

The Senate of France

The Senate (*French: Sénat*) is the upper house of the Parliament of France (the deliberative and legislative branch of the Government of France).



Luxembourg palace garden

Location:

The Senate is housed inside the Palais du Luxembourg in the 6th arrondissement of Paris and is guarded by Republican Guards. In front of the building lie the Senate's garden, the Jardin du Luxembourg, open to the public.



Republican Guards

Senators are elected indirectly by approximately 150,000 local elected officials ("grands électeurs"), including mayors, city councillors, and deputies of the National Assembly.

Senators elect among themselves a President. The current incumbent is Christian Poncelet. The President of the Senate is also, according to the constitution of the Fifth Republic, first in line of succession in case of death, resignation or impeachment (only for health reasons) of the President of the Republic, thus becoming Acting President of the Republic until a new election can be held. This happened twice for Alain Poher, once at the resignation of Charles de Gaulle and once at the death of Georges Pompidou.

According to the Constitution, the Senate has almost the same powers as the National Assembly. Bills may be submitted by the government (projets de loi) or by either house of Parliament (propositions de loi). Both houses must adopt the law before it can be promulgated.

The Senate also participates in controlling the government's action by publishing many reports every year on various topics.

The international action of the Senate is organised around several areas : the activity of both the President and the standing committees, the senators representing natives established outside France, the action of senatorial friendship groups... There are 78 groups, Mr. Didier Boulaud is the delegate President for Malaysia in the friendship group France/South-East Asia.



The Senate amphitheater in the Luxembourg palace

How much do we know of the French and France

The thing that would come to our minds immediately about France would be Wine, Cuisine, Fashion and definitely the Eiffel Tower.



What is known by the French but not internationally known is that for Literature like *Les trois mousquetaires* (3 *Musketeers*) and *vingt mille lieues sous les mers* (20000 *Leagues Under the Sea*) are by French writers and



been translated in several languages.

What is also flabbergasting is also the fact that the song made Frank Sinatra is famous for "My Way" is actually taken from the original French



singer Claude François and it's called "Comme d'habitude". Imagine the royalties M. François got from letting Frank Sinatra sing his song.



The film 3 men and a baby is from the original take of "3 hommes et un couffin" recently there is also a remake of the film "Taxi".

Imagine that there are many things taken for granted that as American or British but actually is French.

Express yourself with the French language!

If you still wonder what to do with your knowledge of French language one answer could be: and if it would allow you to express yourself freely without any taboos nor censures?

If it would make possible to let (finally) go your wandering imagination... this is why, French Horizons sought for you and your vivid imagination the contests (easy or not) for which your talents can be expressed.

The list is not exhaustive, but it comprises a lot of opportunities... lets go to your pen and your ideas... (without any doubt your French teachers will be glad to help and advise you)

Poésie / Poetry

Concours Littéraire 15-20ans Prix interrégional Jeunes Auteurs

Literary Contest 15-20 years old Interegional Prize for young authors

Dead line 29/06/2007

www.lhebe.ch

Prix Transfrontalier de la Nouvelle Brève / Transborder of the Short story Prize

First prize (in euros) : 500 €

minimum age to participate : 18 years old

Organized by : de Vignaubière Editions

<http://vlk.vignaubiere.free.fr>

Grand concours Littéraires Session 2007 / Great Literary contest Session 2007

Theme : annual Literary and Poetry contest : theater, short story, poetry

L'Ecole de la Loire/Académie Internationale

School of Loire / International Academy

Dead line 30/05/2007

Prix de poésie Maurice Rollinat / Poetry Prize Maurice Rollinat

Organized by 'les Blogauteurs' website and PLON Editions

<http://blogauteurs.typepad.com/>

Dead line 15/04/2007

Winners will be published

And so many others, but the place misses to list all of them here... thus check out the following website, you will be amazed to find more than 50 contests of poetry organized in France and opened to all the French-speaking people: <http://www.poesiefrancophone.com/concours.htm>