

PRESS RELEASE, MAY 28, 2024

The French Academy of Sciences, the French Academy of Medicine, and the French Parliament Office for Scientific and Technologic Choices Evaluation (“Office Parlementaire d'Evaluation des Choix Scientifiques et Technologiques”) are launching a partnership to serve science and politics.

Paris, May 28, 2024 – The Parliament Office for Scientific and Technologic Choices Evaluation (OPECST), the French Academy of Sciences and the French Academy of Medicine are proud to announce the launch of an ambitious joint project. This partnership aims to strengthen the links between the parliamentary and scientific worlds, by promoting a better mutual understanding around topics of common interest.

“Science is universal and non-partisan. Through this partnership, the Academy of Sciences contributes to bringing the political world closer to that of higher education and research, and thus facilitate the decision-making of our representatives. » Alain Fischer, president of the Academy of Sciences.

“This partnership is a great opportunity for members of parliament (MPs) to build privileged relationships with researchers from varied backgrounds and scientific institutions of excellence such as the Academies. » Stéphane Piednoir, president of OPECST

“This joint project marks a significant step in bringing together the scientific and parliamentary spheres, and we hope that it will contribute to a better governance of the scientific and technological issues of our society. » Catherine Barthélémy, president of the French Academy of Medicine

This partnership pursues two main objectives: to increase mutual understanding of the parliamentary and scientific worlds and to dialogue on subjects of common interest. Organized around trios where a MP, an academician and a young researcher work together, the partnership aims to encourage a shared reflection on political, ethical and societal questions posed by science and technology.

Through contact with scientists, MPs will be enlightened on the context, realities and challenges of research, characterized by a constant evolution of knowledge,

an element of uncertainty and the difficulty of providing answers to societal questions that are often multifactorial.

On the scientific side, these exchanges will provide a clearer vision of the legislative processes and the constraints to which parliamentary work is subject, as well as the diversity of requests and tensions to which MPs must respond, in connection with the concerns of society.

The first phase of this partnership took place on May 15, with a welcome by around ten MPs, of nearly forty scientists: in the morning at the National Assembly, about the elaboration of the law and a committee meeting, in the afternoon in the Senate, where they attended a session of questions to the Government;

The next phases of this partnership are the reception of MPs in the laboratories and of scientists in the Parliament constituencies, as wished by each trio. To complete these discussions in small groups, a large meeting will be organized by OPECST on June 13 at the Senate to discuss major topics selected by each Academy. The latter will choose two subjects on which position statements have been taken over the past year (recommendation, report, opinion, etc.), requiring responses from the public authorities.

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