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# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## France

**Post:** Paris

### **French Senate to Vote on Ban of BPA in October 2012**

**Report Categories:**

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Policy and Program Announcements

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**Report Highlights:**

In October 2012, the French Senate is expected to pass the bill banning use of Bisphenol A (BPA) in food packages which was approved by the National Assembly fall 2011. Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault and the GOF are likely to support the bill. The law bans, as of January 1, 2014, production, import, export, and distribution of any food packaging containing BPA.

## **General Information:**

In concluding the Environmental Conference organized by the French Government in Paris on September 14 -15, 2012, Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault announced that the GOF will support the final approval of the bill banning use of Bisphenol A (BPA) in food packages, which is currently stalled at the Senate (GAIN report [FR9090](#)). Mr. Ayrault, at that time head of the Minority Socialist group at the National Assembly, together with the now Minister for Social Affairs, Marysol Touraine, had co-signed in the fall of 2011 the bill's initial draft.

The Social Affairs Committee of the French Senate will start examining on October 3, 2012, the bill. Ms. [Patricia Schilinger](#), Senator from the Alsace region, and an auxiliary nurse by profession, will be the reporter to the Senate. Once the Social Affairs Committee approves the bill, it will go to for a full vote, likely around October 15.

If the Senate passes the bill without modifying it from the National Assembly version, the bill will be enacted immediately. If the Senate modifies it, the bill would require further reading and vote at the National Assembly, which will have the final say. It will then be published in the French Official Journal and becomes law. The law bans, as of January 1, 2014, production, import, export, and distribution of a any food packaging containing BPA. The French Food Safety Agency (ANSES) is due to publish a report on BPA substitutes by October 31. It is yet unclear if the French Senate will wait for the ANSES report before voting on the bill.