

Seminar organised jointly by the French Delegation to the OECD and the Statistics Directorate

“The French Initiative on New Indicators of Wealth”

Friday 15 April 2016, 3.00 p.m.-5.15 p.m., Room 5, OECD Conference Centre

In April 2015, the French Senate passed law 411 known as the “Sas Act”, named after Member of Parliament Eva Sas who initiated it. This one-article law requires the Government to submit a yearly report to Parliament on the progress of 10 new leading indicators that reflect the country’s economic, social and environmental situation. In addition, it includes an impact assessment of the main reforms envisaged in light of these indicators.

With the intention to guide French public policies in the coming years, these indicators are meant to complement GDP, by taking into account people’s quality of life and the more inclusive and sustainable aspects of growth.

The new indicators of wealth were selected through a broad [consultation](#) led by France Strategy and the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (EESC). This consultation, which took place between February and July 2015, included expert meetings, an online consultation, a survey done with a French representative sample, and four participatory workshops held in four different cities. The outcomes of the consultation led to the development of a dashboard including 10 key indicators selected by the Government in its [first report on the new indicators of wealth](#), published in October 2015.

The Government presented this report to the Parliamentary Commission on Finance on 26 November 2015 thereby putting the Sas Act into effect for the first time.

The French initiative is an ambitious attempt to integrate the measurement of well-being “beyond GDP” into the definition and evaluation of public policies. It is also characterised by a wide mobilisation of numerous actors (Parliament, experts, public institutions, citizens and Government) making it particularly legitimate and an integral part of France’s institutional and political life.

What preliminary conclusions can we draw from this initiative? How does it truly impact governance? How did it influence, or could potentially influence public policy assessment practices? To what extent can this initiative strengthen the capacity to coordinate actions between administrations and political actors?

These issues will be discussed during the seminar jointly organised by the French Delegation to the OECD and the OECD Statistics Directorate that is responsible for the Organisation’s programme of work on the measurement of well-being. On this occasion, the French version of the OECD’s latest well-being report, *How's life? 2015, Measuring Well-being*, will be launched. It will also be a good opportunity to take stock of the OECD’s latest thoughts on these topics.

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Chair: Pierre Duquesne, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the OECD

Welcoming remarks

Martine Durand, OECD Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics

Presenters

Eva Sas, Member of Parliament: *Act 2015-411: Objectives and first assessment*

Vincent Aussiloux, Head of Economics, France Stratégie: *The consultation on the new indicators of wealth and implications of the new law on France Stratégie’s future work*

Cédric Audenis, Counsellor, Office of the Prime Minister, in charge of the report on new indicators of wealth: *Presentation of the report and future developments*

Discussant

Joey Au, Senior Advisor, New Zealand Treasury

Questions from participants

Concluding remarks: Pierre Duquesne, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the OECD