



Biography – Olivier CADIC

Senator for French citizens living abroad

- *Vice-president of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Committee*
- *President of the France-Gulf States Inter-parliamentary Friendship Group*
- *Member of the Monitoring Group for the new EU-UK Relationship*

Born in 1962 to a Breton father and a Pied-Noir mother, Olivier dived into the professional world immediately after obtaining his Computer Science Baccalauréat (end-of-high-school diploma).

Entrepreneur at 20

After working as a CAD operator (computer-assisted drawing), he decided to create his own company, Info Elec, in 1982.

Seven years later, Info Elec became a public company with a capital of one million francs. In 1994, his professional successes saw him elected vice-president of the GFIE – Groupement des Fournisseurs de l'Industrie Electronique (Electronics Industry Suppliers Association).

In defence of the French electronics industry

In 1995, keenly aware that his industrial sector must adapt to globalisation, Olivier created *Tracks and Pads (Pistes et Pastilles)*, a professional magazine that became a platform for the defence of France's electronics industry.

Free France ... Free enterprise

He went even further in 1996 by relocating, to intense media scrutiny, the head office of his company to Ashford, two hours from Paris by Eurostar. He then created the association 'La France libre ... d'entreprendre' (Free France ... Free Enterprise), which would provide information and support to French entrepreneurs eager to make a fresh start in England.

From Internet to Comics

In 1999, Olivier raised €10 million from prestigious venture capital funds to create the first global marketplace for printed circuits on the internet.

In 2003, he sold off all his assets in the electronics sector.

In late 2005, through his publishing company Cinebook, Olivier decided to promote Franco-Belgian *bandes dessinées* (comics) in the United Kingdom and United States. He even wrote a three-volume series on French historical figure Queen Margot.

Elected representative of French Citizens living in the United Kingdom

On 18 June 2006, Olivier was elected representative to the Assembly of French Citizens Abroad (AFE), having led the UFE slate in the United Kingdom.

On 3 October 2011, Bernard Emié, French Ambassador to the United Kingdom, presented him with the insignias of Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight of the National Order of Merit).

Founding member of the UDI

In autumn 2012, he joined the Centrist Alliance led by Jean Arthuis, and was one of the architects and founding members of the 'Union des Démocrates et Indépendants' (UDI) led by Jean-Louis Borloo.

Olivier is currently president of the UDI-World Federation and UDI National Secretary to Foreign Trade.

Senator

In September 2014, Olivier Cadic became the first UDI senator for French citizens living abroad.