

Valérie FONTAINE



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French

POSITION **Advisor for partnerships and public relations – Defender of Rights**

WORK EXPERIENCE

Since August 2015 **Advisor for partnerships and public relations – Defender of Rights**

Defender of Rights – Paris – France

In the Equality promotion and Access to Rights Direction, my duties are:

- to be responsible for partnerships concluded by the Institution in all its fields of competences;
- to be responsible for a new programme for teaching Law to children and young people “*Educadroit*”;
- to set up and prepare the work of the three advisory committees composed of high magistrates, experts and member of civil society, respectively competent on anti-discrimination, children’s rights and police ethics.

June 2011-August 2015 **Committee’s Permanent Secretary – Defender of Rights**

Defender of Rights – Paris – France

Under the direct authority of the General Secretary, my duties were:

- to set up and prepare the work of three advisory committees;
- to follow-up of the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Defender of Rights, after a Committee’s consultation;
- to develop a methodology for working groups with external partners of the institution;
- to coordinate various working groups aimed at proposing concrete solutions on difficulties concerning public services, police ethics, children’s rights and all types of discriminations;
- to ensure a coherent legal treatment of individual complaints received by the Defender of Rights;
- to write reports and recommendations;
- to deliver presentations of the institution to various local, national and international partners.

March 2005-June 2011 **Chief of staff – HALDE**

High authority against discrimination and for equality (HALDE) – Paris – France

- Contribution to the setting up of the overall organisation of a newly created institution;
- assistance of two successive Chairmen and the ten other members of the Commission (HALDE was a collegial authority) to develop a strategy to fight against discrimination in France and to establish priorities in the prevention of discrimination in employment, education, housing for all types of discrimination;
- transversal support to the Chairman’s management;
- coordination with the services for the follow-up of the decisions and recommendations;
- network building with administrations, non-governmental organisations and companies (national and international);
- organisation of national and international events;
- talks to national and international seminars and conferences;
- conception and organisation of training.

- May 2004-March 2005 **Legal adviser for the preparation of the High authority for equality and against discrimination**
Prime minister services – Paris- France
- Consultation of experts and organisations involved in the fight against discrimination;
 - follow-up of parliamentary bills for setting-up an independent administrative authority and lobbying;
 - pre-recruitment of staff;
 - preparation of meetings, talks, interviews of the mission's Chair;
 - comparative studies and reports;
 - co-writer of the final mission's report addressed to the Prime Minister.
- July 1999-April 2004 **Legal adviser for international affairs and human rights**
Mediator of the Republic (Ombudsman) – Paris- France
- Direct substantive support to the Ombudsman in his activities concerning international cooperation and human rights;
 - coordination of the organisation of international conferences and seminars;
 - management of the Association of Francophone's Ombudsmans and Mediators (AOMF); delegate of the President of the AOMF (2001-2003);
 - representation of the Ombudsman at international and national meetings in Europe, West Africa, Latin America;
 - training of foreign Ombudsmans' staff (coming from Africa, Europe, South America);
 - legal analyses of cases concerning both foreign administrations and foreigners' rights in France.
- 1998 + 1999 **Trainee**
- International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) – Geneva – Switzerland
- Preparation of resolutions for the UN Human Rights Sub Commission (51st session) and lobbying;
 - writing of country's Human Rights Situation;
 - relation with others NGOs working with UN Human Rights bodies
- Jean Monnet Foundation – Lausanne – Switzerland
- Reorganisation of historical archives linked to Jean Monnet and the European construction

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 2011 + 2004 **Civil service exams: prime minister's principal officer (*attaché principal*)**
- 1999-2000 **Master's degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law**
Université Panthéon-Assas (Paris II - France)
- Public liberties
 - International human rights
 - International humanitarian Law
 - Foreigners Rights
- 1997-1999 **Master's degree in International Public Law**
Université Paris X Nanterre (France) + Università Cattolica di Milano (Italy)
- International Public law
 - European Union Law
- 1994-1997 **Bachelor's degree (Law and English)**
Université Paris X Nanterre (France)
- French civil, administrative and criminal law
 - History of Law
- 1989-1994 **European Baccalaureate (high school)**
European school – Brussels (Belgium)

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) French

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C	C	C	C	C
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Spanish	C	C	C	C	C
Italian	C	C	C	C	C

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Communication skills ▪ good communication skills gained through many public conferences and seminars, in front of various audiences in national and international contexts

Organisational / managerial skills ▪ leadership (as HALDE's chief of staff)
▪ transversal support to management
▪ contribution to the definition of strategic orientations
▪ identification of key issues and partners
▪ planning, organising and follow-up of national and international meetings

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications ▪ Children's equal access to school meal system, 2013
▪ Towards a high authority against discrimination and for equality, Documentation Française, 2004
▪ The French Ombudsman as Mediator: communication and accessibility, in "The Work and Practice of Ombudsman and National Human Rights Institutions", 2001

Presentations ▪ Yearly interventions for Humanity in Action summer education program (2006-2016)
▪ Talk on the prevention of discriminations in administration (Geneva, September 2012)
▪ Various talks at the National School for Administration (ENA), for foreign high civil servants, e.g.:
- 27/02/17: "the fight against gender discrimination", women's management and leadership seminar
- 01/10/10: "Gender equality", international specialised cycle of public administration on Human Rights
- 23/09/09: "The fight against discriminations in France"
- 27/11/02: "Common characteristics and diversity of institutions of mediation", international specialised cycle of public administration on "The institutional mediation";
- 28/03/2003: "The Ombudsman", European Community Project on training for civilian aspects of crisis management, Democratisation and good governance course;
- 26/09/2003: "Public services and Human rights: the role of the French Ombudsman"; international specialised cycle of public administration on "The protection of Human rights";
- 5/12/2003: "The relations between the administration and citizens", cycle of training ENA-PHARE
▪ Talk "El Médiateur, la defensa de los Derechos Humanos y el CEDH", at the seminar of Latin American People's Defensors (Caracas, March 2002)

- Projects**
- Expertise for the European Council at Albanian People's Advocate Office – capacity building (Tirana March 2002)
 - Development of a programme aiming at educating children and young people to Law (2017)

- Memberships**
- Fellow of German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) – study visit in 5 US cities in 2009 and member of the selection committee since 2014;
 - Member of the Council of Jean Monnet Foundation and of the association of Jean Monnet's friends;
 - Co-founder of the association "Regards du monde".