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Sarkozy ropes in Amartya Sen to further growth plans

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PARIS: French President Nicolas Sarkozy said on Tuesday he had recruited two Nobel economists to work on changes in the way French growth is calculated to include quality-of-life factors.

Sarkozy said at his first press conference since being elected in May on a platform to reform and free up the economy that Amartya Sen of India had agreed to give advice and that US economist Joseph Stiglitz had agreed to chair a committee of experts.

Sarkozy said, "We must change the way we measure growth," argued that thought had to be given to the way gross national product was calculated to take account of the quality of life in France. New indices would improve the impression of growth performance among French people "who can no longer accept the growing gap between statistics that show continuing progress and the increasing difficulties they are having in their daily lives." Sarkozy said he had asked these two, "who have done a lot of work on these questions", to lead the analysis.

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