



cndp National Commission for Public Debate



**Giving you a voice
and making it heard**

Set up in 1995 under the “Barnier” law establishing public debate, the National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP) became an independent administrative authority in 2002.

It is responsible for informing the general public and ensuring that their views are taken into account throughout the decision-making process for major planning projects and amenities in the national interest.

Public debate is a valuable tool. Since 2002, 69 public debates have been organised. In one third of cases, the project was either abandoned or radically modified. In another third of cases, the project underwent significant changes.

OUR MISSION

1 | Ensure compliance with public participation and enable the public to be heard during the development phase for major planning projects and amenities in the national interest sponsored by the State, local authorities, and public or private entities.

2 | Determine the procedures related to public participation for those projects referred to the CNDP.

3 | Following the public debate up to the public enquiry phase, ensure compliance with public information and participation.

4 | Organise a public debate concerning the general options related to the environment, sustainable development or planning, on matters referred by the Minister of Environment and other relevant ministers.

5 | Advise the relevant authorities and developers, at their request, on any matter relating to the public consultation process throughout the project development phase.

6 | Submit proposals and recommendations of a general nature or about methodology, in order to foster and encourage dialogue with the public.

SINCE 2002* :
69 public debates
45 recommended public consultations
21 post public debate consultations



By fostering a culture of public debate, the CNDP is committed to supporting the role of the public in the decision-making process.

The CNDP renewed its team in spring 2013. Christian Leyrit chairs the Commission, assisted by two Vice-Presidents : Laurence Monnoyer-Smith and Jacques Archimbaud.

1 Chairman
2 Vice-Presidents
22 Members

PUBLIC DEBATES

If the CNDP itself decides to organise a public debate, it sets up a special ad hoc commission (CPDP). It appoints a chairman and members who are responsible for organising, leading and ensuring that the debate is well managed.

Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur high speed rail link (2005) • Extension of the A12 motorway (2006) • Eridan - construction of a natural gas pipeline (2009) • Arc Express and Transport Network for Greater Paris (2010) • Penly 3 – nuclear reactor (2010) • Extension of Jarry docks in Guadeloupe (2011) • Reconstruction of the electric power transmission line between Arras and Lille (2011) • Cigéo – storage of radioactive waste (2013) • Fécamp, Courseulles-sur-Mer, Saint-Nazaire and Saint-Brieuc offshore wind parks (2013) • Grand Rugby Stadium in Ris-Orangis (2014) • etc.

RECOMMENDED PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

If the CNDP decides that a public debate is not necessary, it may recommend that the project owner or project management team organises a public consultation. In practice, this is usually overseen by a guarantor appointed by the CNDP.

Seine-Nord Europe wide-gauge canal (2004) • Jules Horowitz nuclear research-reactor (2005) • Improved access to the maritime port in Rouen (2007) • Tram-train link between Massy and Évry (2009) • New Roland Garros stadium (2011) • Improved rail link between Nice and Italy (2012) • Stocamine – closure of ultimate waste storage centre (2013) • etc.

POST-DEBATE CONSULTATIONS

Following the public debate, the project owner or project management team informs the CNDP of its decision and, where appropriate, of arrangements set in place until the public enquiry for informing the general public and for public participation. The CNDP may issue opinions and recommendations on these procedures and may, at the request of the owner or project management team, appoint a guarantor to oversee their fulfilment.

Centre for recovery of biological and energy waste Ivry-Paris XIII (2010) • Acceleration of development plans for the RN 126 route between Castres and Toulouse (2010) • Extension of the RER E West urban rail link (2011) • Aqua Domitia - Languedoc-Roussillon region water network extension programme (2013) • Fos Faster LNG Terminal in Fos-sur-Mer (2013) • etc.

*Until May 2014

OUR VALUES

INDEPENDENCE

The CNDP is entirely independent from the government, parliament, local authorities and project developers (either public or private) that refer to it.

NEUTRALITY

The CNDP and its special ad hoc commissions and guarantors do not express an opinion on the debated projects.

TRANSPARENCY

The CNDP ensures that all data and studies related to the projects are made available to the public.

EQUALITY OF TREATMENT

The CNDP makes every effort to ensure that all members of the public, regardless of status or opinion, are able to express themselves freely within an environment of mutual respect.

REASONED ARGUMENT

The debate is neither a poll nor a referendum. It is the expression of points of view and reasoned argument.

OUR OBJECTIVES

1 | **Contribute** to increasing public participation by diversifying means of expression and taking into account best practices in other countries.

2 | **Make sure** that the public is heard throughout the decision-making process.

3 | **Develop** a culture of public debate by fostering a better understanding of the value of participation.

Aim: bring democracy and legitimacy to the decision-making process.



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