

23/11/2011

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## Press release CDEFI - CGE - CPU

### *Letter from French Prime Minister clarifies the situation concerning foreign graduates*

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The Conference of Directors of French Engineering Schools (CDEFI), the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles (CGE) and the Conference of University Presidents (CPU) thank the Prime Minister and all the ministers concerned for the letter addressed to them on 22 November clarifying the position on foreign graduates trained in France and the application of the circular of 31 May 2011. It dispels the misunderstandings and concerns which some interpretations and application measures have created among higher education institutions, students and foreign graduates, and among companies wishing to employ them.

Recalling the government's aims to foster the international attractiveness of French higher education and research institutions, the competitiveness of French companies and the tightening of immigration policy, the Prime Minister underlined that under article L.311-11 of the regulations regarding entry, residence and asylum in France, all foreign graduates holding at least a master's degree, could apply for a temporary work permit in order to acquire a first professional experience in France, without the state of the employment market and the list of hard-to-fill professions being held against them..

Today's meeting between representatives from the three Conferences and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the Ministry of Home affairs and the Ministry of Employment made it clear that the resolution of individual cases submitted to the prefectures was in progress and had produced some positive results. The three Conferences will ensure that the clarifications outlined in the Prime Minister's letter allow pending and forthcoming cases to be settled – and above all that they should serve to reassure students from abroad and encourage them to come to France to pursue higher education studies.

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