



Remote Work from France: Updated News

The "Visitor" status & remote work for a foreign employer — a welcomed clarification from the French Ministry of the Interior.

For a long time, a major legal uncertainty hovered over third-country nationals wishing to reside in France under the "visitor" status while continuing their professional activity remotely for an employer exclusively based abroad.

Through a key ministerial response published in the Official Journal on **June 23, 2026** (Written Question No. 11730 by MP François Gernigon), the French Ministry of the Interior has finally provided an essential and highly anticipated clarification for immigration lawyers and digital nomads alike.

1 The Root of the Debate: The Ambiguity of Article L. 426-20 of the CESEDA

Article L. 426-20 of the French Code on the Entry and Residence of Foreigners and the Right to Asylum (CESEDA) explicitly requires holders of a "visitor" residence permit to commit to **not engaging in any professional activity in France**. However, the text remained completely silent on the specific case of remote work carried out from French soil for a foreign employer, without any integration into or impact on the French labor market.

This lack of precision led to blatant contradictions between different administrative bodies:

- Some **consulates** routinely accepted foreign payslips as proof of financial self-sufficiency to issue a visitor visa.
- **Fiscal authorities** and certain local prefectures tended to argue that any physical work performed on French territory constituted exercising a profession in France — violating the status.

2 The Official Stance: "Foreign" Remote Work is Compatible with Visitor Status

The Ministry of the Interior has ruled clearly in favor of an economic and territorial approach to the job market. As long as the remote work is performed **exclusively for an employer established outside of France**, and has no ties to the local economy, the foreigner is to be considered non-active under French labor law.

"A third-country national who is not employed in France and does not exercise a professional activity to the benefit of a company located on French territory [...] but who remains compensated and pays the related taxes in their country of origin, must apply for a temporary 'visitor' residence permit."

The Ministry's reasoning is based on the total lack of connection between the remote work and the national economy. Because the French administration has no grounds to monitor or regulate this external economic flow, it does not conflict with the protection of the local labor market.

3 Strict Compliance Criteria Standardized by the Administration

To benefit from this official tolerance and safely secure or renew a "visitor" status while working remotely, several strict, **cumulative** criteria must be met:

- **Zero impact on the French market:** the remote work must not benefit any company or client located on French territory.
- **Foreign sourcing & taxation:** the applicant must remain paid abroad and continue to fulfil their tax obligations primarily linked to their country of origin or that of their employer.
- **Strict ban on local employment:** the permit holder remains strictly prohibited from any local professional activity subject to authorization or integrated into the French labor market.

What This Means for Your Application

This official response finally harmonizes administrative practices and offers invaluable legal certainty. Long-stay visa (VLS-TS) applicants for the "visitor" category can now legitimately use their foreign remote work income to prove financial autonomy, without fearing a systematic refusal based on claims of "undeclared local work".

However, the line between legal foreign remote work and the unauthorized exercise of a profession on French soil remains thin — especially when cross-border tax residence and social security rules come into play. Seeking the counsel of an immigration attorney remains highly recommended to secure the preparation of your visa application or renewal dossier.



Raphaël APELBAUM

Attorney-at-Law, Partner · French Immigration Advisor

LexCase Paris — French Immigration & Mobility Dept.

Email: rapelbaum@lexcase.com

Direct line: +33 6 50 83 84 37