



Biography – Olivier CADIC

Senator for French Citizens Abroad

- *Vice President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Armed Forces*
- *President of the France-Gulf States Interparliamentary Friendship Group*
- *Vice President of the Study Group on Francophonie and the Study Group on the Status, Role, and Place of French Citizens Abroad*
- *Member of the Study Group on Veterans and Remembrance*
- *President of ANEFE (National Association of French Schools Abroad)*
- *Board Member of: AFD (French Development Agency); AEFÉ (Agency for French Education Abroad); Institut Français; Worldskills Lyon 2024*
- *Co-Chair of IPAC (Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China)*
- *Member of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum*

Born in 1962 to a Breton father and a *pied-noir* mother, Olivier dived into the world of business as soon as he had passed his computer science A-levels.

Entrepreneur at 20

After working as a data entry operator in CAD (Computer Aided Design), the idea of creating Info Elec came to mind. The main issue was finding the funds : for several months, he worked two jobs day and night. Things then sped up.

On October the 1st, 1982, Olivier then aged twenty, withdrew his FF20,000 savings from the Caisse d'Épargne. When depositing the funds to establish LLC, the banker quipped, "I hope you won't ask me for any money !" Seven years later, Info Elec became a public limited company with a capital of 1 million francs, with Olivier as CEO, working more than half the clock and sleeping five hours a day.

Amnesty International

Olivier cherished the First Amendment of the US Constitution on freedom of expression above all else, which eventually led him to the French section of Amnesty International where he spoke out against all forms of totalitarianism. He then became a member of the section's Finance Committee.

Author of a declaration regarding bloody repressions against the Kurds people, he denounced Saddam Hussein's regime well before the invasion of Kuwait, and set up a classical music concert at the Sorbonne in memory of the British journalist Farzad Bazoft, attended by thousands of music lovers.

Defending French electronics

In 1993, his professional successes resulted in his election to the board of GFIE (Group of Suppliers to the Electronics Industry) board of directors, becoming its vice-chairman in 1994. Sensing an upcoming crisis of his industrial sector in 1995, he created "Pistes et Pastilles", a professional magazine advocating for the electronics industry.

Entrepreneurial freedom in France

Year 1996 oversaw the transfer of his company's head office to Ashford, UK as well as the creation of "La France libre... d'entreprendre", an association which purpose was to support and advise French entrepreneurs seeking a fresh start from Great Britain.

Stirring up admiration in the public eye and drawing attention from the medias, he earned the title of "most famous Frenchman in southern England since William the Conqueror," with over a thousand members joining his association.

From the internet to comics

In 1999, Olivier raised over 10 million euros from prestigious venture capital funds to create the first global marketplace for printed circuits online. By 2003, seeing better growth opportunities in Asia, he sold all his electronics businesses within two years.

At the end of 2005, through his publishing company, Olivier decided to promote Franco-Belgian comics in the UK and the USA. He published several hundred albums in English from a wide-range of legendary series such as Lucky Luke, Iznogoud, Spirou, Blake and Mortimer, and became the largest buyer of comic rights. He was also awarded the 2008 "Palme de Phébus" for his trilogy on Queen Margot in comic form.

Elected Representative for French Citizens in the UK

On June 18, 2006, Olivier was elected to the Assembly of French Citizens Abroad (AFE) after leading the UFE list in the UK, re-elected in May 2014, securing five of the eight seats for the Northern Europe constituency.

On October 3, 2011, Bernard Emié, French Ambassador to the UK, awarded him the insignia of Knight of the National Order of Merit.

Founding member of UDI

In 2012, he joined the Centrist Alliance led by Jean Arthuis and co-founded the Union of Democrats and Independents (UDI) with Jean-Louis Borloo and Simone Veil.

Elected UDI senator for French citizens abroad in September 2014, re-elected as an Independent senator in September 2021, Olivier Cadic is a member of the Centrist Union group.

SENATOR

During his term of office, Olivier Cadic has made 544 trips to 114 countries. He is currently a member of 60 interparliamentary friendship groups in the Senate. He has chaired the France-Luxembourg friendship group, the France-North Korea contact group, and, since December 2020, the France-Gulf States friendship group (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar).

Sitting as a member of the Social Affairs Committee from 2014 to 2017, he then joined the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Committee and became its Vice-Chairman in 2020.

Cybersecurity and cyber defense

Olivier specializes in cybersecurity and cyber defense, serving as the rapporteur since October 2017 on crisis management, cyber defense, and intelligence budget credits. He authored several reports on these issues, including:

- "Disinformation, Cyberattacks, and Cyber Malware: The Other COVID-19 War" (June 2020)
- "Cyberattack on 'ARIANE': A Learning Experience" (February 2019)

Olivier has called for numerous initiatives adopted by the government:

- Creation of a cyber offensive force (September 2018) used against ISIS;
- Creation of a "cyber response force" to combat informational attacks (April 2020), preceding the establishment of the national agency Viginum (September 2021);
- Creation of a single emergency number for cyber issues (January 2019), supported by the President of the Republic in 2022 ("17 cyber"), set to open in 2024;
- Integration of the fight against "fake news" in the 2019-2025 Military Programming Law (LPM) and ensuring freedom of maritime navigation by the French Navy in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait in the 2024-2030 LPM.

As a victim of a Chinese hacker group APT31 attack, Olivier called for the creation of an international cyber deterrence force at the Paris Cyber Week (June 2024).

Promoting Businesses in the French Parliament

As vice president of the Senate's Business Delegation from 2014 to 2020, Olivier initiated several reports:

- "For a Free France to Undertake" (April 2018)
- "Effectively Simplify to Free Enterprises" (February 2017)
- "Why the UK Attracts French Entrepreneurs" (June 2015)

Deeply involved in Brexit issues, Olivier was active in the Brexit Monitoring Group and the New Euro-British Relationship Monitoring Group.

He also reported on laws affecting French citizens abroad, including:

- Strengthening cooperation in cross-border transport with Luxembourg (October 2019)
- Reciprocal recognition and exchange of bilateral driving licenses with Qatar and China (October 2020)
- Road improvement with Andorra (April 2018 and May 2023).
-

Drug trafficking

Vice president of the investigative committee on the impact of drug trafficking in France (2023-24), Olivier participated in the destruction of cocaine labs and clandestine airstrips in the Amazon jungle in Bolivia, highlighting the interconnectedness of producer and consumer countries, with China at both ends of the drug trafficking "supply chain."

Administrator

Olivier has served on the boards of the Institut Français (2021), Worldskills Lyon 2024 (2021), Agence pour l'enseignement français à l'étranger, AEF (2022), and Agence française de développement, AFD (2024).

ANEF

Elected in November 2021, Olivier succeeded honorary senator André Ferrand as president of ANEF, aligning his presidency with the goal of doubling the number of students in the French education network by 2030, as outlined by the President of the Republic on March 20, 2018.

Interparliamentary Networks

- Member of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum
- Co-Chair of the French section of IPAC (Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China)