



CCNE FACT SHEET « CCNE'S MISSIONS »

The CCNE is a consultative, independent and multidisciplinary body which has no decision-making power. It was created in 1983 on the initiative of the President of the Republic, François Mitterrand.

The President of the Republic, ministers and major institutions may refer to the CCNE "ethical problems and social issues raised by progress in knowledge in the fields of biology, medicine and health" (Law N° 2004-800 of 6 August 2004). It can also take up subjects for discussion itself through a self-referral mechanism. It issues opinions, notes, reports, bulletins, etc., which are published on its website.

France, which is the only country to have a Bioethics Law that is moreover revised at regular intervals, has relied on the CCNE since 2011 to organise public debates prior to parliamentary discussions. In 2018, the CCNE organised for the first time the "Etats généraux de la Bioéthique", with a view to a new revision of the Bioethics Act initially scheduled for 2019.

This law n° 2021-1017 of 2 August 2021 on bioethics further extends the CCNE's scope of reflection to the consequences for health of advances in knowledge in all other fields. It also entrusts it with the task of leading the annual public debate on innovation and social issues from an ethical perspective. This new stage, which reinforces the spirit of dialogue that the CCNE already favours with politicians, experts and citizens, confirms the CCNE's key role in the dynamics of health democracy. This is being developed on the ground with its local partners, the regional Ethical Reflection Spaces (see the ERER News section).

Since December 2019, the CCNE has been hosting the national digital ethics committee under its aegis.



The founding texts of the CCNE :

1. 1983, Creation of the CCNE by presidential decree - Decree n° 83-132
2. 1994, Inclusion of the CCNE in the law of 29 July 1994 - Law of 29 July 1994
3. 1997, Decree on the National Consultative Ethics Committee for Life Sciences and Health, n° 97-555 May 1997
4. 2004, Revision of the bioethics laws and extension of the CCNE's competences - Law of 6 August 2004
5. 2005, Decree on the organisation, operation, appointment of members and referral to the CCNE - Decree No. 2005-390
6. 2011, Law n° 2011-814 of 7 July 2011 on bioethics.
7. Decree No. 2015-1403 of 4 November 2015 on the modalities of the drawing of lots prior to the appointment of members of certain independent administrative authorities and independent public authorities

These texts can be consulted at the following address: <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/>

For more information:

The CCNE Fact Sheet "Les Etats généraux de la bioéthique 2018

The summary report of the Etats généraux de la Bioéthique, 2018 (on the CCNE website)

CCNE opinion 129 "Contribution of the CCNE to the revision of the bioethics law", 2018 (on the CCNE website)