



Invitation to Attend the CSLS Seminar Series on Living Standards

Reforming the French Labour Market

Gilbert Cette

4:00-5:30 PM
Thursday, October 5, 2017
Karsh Room, Rideau Club
99 Bank Street, 15th floor
Ottawa, Ontario

To attend, please RSVP by October 2 to andrew.sharpe@csls.ca.

The unemployment rate in France at around 10 per cent is well above that of almost all other EU countries. Many economists point to structural and institutional rigidities as a key explanation for this situation. Not surprisingly, an important, but controversial, priority of the new Macron Government is labour market reform, or as *The Economist* recently termed it “Exorcising the French demons.”

To shed light on this issue Gilbert Cette from the Banque de France, and a key player in labour market policy formation in France, will provide an overview of the reforms. He will first present the main characteristics of the French labour market, especially its highly regulated nature, and the implications for economic performance. He will then outline the ambitious set of labour market reforms proposed by the Macron Government. This includes giving the social partners more opportunity to replace parts of the current labour code with alternative rules agreed to through collective bargaining and to decrease the uncertainties associated with lay-offs.

Gilbert Cette is Deputy Director General of Economic Studies and International Relations at the Banque de France. He is also Associate Professor of Economics at [Université de la Méditerranée Aix-Marseille- II](#). He specializes in labour market and productivity issues. His most recent book (with Jacques Barthélémy) is *Travailler au XXIe siècle: l'Ubèrisation de l'économie?* In September 2017 the Macron Government appointed him Head of the French Minimum Wage Commission. He holds a PhD in economics.