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PRESS RELEASE

8th Annual Seminar in Istanbul under the theme “Turkey – France – European Union: Change Settings?”

#Bosphore2017

On the occasion of its 8th annual seminar, held on October 18th and 19th in Istanbul, and organized in collaboration with the *Conseil Supérieur de la Formation et de la Recherche Stratégique* (High Council for Strategic Research and Training, CSFRS) and Turkey: Culture of Change Initiative, Institut du Bosphore hosted in the format of hexagonal roundtable more than one hundred personalities from France, Germany and Turkey’s political, intellectual and business spheres to discuss the theme: “Turkey – France – European Union: Change Settings ?”.

The gala dinner of the Seminar has been organized under the auspices of France Ambassador to Turkey **H.E. Charles Fries** at Palais de France in Istanbul with the participation of **Mehmet Şimşek**, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, **Erol Bilecik**, President of TÜSİAD

The opening session of the Seminar took place in the presence of the Institut du Bosphore Scientific Committee Co-presidents **Ümit Boyner**, Member of the Board of Directors of Boyner Group, Vice-President of the TUSIAD High Advisory Council, and **Anne Lauvergeon**, Chairman of Innovation 2030 National Committee (France) and **Bahadır Kaleağası**, President, Institut du Bosphore, CEO & Board Member, TÜSİAD and **Selim Yenel**, Ambassador, Undersecretary at Ministry for EU Affairs, Turkey.

This event, to which the expertise and diversity of its participants contributes greatly to enriching the reflection around the future of EU-Turkey and France-Turkey relations, was held at a time where the European Union, France and Turkey have reached a pivotal moment in both their respective and common history. Whilst the migration crisis was at the heart of discussions during the last annual seminar held in March 2016, European challenges have since multiplied, with Brexit, the rise in populism, not to mention a series of unexpected electoral wins across the continent. Within such a context, the key role played by Institut du Bosphore as a vector of reflection and opinion sharing, is all the more significant.

Moderated by **Selin Nasi**, Columnist, Hürriyet Daily News, **Özgür Ünlühisarcıklı**, Director, Ankara Office, GMF (The German Marshall Fund of the United States) and **Didier Billion**, Deputy Director, IRIS (Institute for International and Strategic Relations), the three sessions, respectively entitled « *Globalization: Uploading, please wait...»*, « *European Union: Update pending...?* » et « *France - European Union - Turkey: New Settings in prism of lucidity?* » enabled the participants to exchange and debate with openness and sincerity, two characteristics dear to Institut du Bosphore.



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The discussions first focused on the multiple mutations of the world's strategic order, their consequences for the balance in international relations, for the future of Europe as well as Turkey, before shifting to the possible scenarios of a redefined European Union, the multiple benefits of a strengthened Franco-German axis, and concluded upon the strategic role France, as a historic diplomatic partner of Turkey since the 16th century, could play in reinforcing a European anchor in Turkey. A report, written by **Alain Delcamp**, Honorary Secretary General of the French Senate, Deputy chairman of the French association of Constitutionalists (AFDC) and **Didier Billion**, Deputy Director of IRIS (Institute for International and Strategic Relations), entitled "Franco-Turkish relations to the prism of lucidity: how to be more effective?" was unveiled, thus introducing the debate on the next roadmap for bilateral relations.

All agreed upon preserving the EU perspective for Turkey as crucial. Within this context, the participants all underlined the modernization of the customs union as a top-priority, representing a win-win opportunity for concrete advancement, creating wealth for both parts.

All convened the importance of nourishing the bilateral relationship with « quick-wins », notably economic, as first levers towards a long-term strengthening objective which goes beyond mere transactional relations and englobes a much wider scope of sectors. One thing is for certain: in a world prone to profound changes, where time is quickening and distances are shrinking, Turkey and the European Union will be needing each other more than ever before. As one of the speakers pointed out, now is not the time to build walls, it is the time to build bridges, time to move from word to action, and France, as the driving force of a European renewal led by the new French presidency, will have a key role to play in redefining the bilateral relationship.

In a world of multiple challenges, the Institut du Bosphore, key player of the dialogue between Turkey, France and the European Union, reaffirms its commitment to building better understanding between Turkey and its European partners and is looking towards strengthening the bilateral relationship through the many initiatives to be held in the months to come.

Among the personalities who participated in the seminar:

Jean-François Leguil-Bayart, Professor, Anthropology and Sociology of Development, Yves Oltramare Chairholder (Religion and Politics in the Contemporary World), Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, **Yves Bertoncini**, President, European Movement – France, **Joachim Bitterlich**, Ambassador (ret), Professor at ESCP Europe Paris, Scientific Committee Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Bertrand Buchwalter**, Consulat general of France in Istanbul, **Yavuz Canevi**, Chairman of the Board, TEB / BNP Paribas Scientific Committee Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Olivier Caron**, Director General, CSFRS (High Council for Strategic Research and Training), **Hélène Conway-Mouret**, French Senator, Former Minister, Scientific Committee Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Batu Çetin**, Country Head, Société Général Turkey, **Ünal Çeviköz**, Ambassador (R); Columnist, Hürriyet Daily News, **Arban Çitak**, Managing Director, Alstom Turkey, **Raphael Esposito**, General Manager, French Chamber of Commerce in Turkey, **Massimo D'Eufemia**, Head of Representation, European Investment Bank – Turkey, **Sebastien Groth**, Deputy Director for Policy Planning, German Ministry for Foreign Affairs, **Xavier Guilmineau**, President of the CCE (French Foreign Trade Advisors), **Kadri Gürsel**, Journalist-

political columnist, Cumhuriyet Board Member, IPI (International Press Institute), **Philippe Hochart**, Projects Director, International Department, European and International Affairs, ENGIE, **Hans Kundnani**, Senior Transatlantic Fellow, GMF (The German Marshall Fund of the United States), **Simone Kaslowski**, Board and Scientific Committee Member, Institut du Bosphore Vice-President of Board of Directors, TÜSİAD Leader of Global Relations and the EU Rundtable, TÜSİAD CEO, Organik Kimya, **Pierre Lellouche**, Former Deputy, Former Minister Scientific Committee Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Christine Lepage**, International Director, Medef, **Denis Lohest**, General Manager, Engie Turkey, **Guillaume Lejeune**, CEO, Axa Sigorta, Board Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Franck Mereyde** Deputy CEO, TAV Airports, **Özlem Özüner**, CEO, Euler Hermes Turkey Board Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Mithat Rende**, Ambassador (ret.), Independent Board Member, Engie Turkey, **Antoine de la Rochebrochard**, Deputy VP, Public Affairs, Institutional & Political Affairs, Eurasia RMC, Groupe Renault, **Srikant Seshadri**, Senior Resident Representative in Turkey, IMF (International Monetary Fund), **Günter Seufert**, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), **Bertrand Saraux**, Managing Director, Air Liquide Turkey, **Calins-Ionut Ungur**, Deputy Head of Division – Turkey, European External Action Service (EEAS), **Gabriel Munuera Vinals**, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, **Muharrem Yılmaz**, President, SÜTAŞ Former President, TÜSİAD Scientific Committee Member, Institut du Bosphore

The Program of the Seminar is available online:

<http://institut-bosphore.org/upload/event/765441508392649.pdf>

INSTITUT DU BOSPHORE

First think-tank entirely dedicated to the France-Turkey bilateral relationship, founded in 2009 at the initiative of the TUSIAD (Association of Turkish industries and companies), Institut du Bosphore aims to strengthen and review the dialogue between Turkey and its European partners.

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