

*(Translation from French)*

In a democracy, intelligence is an activity that aims only at protecting citizens. The bill oversees intelligence activities in compliance with the principle of legality, necessity and proportionality. It defines procedures for the protection of civil liberties and in respect of the rule of law. These procedures are based on prior authorisations of intelligence activities, and establish an independent administrative institution – an Authority composed of judges, experts and Parliamentarians. The draft law also provides for judicial redress mechanisms open to not only this Authority but also to the citizens who might consider themselves wronged, ensuring at the same time greater parliamentary scrutiny.

France welcomes the fact that a rich and open democratic debate has enabled all views to be expressed. The legislative process is underway; the text, which was adopted by the National Assembly by an overwhelming majority, has yet to be considered by the Senate. The President of the Republic announced that the Constitutional Council would be seized to ensure that the text resulting from the parliamentary discussions is consistent with respect for fundamental freedoms. France recalls in this regard its strong commitment to freedom of the press and protection of journalists' sources in France and around the world.