



**ENHANCING PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT:
A SENATE PRIORITY**

In addition to voting on laws, **Parliament provides oversight of Government activities and evaluates public policies**, on the basis of Article 24 of the Constitution.

The Senate's oversight work is subject to three imperatives: **independence from the executive branch, respect for all political groups, and requirements of objectivity and quality.**

The Senate has always been innovative in its oversight methods, such as through the creation of the first committee of inquiry under the 5th Republic in 1970 or, more recently, follow-up of ordinances.

It is this same principle that has now led President **Gérard LARCHER** to appoint **Pascale GRUNY** and the delegation on parliamentary work she chairs to conduct a **broad reflection on parliamentary oversight.**

After consultations with all group, committee and delegation chairs, the Senate **has formulated 11 proposals to enhance oversight effectiveness.** These proposals will be implemented starting in early 2022, without the need for any modifications to the Senate Standing Orders.

"By taking action to modernize its oversight methods, the Senate is exercising its checks and balances role. Our oversight missions must be even more responsive to current events, while maintaining their quality and the independence of the political groups, committees and delegations."

Gérard LARCHER, President of the Senate

Clarify	Coordinate and prioritise
11 proposals	
Consolidate	Implement and communicate

CLARIFY

1

Improve legibility by clarifying and simplifying the oversight procedure classification



COORDINATE AND PRIORITISE

2

Reinforce the coordination of Senate work to establish a clearer and more effective oversight program



Consultation between committees and delegations



Annual oversight program in January

3

Target the priorities of the annual oversight program in order to preserve the possibility of reacting to current events by triggering "flash" missions



CONSOLIDATE

4

Exercise committee of inquiry powers more systematically



5

Enrich the information available to the Senate for use in its oversight and assessment work



Access to administrative databases



Experts in metadata



Innovative tools to assess the impact of laws

6

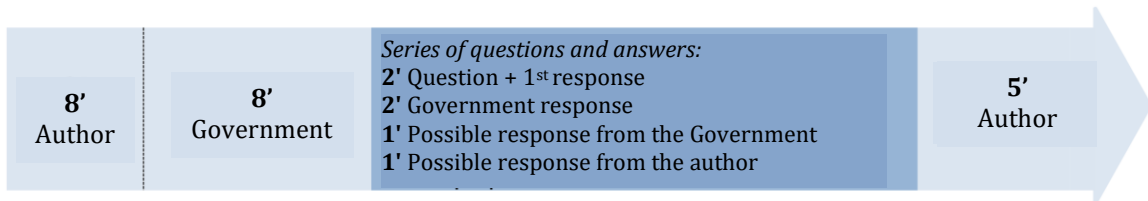
Boost oversight debates in session

TOPICAL DEBATES ON SUBJECTS THAT ARE MAKING HEADLINES

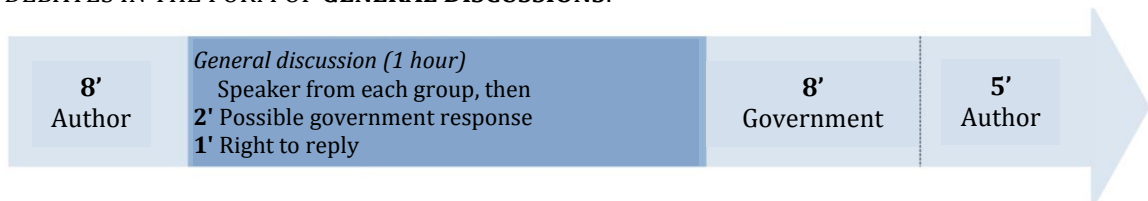
- After questions to the Government on matters of current interest, during the oversight weeks
- On a theme chosen by the President of the Senate upon proposal by political groups and with respect for pluralism

MORE DYNAMIC EXCHANGES

FOSTER DIRECT EXCHANGES IN INTERACTIVE DEBATES:



INTRODUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN DEBATES IN THE FORM OF **GENERAL DISCUSSIONS**:



7

Review oversight of the implementation of laws

- Each year, evaluate within each committee a flagship law promulgated during the last 10 years
- Organise debates in public session on some of these laws, in the presence of the relevant minister
- Plan a hearing of the Minister responsible for relations with Parliament with regard to the general conditions of the implementation of the laws

IMPLEMENT AND COMMUNICATE

8



Vote on the proposals of information reports and, if rejected, on the publication of these reports

9

Improve follow-up of Senate proposals



Define the judicial vehicle and provisional timetable for the implementation of proposals



Proposal implementation and monitoring table



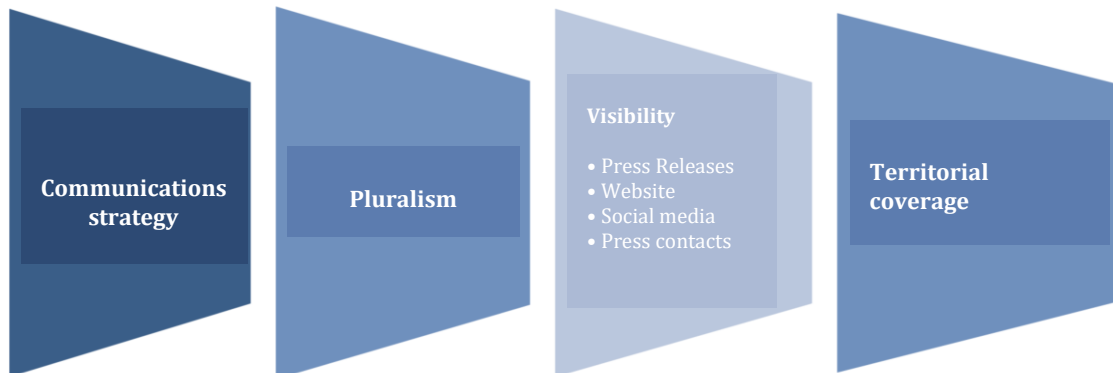
Rapporteur's "follow-up rights"



Annual review of the implementation of proposals at committees and delegations

10

Better communications regarding oversight work



11

Establish guidelines for oversight work to share best practices amongst committees and delegations



Gérard LARCHER
President of the Senate



Pascale GRUNY
Rapporteur