01. - The issue of "street harassment" is given a specific criminal response in both France and Belgium. This response is, in fact, part of a slightly broader legal framework which covers the fight against sexist comments and behaviours.

In Belgium, the Law of 22 May 2014 *aimed at combating sexism in the public space and amending the Law of 10 May 2007* (hereinafter - the Anti-sexism Law) makes "sexism" an offence (Anti-sexism Law [BE], 2014), art. 2 and 3) [(1)].

As for France, it adopts the Law no 2018-703 *reinforcing the fight against sexual and sexist violence* (hereinafter – the Sexual and Sexist Violence Law). This legislation adds a new title to the Criminal Code entitled "Sexist outrage" (Sexual and Sexist Violence Law [FR], 2018, art. 11). The behaviour qualified as such is made a violation in Article 621-1 of the aforementioned code. Law no. 2018-703 of 3 August 2018 also amends Article 222-33 of the Criminal Code, which concerns the offence of "sexual harassment" (Sexual and Sexist Violence Law [FR], 2018, art. 15) - the latter now also covers acts of a sexist nature. It is largely through this offence and the offence of sexist outrage that the French legislature intends to provide a specific criminal response to the phenomenon of "street harassment".

02. - Although Belgium and France are among the few States that have opted for the criminal prosecution of sexist acts, it is clear that they both follow very different approaches.

These discrepancies can be seen in the **strategies** adopted by these States - which is what this study focuses on. They are not limited to the inclusion of these offences either in the Criminal Code or in *ad hoc* legislation - France having followed the first of these avenues and Belgium the second. More fundamentally, these differences are witnessed at the following three levels: the **rationale** behind these laws and the values they are intended to protect **(A.)**; the **understanding**