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FRANCE

TRANSLATION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION INTO ENGLISH

All French laws and subsidiary legislation as well as court decisions are published in French. An unofficial translation of a few codes can be found on the French government legal portal. They are, however, outdated. The Constitutional Council and the *Cour de Cassation*, France's Supreme Court for civil and criminal matters, have added unofficial translations of a limited number of their most significant decisions to their websites. This report highlights the major official publications of laws and court decisions. It briefly cites the limited sources where unofficial translations of some of these texts can be found.

I. Official Publications

The official publications are as follows:

- JOURNAL OFFICIEL DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE [OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC], LC Call No. KJV17. F73. The *Journal Officiel* contains the laws, decrees, ordinances, and *arrêtés* (regulations issued by individual ministers). It is published by the *Direction de l'information légale et administrative* (Directorate of Legal and Administrative Information), which is under the authority of the Prime Minister. In addition to the printed version, authenticated electronic versions of the official gazettes have been available online since June 2004, at <http://www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr>.
- BULLETINS OFFICIELS. Lower-level regulations issued by ministries are published in the *Bulletin Officiel* of the corresponding ministry, such as, for example, the *Bulletin Officiel du Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de l'Industrie* for the Ministry of Economy and Finances. Recent publications can now be found on the websites of the various ministries.

II. Court Reporters

France has a dual system of courts: judicial (i.e., civil and criminal courts) and administrative. Each court system is headed by a supreme court. In addition, the review of the constitutionality of laws in France is solely entrusted to a Constitutional Council. These different types of decisions can be found in various official or semi-official publications, as listed below.

A. Judicial Decisions

There is no comprehensive official system of reports of judicial decisions. Only the decisions of the *Cour de Cassation* are published in official bulletins. These decisions are published in two series:

- BULLETIN DES ARRÊTS DE LA COURT DE CASSATION RENDUS EN MATIÈRE CIVILE [BULLETIN OF THE COURT OF CASSATION'S DECISIONS RENDERED IN CIVIL MATTERS], LC Call No. KJV446 .F725.
- BULLETIN DES ARRÊTS DE LA COUR DE CASSATION RENDUS EN MATIÈRE CRIMINELLE [BULLETIN OF THE COURT DE CASSATION'S DECISIONS RENDERED IN CRIMINAL MATTERS], LC Call No. KJV7976.4 .F73.

About two-thirds of the cases are reported, the decision to publish being left to the president of the chamber. The printed publication of these bulletins was discontinued in January 2008, and they are now only published on the website of the *Cour de Cassation*, at <http://www.courdecassation.fr/> (click on *Publications de la Cour*).

B. Administrative Decisions

The most important decisions of the *Conseil d'État*, France's Supreme Court for administrative matters, as well as other administrative courts or tribunals decisions, are published in the *Recueil Lebon* by a private publisher (Dalloz) under the sponsorship of the *Conseil d'État*, and therefore are considered semi-official. The decisions of the *Tribunal des Conflits*, the final arbiter of conflicts of competence between the *Cour de Cassation* and the *Conseil d'État*, are incorporated.

- RECUEIL LEBON, RECUEIL DES DÉCISIONS DU CONSEIL D'ÉTAT STATUANT AU CONTENTIEUX ET DU TRIBUNAL DES CONFLITS ET DES JUGEMENTS DES TRIBUNAUX ADMINISTRATIFS [COLLECTION LEBON, COLLECTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE CONSEIL D'ÉTAT, TRIBUNAL OF CONFLICT AND OF THE JUDGMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS], LC Call No. KJV4665.8 .F73.

C. Decisions on Constitutionality of Laws

The decisions of the Constitutional Council are published in the *Journal Officiel*.

III. Translations of Laws and Court Decisions

There are no official translations of French laws and court decisions into English. Unofficial translations of the Constitution and a limited number of codes and court decisions can be found online. The key sites are as follows:

- LEGIFRANCE, <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr>, provides translations of the following codes: Civil Code, Commercial Code, Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Intellectual Property Code, Consumer Code, Monetary and Financial Code, Insurance

Code, Code of Civil Procedure, Environmental Code, and Public Procurement Code. These translations have not been updated, however, since either 2005 or 2006, depending on the code.

- ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE [NATIONAL ASSEMBLY], <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/english/index.asp>, offers a translation of the Constitution and of the National Assembly's Rules of Procedure.
- COUR DE CASSATION, http://www.courdecassation.fr/documents_traduits_2850/english_2851/judgments_of_19224.html, offers translations of a limited number of the court's most significant decisions.
- CONSEIL CONSTITUTIONNEL [CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL], <http://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/conseil-constitutionnel/english/case-law/case-law.25743.html>, offers a sample of the Council's decisions in relevant areas translated into English.

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