



Global Immigration alert

June 2024

France

Immigration impacts of upcoming parliamentary election

Executive summary

With the upcoming parliamentary election looming, French immigration policies – including those that impact skilled foreign employees and the French companies that employ them – could witness a significant shift and impact the country's broader political and economic landscape.

Background

Following the defeat of French President Macron's Renaissance party during the recent EU Parliamentary elections, the president called for a snap legislative election for France's Assemblée Nationale (i.e., the lower house of the French Parliament), to be held on 30 June 2024 and 7 July 2024. Current polling has France's hard-right "Rassemblement National" party in the lead position, with the hard-left "New Popular Front" party in second place, and President Macron's coalition trailing in third place.

Key developments

A parliamentary majority of France's "Rassemblement National" party could have an impact on the country's immigration policies toward corporations, particularly those that rely on foreign skilled labor, from 7 July 2024 onward. The current president of the party, Jordan Bardella, has continued to place immigration at the heart of his program by wanting to "preserve the French people from migratory subversion."

While most of the proposed measures focus mainly on illegal immigration, the Rassemblement National party's political stance evokes a migratory phenomenon that it struggles to define by constantly referring to "immigration," failing to

distinguish between illegal and legal immigration. This lack of clarity could convey an erroneous perception of what immigration really is and contribute to a biased misunderstanding of professional immigration. This could have profound consequences, affecting not only foreign migrants, but also France's international reputation.

Impact on employers

The hostility shown by the Rassemblement National party towards migrants could reduce France's attractiveness for international talent and the companies in France that hire them. In addition, with uncertainty regarding the stability and legal status of legal migrants and the reality of international competition for talent, France risks being perceived as a more difficult country to access for economic development and entrepreneurial purposes.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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ey.com

Barbara Moreira

Partner – People Advisory Services, Immigration
Tel: +33 1 46 93 45 92
Email: barbara.moreira@ey-avocats.com

John Meehan

Partner – People Advisory Services Tax
Tel: +33 1 55 61 35 80
Email: john.meehan@ey-avocats.com

Ben Willis

Partner – People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 9589
Email: ben.willis@uk.ey.com

Seema Farazi

Partner – People Advisory Services, EMEA Immigration Leader
Tel: +44 20 7951 7122
Email: seema.farazi@uk.ey.com