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**FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS (FDI) CONTROL IN FRANCE:
FRENCH TREASURY PUBLISHES ITS FIRST ACTIVITY REPORT**

The report¹ provides statistical data on the FDI control activity over the year 2021, in light of the latest regulatory developments.

Below are the key take-aways:

1. Steep increase in the number of files investigated by the Treasury Department (31% on 2020 volume)

328 requests were filed in 2021, for investment approval or prior review of the activities of a French company.

2. Growing importance of the “non-defense” sectors

The portion of investments in sectors other than those related to defense now represents nearly 57% of the files reviewed. Such increase results from the continuous extension of the list of sensitive activities (including the addition of biotechnologies among the critical technologies, in the context of the health crisis).

3. The report is part of a trend towards greater transparency in FDI control, to ensure due process

The French Treasury reminds us that standard files are now available to simplify the process and announces the upcoming publication of guidelines to clarify how FDI regulations are to be construed. A public consultation to identify the needs for clarification has just been initiated in this regard.

4. Developments brought about by the European regulation on the screening of FDI in the EU

The European regulation, which came into force at the end of 2020, implemented a mechanism for cooperation between EU Member States, in which France is actively participating and from which it is benefiting.

The report confirms that a potential screening of FDI should be considered at an early stage of any process involving an investment or divestment in France.

Stay tuned!

¹ [French Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery, Treasury Department, "Foreign investments control in France in 2021" \(in French\), March 2021](#)

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In particular, Astura is recognized by Legal 500 in the following areas:

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