



# Engaging with the French Presidency of the Council

Commercial offer

# “There is one European sovereignty to build and it is necessary to build it”

Emmanuel Macron

Sorbonne speech, 27 September 2017

On 1 January 2022, **France will take over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union**. As President, France will be responsible for coordinating and privileging the different political priorities of EU Member States. **2022 is also an election year in France**. This means that France not only has a significant opportunity to **influence the progression of numerous legislative files at EU level**, but will also likely **strive to align its national ambitions with European objectives**.

Given the horizontality of France's legislative priorities, including digital innovation, economic recovery, sovereignty, global tax reform and climate, it is very likely that **some of the proposed policies will overlap with and impact your business interests**.

Read on to learn how **Lighthouse Europe can help your business prepare for the French presidency** and **why you should act now to take advantage of this exceptional opportunity** to influence one of the most powerful countries in the EU.

# Why act with Lighthouse Europe during the French Presidency?

France will lead the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU for the first half of 2022. This period coincides with the French presidential and legislative elections.

## Why should you seek to influence France at EU level?

- ▲ **France** is the **second-biggest** EU country
- ▲ French President **Emmanuel Macron** has made **European economic sovereignty** the cornerstone of his mandate. This priority will have an impact at **both national and EU-level**
- ▲ France will set up the **European work agenda for the next year and a half** (and have an influence on the following presidencies led by the Czech Republic and Sweden that form altogether a new trio)

## Lighthouse Europe can help you to navigate through the specificities of this new presidency

- ▲ **The French presidential election will have an influence on the French Presidency working agenda**
  - With offices in Paris and Brussels, Lighthouse Europe has an extensive understanding of French politics and its influence on EU decision making
- ▲ **The French legislative agenda will overlap with the agenda of the EU Institutions**
  - Lighthouse Europe can help you to understand the logic of French decision making and to identify alternatives with EU member states to build coalitions and promote your interests
- ▲ **The French Presidency will privilege the use of French as a working language**
  - With a team of international and native-French speaking consultants, Lighthouse Europe ensures that your business will have the language to both access and influence national targets

## What priorities and timeline?

### Environment

A European Green Deal

- France has strong ambitions to become climate-neutral by 2050 and make businesses more accountable for their environmental waste
- Legislation on CO2 emissions, environmental reporting, eco-design and energy efficiency are already underway
- France may seek to impose stricter standards, more stringent reporting, and new forms of taxation on businesses

- France is looking to safeguard EU businesses and citizens from non-European economic and political influences
- France supports a strong European industrial policy and wants to reflect it in trade deals
- France is leading a coalition of Member States in favour of building a European Defense

**Digital economy**  
A Europe fit for the digital age

### European Sovereignty

A stronger Europe in the world

- France is supporting the development of European digital champions
- France is a strong advocate of the reinforcement of regulation of digital platforms, through both competition and content regulation
- France has been at the forefront of most digital files in the past five years - e.g. platform and content regulation or copyright - and will seek to impose its views

## Focus on the timeline of the French Presidency of the Council of the EU

January

February

March

April

May

June

▲ **End of December:** France will present to the EU institutions its priorities

▲ **End of December:** France, the Czech Republic and Sweden will present the priorities of their trio

▲ **End of February:** End of parliamentary work in France

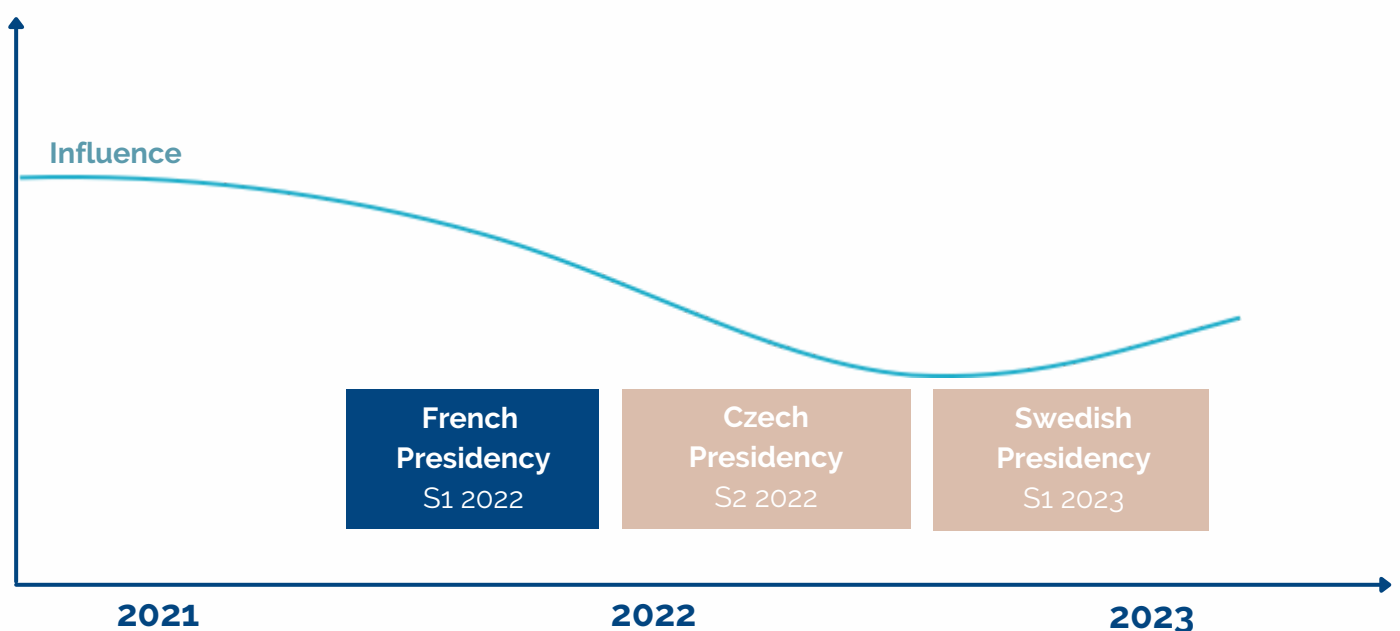
▲ **10 and 24 April:** French presidential elections

**12 and 19 June:** French parliamentary elections ▲

## Why should you act now?

- ▲ The legislative agenda is being drafted now, making this the **ideal time to intervene**
- ▲ France will present its political priorities by the **end of December 2021**
- ▲ Once the presidency starts, French influence in Council of the EU will be limited to the role of **honest broker**; it is, therefore, important to **act at an early stage**
- ▲ Actions taken now will impact both the **French Presidency and national politics**. There is also the opportunity to influence the political agendas of the following two presidencies
- ▲ Lighthouse Europe can help you take advantage of this unique opportunity to **shape the next 18 months of European politics**, as well as the **national priorities of one of the most influential Member States**

Engaging early can increase the chances of success



## Who are the Key National Targets?

- ▶ **With established offices in Brussels and in Paris**, Lighthouse Europe is ideally situated to help you reach **key policymakers at EU and French level**. We can help you reach multiple stakeholder networks through our membership in the **Cercle des Délégués Permanents Français (CDPF)**, the **Brussels Group**, and the **CCI France Belgique**.

Our consultancy also works in partnership with **Momentum Avocats** and **Vae Solis Communication** for legal support and public relations.

Additionally, our Brussels office is located in the **French and Belgium Chamber of Commerce**, giving you **privileged access to key players of the upcoming French Presidency**.



- ▶ **Some meetings we may help arrange for you include:**

- **The Secrétariat Général aux Affaires Européennes (SGAE)**: determines positions between Ministries, coordinates all interactions between national administration and the French Permanent Representation at the EU level
- **The Secretariat General of the French Presidency**: sets up the agenda and coordinates the different workstreams
- **Junior Minister for European Affairs**: coordinates the political positioning of the Government toward the other Member States and with European Institutions
- **The French Permanent Representation to the EU**: provides intelligence and negotiates the French position at the EU level
- **National coordinators and experts in each Ministry**: bring technical expertise



**SECRÉTARIAT GÉNÉRAL  
DES AFFAIRES  
EUROPÉENNES**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



**REPRÉSENTATION PERMANENTE  
DE LA FRANCE AUPRÈS DE  
L'UNION EUROPÉENNE**

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## How can Lighthouse Europe support you?

- ▲ **Learn what is at stake and who are the key decision makers:**
  - Monitoring: providing you with key legislative updates and relevant news, analysed and reported as it happens
  - Mapping: identifying key stakeholders and opportunities for strategic relationships
- ▲ **Bring support to define your issues and messages:**
  - Narrative-building: define and refine key narratives on the issues that matter to you
  - Multi-lingual written support: assistance in drafting position papers, briefings, sign-on letters and more, with native French and English speakers
- ▲ **Engage directly with key stakeholders and build coalitions:**
  - Networking: take advantage of our existing network of decision makers to foster new relationships
  - Engagement: meeting organisation, coalition-building and other activities to strengthen your business's presence and influence

## Let's meet

Lighthouse Europe is a Brussels and Paris-based public affairs consultancy. Lighthouse Europe can help you understand and react to the impact of European and national legislation on your businesses, and help you participate in decision-making processes.

**You are welcome to meet in person or virtually with our team.**

### OUR FRENCH PRESIDENCY TASK FORCE

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## EUROPE, STRATEGY, INFLUENCE

### LIGHTHOUSE EUROPE



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