

Biographies of Amélie de Montchalin, Sibeth Ndiaye and Cédric O



Amélie de MONTCHALIN, Junior Minister for European Affairs

Ms de Montchalin, 33 years old, has gradually established herself as a key figure in the LaREM majority group in the Assemblée Nationale thanks to her proficiency in economic affairs and also her political acumen. As the First Vice-President of the majority group, she is considered to be one of the rising stars of the majority. She has been regularly considered as a potential candidate during previous Government's reshuffles.

She graduated from HEC (the most prestigious of French commercial schools) in 2009 while in parallel assisting the centre right MP Valérie Pécresse (former member of several Governments and a political

heavyweight) as a trainee parliamentary assistant at the Assemblée Nationale.

She began her career as a Junior Economist in charge of Europe at Exane BNP in 2009. She soon suspended her career, however, to resume studying in 2012 at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government where she graduated with a Master of Public Administration (MPA) in 2014. Upon her return to France, she joined the insurance group Axa, initially as Deputy Director of strategy until 2016 and then as the head of public policy and foresights.

In parallel, she became involved in politics with the Les Républicains then centre right party. Of note, she co-drafted the economic programme of former Prime Minister Alain Juppé during the right-wing primary elections in 2017.

Elected as MP in 2017, she was nominated by her peers Spokesperson of the LaREM group within the prestigious Finance Commission. She is particularly involved with matters relating to the economy and finance. She also has extensive media presence defending Government policies.

With her strong reputation among LaREM members at the Assemblée Nationale and wishing to position herself as a leader of the liberal movement within the majority, she was a candidate for the presidency of the LaREM group in October 2018. She failed to garner support at first round but was appointed as the First Vice-President of the group.

**Sibeth NDIAYE, Government Spokesperson**

Sibeth NDIAYE has been a support to Emmanuel Macron right from the very beginning. Officially placed in charge of his press relations and communications, she is one of his closest political advisors. The President is therefore releasing a member of his closest circle to allow her to take charge of the Government's communications. Known for her forthrightness, her style will be in stark contrast to the meticulously edited communications issued by her predecessor Benjamin GRIVEAUX.

A former director of the left-wing students' union, UNEF, Sibeth NDIAYE became involved in politics very early on by joining in 2006 the team in charge of the preparation of the presidential campaign of IMF's Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

from 2009 to 2011, she was National Secretary of the Socialist Party in charge of child care policies. In parallel, she was also Head of Press relations for Claude Bartolone, at the time President of the General Council of Seine-Saint-Denis and future National Assembly's Speaker. After the election of François Hollande in 2012, she joined the cabinet of Arnaud Montebourg, when he was the Minister for Productive Turnaround (as the Minister for Industry was then known).

She retained her position when Emmanuel Macron joined the Ministry of the Economy in March 2014. During this time, she built a very strong relationship with the current President, whom she followed when he left the Ministry to launch his candidacy for presidential office. She was in charge of relations with the press and communications throughout the entire presidential campaign.

After his victory in the presidential elections, she followed Emmanuel Macron to the Elysée to supervise all the communications of the President until she was appointed Government Spokesperson on Sunday, 31 March.

Sibeth NDIAYE is 39 years old and studied political philosophy at the University of Paris-Diderot before graduating with a Master 2 degree in public economy and social welfare from the University of Pantheon-Sorbonne in 2006.



Cédric O, Junior Minister for Digital Affairs

Aged 37, Cédric O is part of the President's inner circle, having been an "early mover" (i.e. early supporter of the Macron movement), in allusion to the name of the LaREM party, which can be roughly translated as "The Republic on the Move". He was a member of the former team of Dominique Strauss-Kahn (whose members are popularly known as "veterans of the rue de la Planche" after the name of the road where he had his campaign headquarters), who went to work for Macron's campaign in 2016. He is today considered by players in the digital sector to be the focal point of contact of the Government and the ecosystem.

Having graduated from the HEC (the most elite business school in France) in 2006, Cédric O joined a communications agency, Opérationnelle, specialized in serving the needs of local government bodies and agencies, where he stayed until 2010, when he went to work as a parliamentary advisor, notably for Pierre Moscovici, then a member of the National Assembly, while working at the same time on the campaign team of François Hollande. He is also a regular contributor to the center-left think tanks Terra Nova and Fondation Jean Jaurès.

After François Hollande won the presidential election in 2012, Cédric O followed Pierre Moscovici, who was appointed as Minister of Economy and Finance, where he successively served as his advisor on parliamentary affairs, industrial restructuring, and relations with economic players and elected officials.

Cédric O returned to the private sector when Pierre Moscovici left the administration in March 2014 and joined the industrial production teams of French multinational Safran, which he left in May 2017 to join the office of the newly elected President.

He was part of the close-knit circle surrounding Emmanuel Macron during the presidential campaign, even becoming his treasurer and contributing to designing strategy and defining the political positioning of the future President. He was also one of the pillars of the investiture committee responsible for naming candidates for the legislative elections, and who were appointed by LaREM following Emmanuel Macron's election victory. He is currently a member of the party's executive bureau.

Prior to being appointed Junior Minister for Digital Affairs, Cédric O served as technical advisor on State holdings and on the digital economy to the President and to the Prime Minister. He was one of the organizers of the ChooseFrance and Tech4Good events, which brought together (in Paris and around the President) the world leaders in the sector.

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