

# ARTISTIC FREEDOM FRENCH CIVIL SOCIETY EXPERIENCE



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# WHAT?

In 2003



In France a group of individuals and organizations engaged in monitoring and protecting artistic freedom

# WHO?



14 Trade Unions

Cinema  
Art Galleries  
Literature and Book fairs  
Film makers, producers  
Subsidised theatres, dance  
and concert halls  
Art and cinema critique  
Artistic education

Individuals

Lawyers  
Artists  
Writers  
Culture civil  
servants

## Modus operandi

- \* 1 spokesperson
- \* 1 monthly meeting in Paris
- \* 1 mailing list to share cases

# WHEN?

CENSORSHIP  
VIOLENCE  
THREATS

LAW SUITS AGAINST ARTISTS, CULTURAL  
ACTORS

# HOW?

- \* Press release/ Public letter
- \* Mediation in public spaces
- \* Lobby for the elections
- \* Lobby for legislative change

# Press release example

## Facts :

The mayor of a city prohibits the screening of a movie by a charity because of potential disruption of public order

## Action

The documentary has been screened in other cities before without any troubles, the charity has been organizing screenings for 10 years. The decision is political because the movie is on same-sex marriage. Abuse of power and infringement on access to cultural goods

La sociologue et l'ourson de Etienne Chaillou et Mathias Thery

## Mediation example

Facts : Exhibit B show at Saint Denis Theatre, anti racism organizations block access to the theatre and insult the public

### Action

Members of the Observatory were at the theatre every night. They explained to the public and to the demonstrators why the show was not racist and the difference between a show/performance and public discourse

## Lobby before the elections

Facts : artistic freedom is rarely at the heart of public debate or included in political parties programmes

### Action

Write a manifesto or public letter in the medias before the elections asking candidates to guarantee artistic freedom  
(involve artists)

# Law on artistic freedom adopted in July 2016

## Article 1

*La création artistique est libre*

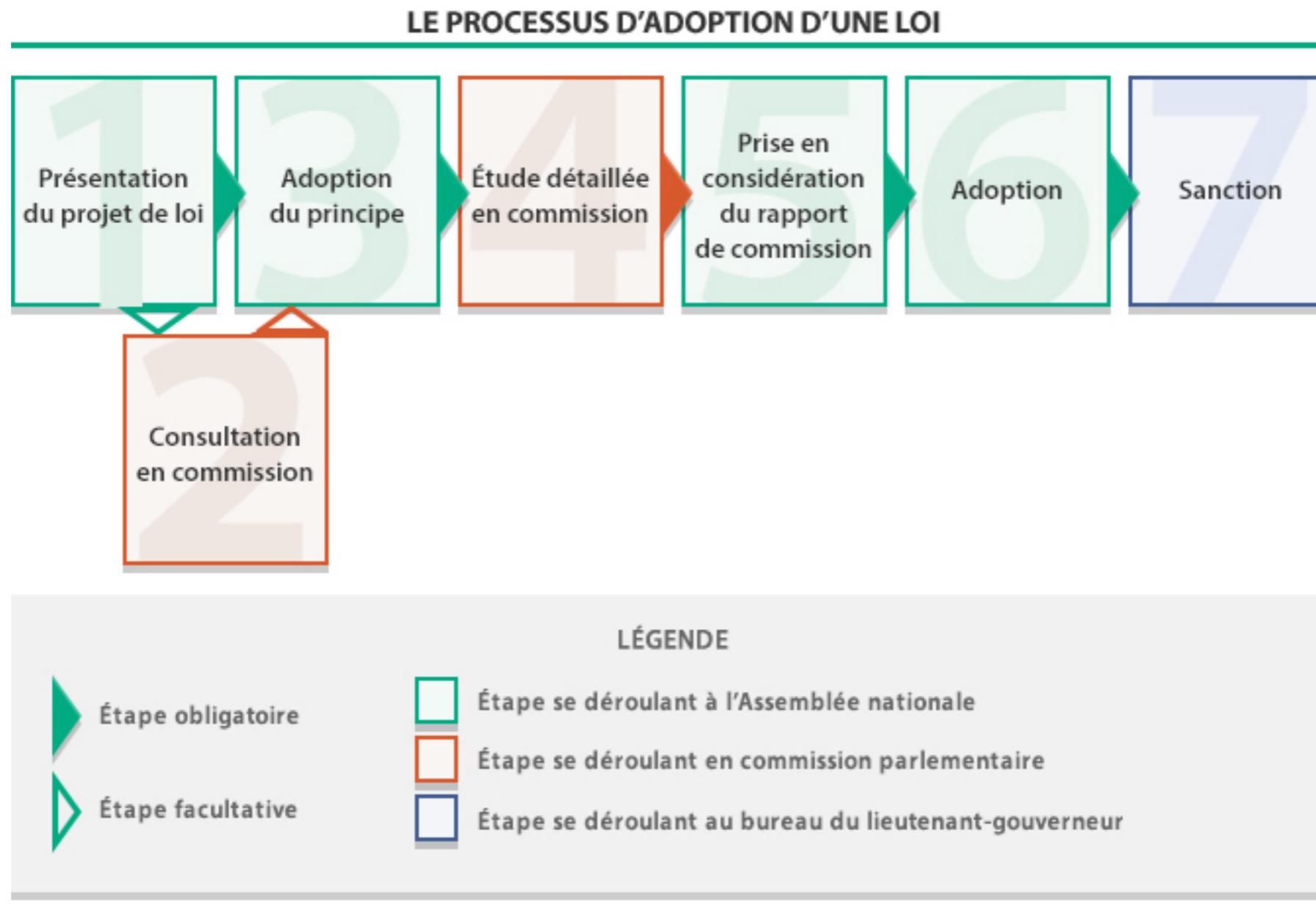
## Article 2

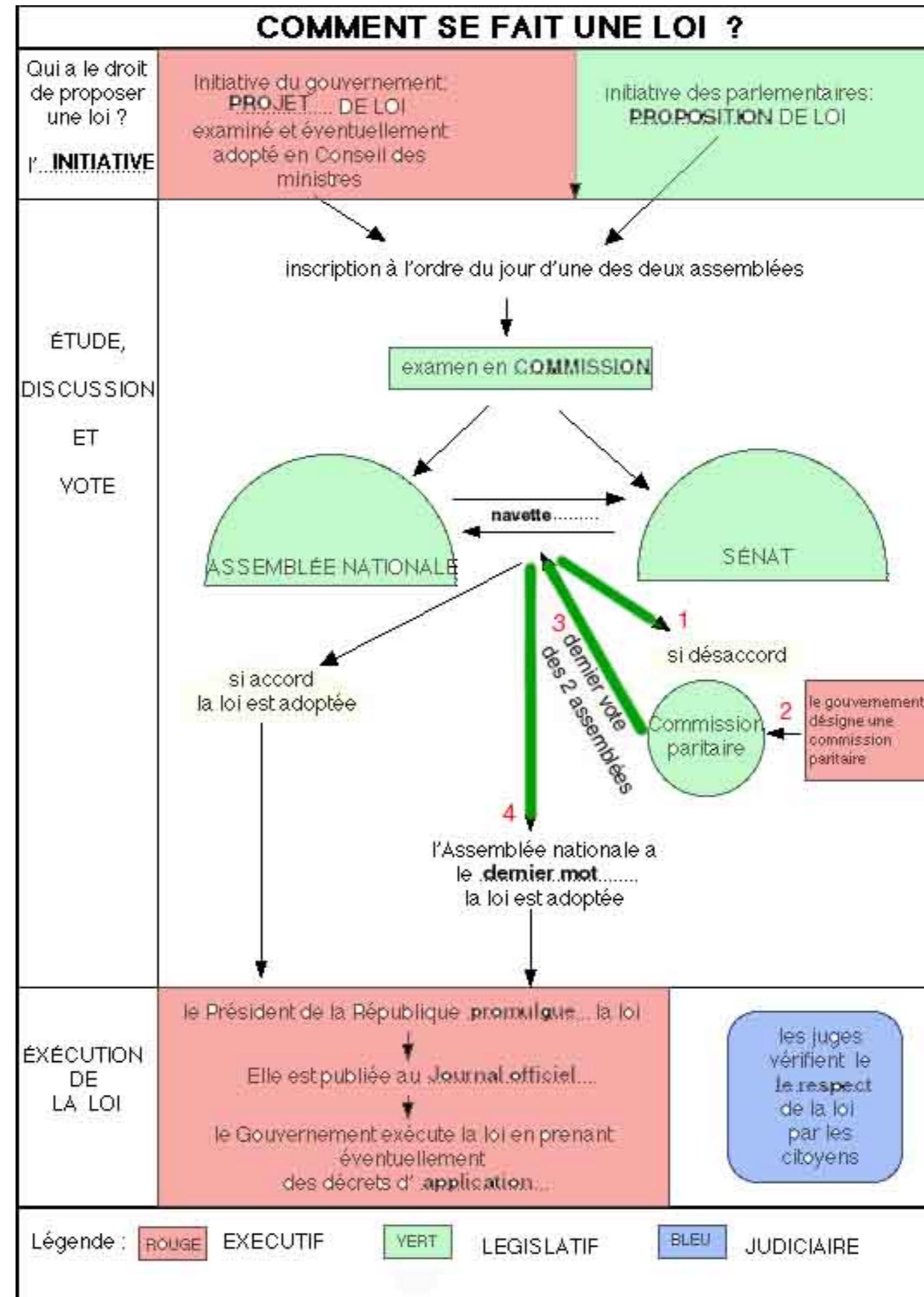
I.-*La diffusion de la création artistique est libre. Elle s'exerce dans le respect des principes encadrant la liberté d'expression et conformément à la première partie du code de la propriété intellectuelle.*

II.-L'article 431-1 du code pénal est ainsi modifié :

*« Le fait d'entraver, d'une manière concertée et à l'aide de menaces, l'exercice de la liberté de création artistique ou de la liberté de la diffusion de la création artistique est puni d'un an d'emprisonnement et de 15 000 euros d'amende. »*

# Adopting new legislation





# Adopting new legislation

## How to lobby?

- \* Identify important steps and actors with help from insiders
- \* Write a briefing document and amendments
- \* Lobby senators and parliamentarians at regional/  
local and national level
- \* Use media and international actors

# QUIZZ QUESTIONS

1. IS THERE A LAW ON ARTISTIC FREEDOM IN YOUR COUNTRY ?
2. IS THERE A MONITORING BODY ON ARTISTIC FREEDOM ?

## Question 1

– Algeria – Angola – Austria – Brazil – Bulgaria  
– China – Croatia – Democratic Republic of Congo -  
Hungary  
– Kenya – Latvia – Morocco – Peru – Poland – Portugal —  
Serbia – Slovenia – South Africa – Spain – Tunisia – Turkey

## Question 2

Arts Rights Justice, Artsfex, Freemuse collect information  
but at national level who does?