**Europe: Confronting an Uncertain Future**

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**Representing the Nation of France**

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Introduction

The French Republic aims to strengthen relations across the European Union and internationally. We hope to address the democratic deficit and promote intergovernmental cooperation. We wish to enhance internal and external security, partially by revisiting the Common European Asylum System to reduce the burden of the migrant crisis to the EU. Domestically, we want to decrease unemployment rates, further the integration of minority populations, and improve overall human rights. Along with this, the EU goal of reducing carbon emissions and increasing renewable resources is a focal point for France. We believe European solidarity essential to achieve these goals.

Key Points

* France hopes to reduce the unemployment rate and reform economic policies
* France intends to successfully integrate refugees and minorities into our society with anti-discrimination policies
* We desire to address internal and external terrorism threats
* France strives to rebalance the Eurozone through the redistribution of wealth
* France hopes to improve transparency between our government and citizens
* Within the EU, we intend to reduce effects of climate change by reducing carbon emissions and increasing renewable energy resources
* We hope to improve relations with Russia by encouraging international cooperation

Background

 Before the Revolution of 1789, France was a land of feudalism that transitioned to unchecked monarchial rule. The rise of the Republic began with the end of the Bourbon Monarch of Louis XVI, failing in 1793 due to the uprising of the Reign of Terror, led by Jacobin. This was the First Republic, although it was highly corrupt and lead by extremists against monarchial rule.

 Napoleon Bonaparte ended the Terror and brought about an era of dictatorship with a coup d’état. He declared himself emperor of France in 1804. His reign lasted until 1814, when the Bourbon Restoration, a constitutional monarchy, reigned until 1830. This monarchy was overthrown by the Orleans family and France was reigned by Louis-Philippe until 1848. That year, the Orleans family’s reign ended due to another revolution, which resulted in the proclamation of the Second Republic. Louis Bonaparte was elected president, although he subverted the weak constitution with a coup d’état in 1852. He returned France to a state of dictatorship for the next twelve years. In 1870, the Franco-Prussian War led to the defeat of Napoleon III, giving birth to the Third Republic.

The third being the longest of the republics, it ended in 1940 due to Germany’s World War II invasion and occupation of Northern France. Nazis marched into an unprotected Paris and then-president Marshal Henri Philippe Petain signed an armistice, separating France into Northern and Southern halves. The Southern half was led by Petain and was essentially run by fear for Germany. In 1944, the Allied army aided France in its liberation from Germany. A provisional government was established, beginning the Fourth Republic. This was led by General Charles de Gaulle, who resigned in 1946. Following his resignation, the Republic promoted international cooperation by joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and leading European integration. Reconciliation with Germany in the 1950s led to the formation of the European Union (EU).

Having lasted only twelve years, France revised its constitution due to independence revolts in Algeria. The Fifth Republic strengthened the presidency and weakened the legislative power, with de Gaulle (1959-1969) serving as the first president. By 1962, all of France’s colonies, such as Algeria and Vietnam, gained independence, but they retained close economic and cultural ties with France.

The Fifth Republic is the current government of France. Since its creation in 1956, it has seen seven presidents. De Gaulle’s presidency was characterized by chaos following his removal of France from NATO. Order was restored in 1969, which was closely followed by his resignation. Georges Pompidou (1969-1974) held the next presidency, in which he modified Gaulle’s policies to focus on a stronger market orientation in domestic economic affairs. Valery Giscard d’Estaing (1974-1981) also supported the conservative, pro-business policies of Pompidou.

Francois Mitterrand (1981-1995) was the first Socialist president, and served the office for fourteen years with seven prime ministers. Domestically, he promoted wealth taxes, nationalized industries, limited workweeks, suspension of nuclear testing, and the abolition of the death penalty. Internationally, he worked to improve Franco-German relations and ultimately aided in the establishment of the EU and a common European community. Jacques Chirac (1995-2007) favored Gaullist policies, especially to reduce chronically high unemployment. His presidency saw the introduction of the euro, the NATO airstrikes in Kosovo, and massive protests against proposed economic reforms. However, his strong favor of the EU constitution was not shared by French citizens. Nicholas Sarkozy (2007-2012) focused on strengthening relations with the United States and rejoining NATO. His foreign policies were not popular outside of environmental policies. He also took a more direct approach to domestic policies than other presidents had, such as deporting masses of the Gypsy (Roma) population and cutting taxes for the wealthy.

Francois Hollande (2012-present) is of the Socialist Party, a former chairman. He proposed policies for increasing taxes on corporations, reducing the retirement age, establishing a public investment bank to promote French industry, and granting marriage and adoption rights to same-sex couples.

Throughout history, France has faced political turmoil. However, France has always overcome and returned to the principles of a republic. The people of France promote these ideals for their nation and strive to achieve them constantly. No matter the adversity, France continues to rise to the standard it has been held to internationally.

Committee on Governance

France's government is a Republic that incorporates a presidential parliamentary system. After World War II, France's economy was left in shambles and we received much needed financial aid from the United States. This resulted in the creation of a long-standing partnership between France and the United States. After World War II, our constitution was rewritten. Because France was so heavily influenced by the US, our new constitution became more liberal and versatile. Our constitution’s versatility allows us to be able to adapt and address future issues that we may not have been able to handle otherwise.

While several political parties coexist in France, the two largest and most influential are the Right Wing Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) and the Socialist party. The Right Wing UMP is a relatively conservative anti-immigration group that believes France should suspend its participation in the Schengen Agreement. The Right Wing UMP views immigration as a threat to France’s security, a threat that allows terrorists to greater access our country with ease. The Right Wing UMP also believes that the Schengen Agreement is ineffective and “does not work well,” as stated by the UMP’s President, Jean-François Copé. The Right Wing UMP continues to push proposals for France’s withdrawal from the agreement. The UMP is also hesitant regarding France’s involvement in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and questions if NATO is as effective as it should be.

The Socialist Party has had a history of a party divided, its members having varied viewpoints on the future of Europe. Because of these differing opinions within the party, it is difficult to pinpoint exact stances of the entirety of the Socialist Party on current issues. One stance that is always agreed upon is that the European Union (EU) needs to remain undivided in all decisions made. The Socialist Party does not have an exact solution to Greece’s economic crisis, but believes that EU members need to work together to fix the crisis rather than leave the solution to an individual nation. The Socialist Party believes that refugees, especially fleeing from Syria, deserve better treatment from the governments of the EU. It is a responsibility of the EU to come together collectively to find ways to improve the living conditions of refugees. The Socialist Party is the largest and most influential party in France. Its former leader, François Hollande, is now France’s current president. Our delegation will therefore be representing the Socialist Party as it is the view of our government.

 Due to France's secularism, laïceté, citizens' rights are not dependent on religious influences. Citizens have the right to vote without being discriminated against and same-sex couples were granted the right of marriage in 2013. We have always been a traditionally liberal nation--especially in regards to our citizens. Non-citizens do not have the right to vote, but receive the same legal protection as our citizens. Arbitrary detention of non-citizens is illegal, and all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

 As will any other country, France is faced with some controversial topics. Secularism is the most discussed issue, with more conservative citizens believing it is not a necessity in France. One substantial issue is the right to assisted reproduction, which is legal for heterosexual couples but not homosexuals. Another controversial topic is the belief that all immigrants, legal or not, should be granted working papers in France. With these important topics regarding human rights becoming more prominent, it is imperative that we address these issues.

 France has the largest area of any country in the European Union, and is one of its leading members. We contribute an average of 2,956.4 million euros a year to the EU’s budget, making us the second largest contributor behind Germany. France is a founding country of the EU and views its role in Europe to serve as an excellent leader and role model for other countries. We have always been a nation of peace and encouraged other European countries to follow in our path.

 France does not suffer from a democratic deficit; we are concerned about those nations that do suffer. A democratic deficit is defined as a country that has been historically democratic but is moving further away from democratic ideologies in the decisions it is making. There is certainly a democratic deficit within the EU's structure. Too many countries are categorizing themselves as democracies, but take actions that are in no way democratic. Even though Russia is not a member of the EU, it is a prime example of a democratic deficient country. Russia claims to be a democracy, but its system is so flawed that it often fails its duty to truly represent its citizens.

 With the recent issues taking place in our country, the question of the strength of governance within our borders has been brought forth in light of recent events. As a founding member of the EU, France must be a leading example of European governance. This can be demonstrated by working to prevent the rise of the democratic deficit, maintaining the cohesiveness of the EU, and focusing on the solidarity of Europe.

Committee on Cross-Border Issues

France is concerned about many cross-border issues, not only how those issues affect us, but how they affect the entirety of Europe. From the securitization of borders to the future of energy diversity, proposed solutions and policies to centralized issues will do much in terms of improving the European community. France hopes to be an asset in these solutions and plans to continue to be a European power.

Significant cross-border concerns include the securitization of borders, the revision of the Schengen Zone, the future consumption of renewable energy, and the impact of climate change. The securitization of borders is a necessity for the safety of Europe due to the recent terrorist acts and refugee crisis. Thus, the Schengen Zone policies must be revisited and revised. While the Schengen Agreement is an integral policy to European identification, the external borders of the zone must be clearly defined. The enforcement and revision of these policies is the only option for European citizens’ guaranteed safety. Also, policies regarding carbon-based energy usage must be revised to reduce and prevent furthering climate change. As Europe focuses on producing and consuming more renewable energy, environmental damage will hopefully be reduced to promote healthier living for future generations.

Corruption is not a prevalent issue within France in comparison to several other nations; the Transparency International Corruption Index ranked France as twenty-third in corruption out of one hundred sixty-seven nations. The French government has many policies in place to prevent corruption in public officials, and violations of these policies is an offense punishable by law. The Central Service for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) has also recently published guidelines for large companies to aid in the development of effective policies to prevent corruption in said companies. These guidelines are founded on principles shared by fellow member nations in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). However, the SCPC has little governmental jurisdiction. In an effort to create an entity with jurisdiction, the French government is working on the framework for a new law to form another anti-corruption authority, the Loi Sapin II. This anti-corruption entity will have governmental jurisdiction and be charged with the duty of reducing corruption.

France is in a vulnerable position in regards to migration. Strategically, the movement and the disproportionate number of migrants present a challenge to France. However, we are prepared to meet this challenge and are allocating resources to support an additional 24,000 migrants over the next two years. Geographically, migration patterns lead many migrants into France’s borders. We are working to accommodate the influx of migrants through established policies.

As for climate change, France’s geography poses the largest issue. With the exposure to the Atlantic Ocean on the western coast, rising sea levels will encroach upon beaches and borders. The threat of rising temperatures will adversely affect France’s agriculture, especially wine production in Bordeaux. Unfortunately, climate change will have a large effect on France. However, in an attempt to address this issue, the EU is planning on cutting carbon emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, and we are currently on track to meet these goals.

France’s vision of Europe is founded in the solidarity of the continent and the identification as a European whole. The diverse multilateral institutions within Europe are a part of that European identity. The borders of Europe can be difficult to define, but the nations within the Schengen Zone are certainly European. As the Baltic and post-Soviet states transition to "more European" in nature, we hope that they will be accepted into this European identity as well.

France has the privilege to be a European Union member state. France is a founding EU nation that believes in the purpose of the Union. France’s desire to aid in creating EU policies remains, and we are quite ambitious in our goals for future policies. Our hope is that Germany and the UK will join France in being enthusiastic leading powers of the EU, as solidarity within the Union is the best situation to move the European Union forward.

Committee on Economics

The French economy, with its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of approximately 1.5% and our unemployment rate dropping by .8% in the last year, is currently in fair condition. Our economic growth, which was .3% in the last quarter, may seem slow and small to some. However, these rates show a positive flow of progression. Not only has the International Monetary Fund predicted that we will have more than 1% in economic expansion, we currently have a 2 billion euro plan being developed, aimed at reviving the market through subsidized job creation. Taking these numbers into consideration, our economic expansion will be more than twice the pace of the previous three years, paving a bright future for our economy and the French people.

 While the Greek economic crisis rocked the French economy, we weathered the crisis far better than our European neighbors. France maintained numerous social safety nets, including low combined debt, high household saving rates, low levels of inequality, and a solid banking system. During the Greek economic crisis, we took on $43 billion euros of Greek debt and became the second largest holder of Greek debt, second to Germany.

 We believe that the economic crisis was caused by imbalances within the Eurozone. While some members of the Eurozone, such as Germany and France, had thriving economies, other Eurozone members, such as Greece and Italy, were suffering. This imbalance allowed countries with more successful economies to tip the scale against their less successful counterparts. Sadly, this imbalance was not fully apparent until a crisis had erupted. By this time more affluent states could not assist in effectively redistributing the wealth to struggling member states, such as Italy and Greece. However, despite not being able to successfully rebalance the Eurozone, the member states with thriving economies attempted to provide another bailout for Greece and other struggling Eurozone economies who were the hardest hit.

Contrary to what critics say, we disagree that the economic crisis was caused by cohesion issues amongst European nations. We are not a “half-built house”. The members of the Eurozone must reestablish a balance amongst all of our member states to survive the current financial crisis.

The European Union (EU) is based on combination of political and monetary policy. The Treaty of Lisbon (also known as the Lisbon Agreement), which provides the constitutional basis for the European Union, is one example of EU political policy. Another example of EU political policy is at the EU’s governing core that is modeled from parliamentary government styles. The EU’s monetary policies are seen through its connection to the Eurozone; with nineteen of the EU’s twenty-two member states also being part of the Eurozone. The EU’s economic core revolves around Franco-German leadership, GDP quotas, a single currency (for members of the Eurozone), and other financial requirements are standards members are to abide and are EU monetary policies.

 The economic crisis as it currently stands is challenging the future of the euro currency and, in some cases, European unity. Stretched relations over the crisis (mainly relating to Greece and its debt), have created rifts between our nation and our close ally Germany. However, with our new foreign policy minister, Jean-Marc Ayrault, and his strong relationship with Germany’s foreign policy minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeir, our relationship with Germany is on the path to recovery. The European Central Bank’s (ECB) new monetary policies include cutting all of its main interest rates, expanding its bond buying stimulus program, offering new cheap loans to banks, and making an unexpectedly aggressive effort to boost inflation and economic growth in the nineteen countries that share the euro, are all steps to economic recovery. Unifying the EU and the Eurozone is the only way that ECB policies can work for us all.

The future of the euro is clear for France; we continue our belief in a single currency. The euro plays a central role in European solidarity. Eurozone membership is the path to jobs and recovery, especially for France. With stronger economic reformation in weaker states, the euro can be a stable, international (European), currency.

Countries should not be encouraged to leave the Eurozone because the euro is a representation of EU solidarity. If a member state were to leave the Eurozone, it would not only harm the economy, but the state’s economy as well. Leaving the Eurozone would not be beneficial for either party, thus it should not be allowed. In this crisis, we must side with Greece's and ensure that the Eurozone remains protected. In becoming a member of the Eurozone, we vowed to support and help one another. We must uphold this principle and preserve the Eurozone.

 Policies to improve the competition of our businesses and cut labor costs would be in the best interest of our country in economic growth. Using common EU policies and targets while also creating policies that strengthen our roles in organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Group of 7 (G7) will be beneficial to France. As we continue to follow ECB monetary policy for greater political and economic reforms, we have begun to create economic policies which promote a common minimum wage, establish a policy regarding unemployment insurance, and create a common budget book with joint public borrowing.

 France is not in favor of the EU’s austerity measures. We understand that certain measures must be taken to improve the economy, but we do not support invasive measures that are more likely to hurt the people than help them. We have taken a pledge not to use tough austerity measures and do not believe in the use of them outside of our nation. We would prefer to seek other options, and only turn to them as a sort of “last resort” effort. However, if such measures are taken and prove to be beneficial in the long run, we must make it a priority to ensure the economic stability of our country's economy.

 Overall, the French economy will show positive growth as we continue following common EU policies and targets and ECB policies for greater political and economic reforms. We believe that the crisis has challenged European unity. With new ECB policies in place, positive economic reforms are coming. Protecting the Eurozone is a top priority; a permanent split would not only destroy an integral part of European solidarity, but harm the economies of the Eurozone and any member state that splits from the zone.

Committee on Security

For centuries, the security of our citizens and national sovereignty have been France’s top priorities. As one of the leading countries in Europe and the European Union (EU), we have set a standard that has since been a framework for several of our neighbors. With the recent attacks in Paris carried out by the Islamic State, the security and well-being of our citizens has become one of France’s important focus. In the wake of the Charlie Hebdo and Hypercacher catastrophes of 2015, the French government has decided to take all precautions necessary to not only provide complete national security to our citizens and political allies but to promote European unity on shared security issues.

 In response to the Charlie Hebdo attack in January 2015, French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, declared France "at war against terrorism, against jihadism, against radical Islamism.” The attacks in Paris have resulted in France further advancing its internal security and increase in military spending. Following the terrorist attacks on French soil, we have begun taking extreme measures to prevent similar incidents risking the lives and protection of our citizens. We have recently prolonged the state of emergency to further ensure the safety of our citizens. While the decision to extend the state of emergency has been criticized by many, including the United Nations (UN) for being perceived as an extensive violation of authority, our country must face these hardships with complete austerity to eradicate the threat of terrorism and to provide the best possible security to our citizens. As our President, François Hollande, announced, “In the face of terror, France must be strong, must be great, and state authorities firm, and we shall be.”

The French government has introduced a bill extending the power local policemen possess to neutralize the threat of suspicious activities. Along with the decision to temporarily close off our borders, President Hollande has pledged to raise France's military budget to 4.2 billion euros over the next four years.

Membership in the EU guarantees participation in the organization’s joint foreign and security policies. We believe that belonging to a supranational system is both economically and militarily advantageous. Although the recent terrorist incidents have created concerns regarding France’s national security, we have strongly benefited from the aid and support of neighboring EU nations and are closer to identifying and addressing security threats regarding arms control, terrorism, and national protection.

 Our nation believes that intergovernmental cooperation is beneficial when facing security threats. France actively participates in a number of security organizations and councils. As a permanent member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), we are guaranteed the aid and support of other powerful nations, and, in return, fully commit to provide French support when necessary. Having not invoked an Article V response to the terrorist attacks in Paris, we merely ask for European solidarity and international cooperation to fight against radical Islamism. While the recent terrorist attacks may have projected an image of vulnerability and weakness onto our country, we are taking the strong national action required to preserve peace while strengthening national security.

 As a permanent member of the UN, France plays an influential role in the several councils of the institution. Within the UN, France coordinates closely with other members in the Security Council to maintain and preserve international peace and security. As an active member of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), we aspire to work and collaborate with other countries to address common security issues.

 Our relationship with Russia has been steadily improving. While Russia’s actions to annex Crimea were initially seen as a threat to France and the rest of the EU, we no longer believe that economic sanctions towards Russia are necessary. France strives to promote peace internationally, and in this mindset, we are the first EU member to be in favor of lifting the EU economic sanctions against the Russian government.

As a long-time ally with the United States, our relations with the country have remained positive. The US is a powerful and influential nation, and France sees this alliance as an important partnership for France and the UN. While some countries perceive the United States as unnecessarily invasive, France strongly relies on the aid and support from the country for European security. American involvement in Europe has sparked a conflict regarding US tactical nuclear weapons on European territory. France, however, believes that these powerful weapons create not only a positive relationship between the US and the EU, but a symbolic representation of American support to European security.

Following the “oil shock” of 1973, France sought to achieve energy independence, no longer relying on a volatile source of energy from the Middle East. With nuclear energy being both local and economic, plans to create and expand the most comprehensive national nuclear energy program in history began. For the next two decades, France constructed fifty-six nuclear reactors, providing not only enough energy to sustain itself but to provide energy to neighboring countries. Currently, France is home to fifty-eight nuclear power plants and is second in the world in terms of nuclear power generation. We understand that being the home to an extensive nuclear program has caused concern regarding the security risks these plants pose on our soil and for that reason we have begun addressing these concerns by phasing out the oldest nuclear reactors by 2025. France takes pride in being the world’s largest net exporter of electricity. With a low cost of power generation, our nation gains over three billion euros per year solely from energy export.

Although a security crisis has arisen on French territory, our country has no doubt that we will be successful in securing our nation from internal and external threats. Security in France has become one of our greatest focuses and, for that reason, we are taking action to identify and resolve national security matters. In doing so, we welcome other nations to join and follow us in the process of addressing security concerns that affect not only France, but the entire European Union.

Committee on Migration

France has always made the interests and needs of its citizens a top priority. With the recent migration crisis in Europe, France has been a leading nation in dealing with its immigration issues. Our current priority is to address the migration crisis via the Schengen Agreement. The European Union (EU) must revise the Schengen Agreement because of resulting problems it has caused. Of particular importance is the safety of migrants seeking refuge on European land. Even though North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is willing to help with the migrant crisis, there are still questions as to how this mission will operate. Will NATO operations focus on the smuggling networks or on aiding migrants who are seeking international protection?

Since the early eighteenth century, France has worked diligently and respectfully in accepting and integrating migrants. During Industrialization, France entered into agreements with other countries to bring in foreign individuals, mostly men, to work in our country. The steady increase in population impacted the nature of French society, and the French economy. At the beginning of the 1930s, France was second to the United States in immigration, having taken in 2.7 million immigrants. Since then, family reunification has become a critical component in our migration policies. France has the highest birthrate to death rate in its immigrants against other populations within the nation.

Obstacles in integrating immigrants into European societies include differences in communication, education, and traditions. Other obstacles are whether or not there is enough money to support families coming into Europe and what organizations exist to support migrant integration into the countries’ societies. France has made foreigners feel at home by encouraging them to keep their traditions and customs.

Although there are still challenges within European societies that affect the integration of immigrants, the EU is working on resolving these issues. However, there are still European countries that have discrimination, tensions, and violence that affect the integration of migrants. The combination of these issues has caused the rise of the far-right political parties exploiting the fear and resentment of the people.

EU policies regarding asylum seekers need to be reformed. One of the fundamental values of the EU is to grant asylum for people fleeing persecution or serious harm in their own countries (those in need of international protection). The EU has created a program called “equal” in order to create a strategy on employment, social inclusion, and health for migrants coming into European countries. Since the Amsterdam Treaty of 1999, Europe continues to face member states that do not address racial discrimination. The EU needs to create better strategies regarding this issue. Procedures in these cases are different in every European nation, making it difficult in some states for asylum seekers to gain refugee. The EU has been working on a Common European Asylum System, a joint approach to guarantee high standards of protection for refugees. But much work remains before all member states come to an agreement with these regulations. The number of asylum seekers is not evenly distributed among all states. This inequality is problematic because not every country has the flexibility or finances to support individuals seeking help.

The current migration into our country come from Algeria, Morocco, Portugal, Italy, Spain, and Turkey. The majority of immigrants in France are from Africa, making up 42.2% of the immigration population. Immigration from Asia has increased significantly, from 2.4% in 1962 to 13.9% in 2005.

Our country’s interaction with immigrants has always been positive. We have always encouraged migrants to come to our country, to bring their skills and talents to our nation. As a multicultural society, we encourage foreigners to bring their traditions and cultures into the French experience. We have always assisted migrants in their integration with French traditions and offered a welcoming acceptance into our society.

Our main focus regarding refugees and migration is to produce a solution to regulate our borders. We need to revise the Schengen Agreement to include more sufficient details on how to deal with terrorists trying to sneak into our borders. We want to establish more effective ways to patrol our seas. We want to dismantle smuggling and trafficking networks that are causing the deaths of innocents. France is willing to work within EU policies to develop resolutions to these problems so all EU citizens can live in peace.

Committee on Foreign Policy

France is a power in keeping peace not only for countries within the European Union (EU) but all of Europe and the rest of the world. We strive for ambitious goals and work in cooperation with others to achieve these goals; our intentions are put into practice with our people in mind. Therefore, we review our options with the mindset that provides the greatest possible effect on all citizens.

France is a steadfast and independent ally to the EU as it works independently and in combination within the EU’s framework of foreign policy, only working externally when it is ultimately necessary. Choosing to work within the EU framework, France met with EU leaders to strategize and to approve possible actions before targeting ISIL following last year’s Paris attacks. In this case, we were following the EU’s Common Security and Defense Policy. On the other hand, France opposes the austerity measures that the EU favors but was required, by EU policy, to comply to the policies. While we are aware that we are a sovereign entity able to work outside of the EU, we choose to stay within the EU framework. We do this out of respect as a founding member country of the EU. We choose to be limited or, in this case, share, the same policies as smaller nations. As an influential power, we need to be an example in following the EU framework to show the policies stand as they are out of necessity. Regardless, every state works within the framework to legitimize the European Union as a conjoined power that understands how to work together.

France’s belief in a joint-EU foreign policy stems from the idea of how beneficial intergovernmental cooperation is. We have called for a joint-EU plan dealing with immigration and security policies as we believe implementing a mandatory quota for each country in the EU would help control the situation of migrants coming to Europe. Ultimately, that proposal was denied, but it showed the willingness of France to work with the EU on an international issue. Another joint-EU policy suggested an EU military force, necessary for the protection of the citizens and the best chances of security for the EU. Such a policy would demonstrate EU unity and power. Also, the joint-EU military would greatly affect our relationships with all fellow EU members and smaller countries with little military force who could benefit from the EU military. The power of a joint-EU foreign policy would greatly benefit the EU, promoting cooperation under one institution.

 As an influential country within the EU, France has a voice in current foreign policies. When voting on decisions, our population, global power, and economic well-being give us an important stance on issues. Our peaceful interests give us an even greater reason to be a voice in policy decisions due to our democratic views.

We are in favor of policies strengthening Ukraine-Russian relations, and we believe sanctions imposed on Russia should be lifted. Russian citizens should not to be punished for their government’s actions, as they are not in control of such things. This would also contribute to the “peace process” as stated by our Economic Minister and President, as both propose lifting the sanctions by the summer of 2016. We want to resolve the Ukrainian crisis but we do not want Russia crippled economically. Nor do we want the French economy harmed due to Russian sanctions against our produce. But Russian sanctions on imports from EU countries have proven to be especially challenging for some large dairy producers. Russia has now switched to dairy companies in Iran. By lifting the sanctions against Russia, we believe Russia would respond in kind.

During the Libyan crisis of 2011, France supported the EU’s intentions when deciding to intervene in Libya. Along with other countries, we deployed our Air Force to assist in restoring the peace. We preferred the idea of a democratic Libya rather than a Libya that violated human rights. With concern for Libya's citizens, we fought along for democracy along with others to promote democratic ideologies. Sadly, our efforts did not result in a democratic Libya. Still, France will fight for the greater good of all people.

The EU is an influential power in the world, yet it still needs the support of equally powerful countries. The United States of America is an ally that we should all work with on foreign policy. Regardless of the US’s power, it is a very reliable ally that has proven itself to be loyal to France. It has supported us in many issues as well, concerning our democratic beliefs and desire for peace and continues to do so.

The United States is one of our closest allies, an alliance that has grown stronger since its inception dating back to the Battle of Yorktown. Our relationship is one of the strongest we have and we do not see it slowing down anytime coming soon. It is a mutual relationship in which we have provided help on several occasions. The US has also aided France, assisting our country with food, ammunition, funding, and troops during World War I & II. It was this essential support that helped the French and why France sees the US as one of our closest and most reliable allies.

France believes that a united EU would benefit everyone. France has an outlook that not many EU countries have: optimism and a hope for a greater Europe that is safe, equal, and sovereign. With this said, our ally, the United States of America, could and should help as we build our united EU through joint-EU policies. We must work within the rules given in the framework of the EU to seek the greater good by moving forth by fighting for human rights and supporting peace as France has always done. Now the rest of the EU must follow.

Committee on Identity & Integration

 France was in ruins by the end of the World War II. Germany invaded France on May 10, 1940, and gained full control of the once successful country by 1942. When Germany surrendered in 1945, France was left destroyed. Transportation was hopeless, remaining French citizens were living on little to no food due to retreating Germans, and the French economy was nonexistent. The United States was quick to help France become reestablished. France was the largest receiver of the U.S. Marshall Plan, a program which assisted Western European countries after the war in rebuilding infrastructure. France began working with local partners in Western Europe to avoid conflicts similar to World War II. After adopting the constitution of the Fourth Republic, President Charles de Gaulle resigned, and the French Government elected a series of Socialist and Centrist coalition governments, which resulted in very diverse opinions and political instability.

 The Fifth Republic, France’s current republic, was established with the adoption of a new constitution in October 1958. The Fifth Republic has proven itself stable by remaining longer than the Fourth Republic, only lasting for twelve years. The current republic was formed during the Algerian War of Independence, which was the main cause of the fall of the Fourth Republic. France's Fifth Republic has remained for fifty-seven years and gained much approval from French citizens since 1958.

 With recent terrorist attacks in consideration, security has become one of our main concerns. President François Hollande stated he would close borders, which has been a difficult task due to France’s participation in the Schengen Zone. Concern has raised as more migrants have come into the country without identity checks, potentially leading to terrorists easily making their way into French borders.

France's minority populations consist of Alsatians and Lorrainians, Breton, Jews, Occitan-speakers, and Syrian refugees. During World War II, Alsace was controlled by Germany and High German was the only language to be spoken. After World War II, Alsatians and Lorrianians were able to return to France and obtain their own culture. Bretons came to north-western France from Britain in the fifth century and brought Welsh and Cornish languages along with them. Unlike the other minority populations, Jews settled in France during the Roman Empire, before it was technically France. Also, Occitan was the preferred language of the southern half of France until the thirteenth century, when the Roman Catholic Church fought against Occitians and Cathars in the Cathar War, then they were later defeated. Recently, an influx of Syrian refugees came into Europe in 2011 after a civil war broke out between President Bashar al-Assad's government and Syrian citizens.

 Following World War II, France was in need of a larger workforce, so it was eager to accept African, Latin American, and European migrants. After Vietnam gained its independence from France, an influx of Vietnamese migrants moved to France. As the Algerian War began in 1954, a great amount of migrants were already present France. However, as hostility grew between the Algerians and the French, they were no longer welcomed.

France's Republic emphasizes political and individual rights for citizens, indicating that each citizen has power within the government. France holds presidential elections for citizens every five years. As for minorities, they have no true advantages nor disadvantages in regards to political rights. However, there are a few minor roadblocks as far as integrating. After five years of living in France, non-citizens are able to apply for permanent residency to gain French citizenship. A permanent resident permit allows you to live in France for up to ten years, and is renewable following the ten year period. Although they share most of the rights as French citizens, they lack the benefit of all citizen rights. For example, they cannot vote or hold public office.

While there are claims that France has become an assimilated country following the Paris attacks of November 2015, France is taking strong action to sustain a multicultural society. Our policies have been successful in assuring citizens that they are able to practice their own customs and religions. Populations within France's borders may have tensions between one another, but France does not create ethnic divisions. In regards to social rights, no ethnicity is favored over another. Because of this, France is currently facing no secessionist movement, and there is no sign of one anytime soon.

France will be taking in 30,000 refugees over the next two years, 6,000 more than the 24,000 President François Hollande initially agreed to accepting back in September 2015. Hollande stated he would provide 50 million euros to an investment fund to aid incoming refugees. After the alleged claims of the Paris suspects being Syrian refugees, France continues to uphold its commitment by accepting any and all refugees. Although precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of our citizens, our duty to honor our word remains. As our great president once said, “We have to reinforce our borders while remaining true to our values.”

Five Goals

* Prevent the rise of the democratic deficit in the European Union and uphold ideologies of democracy
* Redefine and revisit the Schengen Zone
* Increase security on external Schengen borders
* Introduce joint-EU foreign policy regarding EU military
* Revisit and promote the Common European Asylum System to redistribute the migrants proportionately