Toward a National Assembly of the XXI Century

National Assembly's Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership

Preface by the President of the National Assembly, Claude Bartolone

In parallel to the French Government's efforts and honoring the constitutional principle of separation of powers, the National Assembly decided to fully engage in the process proposed by the Open Government Partnership.

During the last three years, the National Assembly has adopted several measures to strengthen transparency and the increase use of new technologies so as to facilitate the opening of the institution and to promote the daily work of representatives.

Since July 2012, based on my proposition, the representatives from both the majority and the opposition decided the following:

- To make the diffusion of the work of parliamentary committees systematic,
- To build a better framework for interactions with interest representatives,
- To make the accounts of the National Assembly transparent and to have them certified by the Court of Accounts,
- To enhance voting transparency
- To make the structure and the accounts of parliamentary groups transparent.

As demonstrated by the present document, prepared with independence from the government, the National Assembly is willing to continue to work in this direction. Firstly, more than 800 000 documents will be made available before the end of 2015 on the National Assembly's open data portal (http://data.assemblee-nationale.fr/).

Moreover, I am committed, in my capacity as President, to further involve citizens and the digital world in our work. This is conveyed mainly through two projects: the organization of a Datacamp before January 2016, and the creation of an "Innovation Fellow Program".

More projects and initiatives will follow.

Step by step, the National Assembly of the XXI Century arises.

Claude Bartolone
President of the National Assembly

Commitments: Continue opening-up the National Assembly

GOALS & VISION

- Strengthen the transparency of the legislative process and of the operation of the National Assembly;
- Strengthen ties between citizens and their representatives;
- Call on the opinion and expertise of citizens

CONTEXT

The open-data provision of legal data and data relative to the law or parliamentary work provides citizens with a better understanding of the entire legislative process, and allows them to develop tools or applications from this data and contribute to democratic debate.

The National Assembly has announced the publication of a wealth of documents. More than 800,000 documents will thus be made available by the end of 2015. This measure is part of the program devised last October by the National Assembly President, Claude Bartolone, who has decided to initiate a true digital revolution in the National Assembly during his mandate.

In addition to the opening-up of data, improvements in the monitoring of parliamentary activity and the drafting of legal bills have been facilitated by the opening-up of the National Assembly session management tools.

Nowadays, the Eliasse application for managing amendments can be consulted by anyone using a smartphone, tablet, or computer. This application can be accessed by clicking on a page containing the amendment search form, on the page containing the agenda for the session, or on the page containing a direct link to the video portal, which brings together sound, images, and text. It allows access to amendments' text, its explanatory statement, its signatories, and its fate.

This application covers not only texts examined during the session, but also texts passing before the committee, which is not the case with the Senate application.

This opening-up constitutes an important phase in the development of open solutions, facilitating the monitoring and processing of texts and amendments by all stakeholders concerned: members of the government, members of Parliament, and citizens.

In addition, the National Assembly was already engaged in a process to improve transparency, introducing a new obligation at the initiative of its President in November 2013. In the words of the general instruction from the Bureau:

"*The reports, recommendations, and other documents submitted to the office of the Assembly by a committee, a delegation, an office, or some other body of the Assembly, must contain, as an annex, reference to all the hearings carried out by the rapporteur during the course of their parliamentary work. If no hearing has been held, the report must expressly mention this fact. The annex must draw a distinction between hearings held with representative of interests recorded in the register and other hearings*".

Moreover, since the vote on the resolution amending the Regulations of the National Assembly dated 28 November 2014, the work of committees has been made public with some exceptions. The examination of rapporteurs on governmental bills and parliamentary bills are open to all members of Parliament who are members of the committee.

With regards to the parliamentary reserve – a set of subsidies voted on and amended in initial or amending finance Acts, and thanks to which members of Parliament support investments

determined by local communities and activities carried out by associations – details of its use are now published on an annual basis. Since his election as President of the National Assembly, Claude Bartolone has sought to end the total opaqueness of this system by ensuring that the parliamentary reserve complies with rules of fairness and transparency. As a result of this approach, the table that retraces the use of the parliamentary reserve for 2013 was posted online for the first time at the end of January 2014. This decision was extended to both assemblies in the October 2013 Transparency of Public Life Bills.

Finally, as announced by President Bartolone in October 2014, the National Assembly wishes to boost experiments and consultations designed to promote citizen participation. In February 2015, citizens were able to participate in the first National Assembly experiment on citizen consultation by providing their recommendations and observations on the bill on end of life matters. As noted by the President of the National Assembly Claude Bartolone, this first contribution by citizens *"was consistent with a desire for a cultural, democratic, and social modernization of the National assembly at the service of citizens"*.

Each citizen can also submit a contribution on impact studies on the National Assembly website. These contributions are analyzed by the rapporteur in charge of examining the bill, who can present them as an annex to their report.

In addition, representatives of interests recorded in the register of the National Assembly are invited to publish on the website their contributions to any news or current events that have led to the publication of a parliamentary document.

ROADMAP

⇨ **Continue the open-data provision of legal and legislative resources that already exist**

Provide open-data access to more than 800,000 documents by the end of 2015, in accordance with the following timetable:

- June 2015:
  o List of members of Parliament with information on their marital status (list of active members of Parliament and former members of Parliament since the start of the 11th legislature in June 1997);
  o E-mail and postal addresses of members of Parliament, as well as telephone numbers of their offices;
  o Appointments of members of Parliament to parliamentary bodies, international parliamentary assemblies, and extra-parliamentary bodies where the National Assembly is represented, as well as their attachment to a political party (current and former appointments since June 1997);
  o Composition of parliamentary bodies (the Presidents' Conference, bureaus, committees, missions, delegations, office, committee, joint committees, friendship and study groups, and political groups) that are current or have been formed since 1997;
  o Legislative dossiers: Information that describes the life of legislative dossiers and documents they contain from the start of the current legislature: governmental bills and parliamentary bills currently under examination, promulgated acts, reports, minutes of works of permanent committees and commissions of inquiry, minutes of open debates, texts adopted, etc.;
  o Meetings held at the National Assembly, including open meetings since the start of the current legislature: meetings organized at the initiative of members of Parliament, political groups, parliamentary oversight committees and bodies, friendship groups, study groups, etc. For each meeting, information will indicate the organizer of the meeting, the date, time, and agenda (if known), and the presence of members of Parliament (for committee meetings);
  o Amendments to the open meeting since the start of the current legislature and to committees since May 2013;
  o Written questions, oral questions, and questions put to the Government, and responses from the Government since the inception of this legislature;
  o Parliamentary reserve (from the reserve for 2014);

- o List of representatives of interest recorded in the Register of the National Assembly: company name, type of organization (company, association, firm, professional body, etc.), and line of business.
- December 2015:
  - o Results of public ballots;
  - o List of persons interviewed by the commission;
  - o Reports on the public session.

⇨ **Organize a collaborative event open to all, in order to develop innovative solutions for parliamentary work and debate**

- ▪ By the end of 2015 or early 2016, the National Assembly, in coordination with the international week of the opening of the legislature initiated by the "legislative opening" OGP working group, will organize a collaborative event open to all. It will bring together members of departments of the National Assembly, members of Parliament, and innovators, in order to develop innovative solutions with civil society for parliamentary work and debate.

⇨ **Continue analysis of the implementation of mechanisms for citizen consultation within the National Assembly ahead of parliamentary debate**

⇨ **Implement an "Innovation Fellows Program" within the National Assembly**

- ▪ The program is based on a White House initiative: the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program. The aim of this program is to import the principles and practices of the digital economy into the National Assembly by ensuring recourse, as is the case with the US program, to "the best agents for change to this end": citizens from the digital economy. They will provide the benefit of their expertise to a number of specific projects.