in France



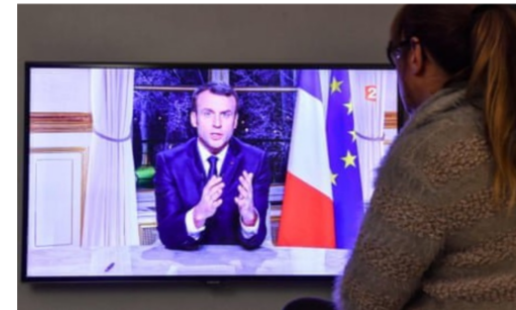
Emmanuel Macron at the Elysée Palace in Paris. He is proving one of the most divisive of his presidential photographs. (Photo: AFP)

His proposals to crack down on immigration and asylum in France have been unveiled. Emmanuel Macron's government amid complaints from human rights groups and street protests. Some public agents in charge of asylum procedures. The legislation is aimed at speeding up the process for asylum requests and for dealing migrants who are unable to claim asylum. It would also double the time a person without papers can be kept in a holding centre. The bill which criminalises illegal border crossing has sparked anger from charities who called it oppressive. The plan to be debated in parliament in April will reduce the consideration period for an application for asylum to a maximum of six months down from a year

including appeal. Human rights activists say this will make it more difficult for asylum seekers to defend their rights.

The interior minister, Gérard Collomb, insisted the plan was balanced and in line with European procedures.

The bill is proving to be one of the most divisive of Macron's presidency. His centrist parliamentary majority is made up of MPs with roots in both the left and right. Until now they have been firmly united but cracks have shown over immigration. Some on the left of Macron's party have expressed concern.



Macron's new year's speech: 'France can't succeed without a strong Europe'

[Read more](#)

Workers at France's refugee protection office, Ofpra, went on strike to protest against the bill, branding it "an unequivocal departure from France's tradition of asylum". There were concerns it was being pushed through too fast with an eye on public opinion.

Polls have consistently shown a majority of French people believe there are too many migrants in France.

While campaigning to be president, the pro-business Macron won over the left with promises of a more humane asylum policy. He paid homage to Angela Merkel, saying she saved Europe's "collective dignity" by opening Germany's doors to refugees in 2015. In power, Macron's slogan on immigration has shifted to "Humane and firm."

A set of interior ministry orders in December sparked criticism after regional authorities were instructed to set up "mobile teams" to run immigration checks in homeless centres to ascertain the status of migrants.

More than 100,000 people applied for asylum in France last year, up 17% from the year before. About 36% of applicants were granted refugee status.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/21/emmanuel-macron-unveils-plans-to-crack-down-on-immigration-france>