

Paris, 3 December 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Institut du Bosphore's 9th Annual Seminar in Istanbul « Europe – France – Turkey : Stories for a smarter future »

#Bosphore2018

On the occasion of its 9th annual seminar organized in collaboration with CSFRS (High Council for Strategic Research and Training), Institut du Bosphore hosted more than one hundred personalities from France and Turkey's political, intellectual and business spheres on November 27th and 28th in Istanbul to discuss the theme:
« Europe – France – Turkey : Stories for a smarter future ».



The Seminar was opened with welcome and keynote remarks by Institut du Bosphore President **Bahadır Kaleağası**, Scientific Committee Co-Presidents, **Ümit Boyner**, Member of Board of Directors of Boyner Group, Vice President, TUSIAD High Advisory Council and **Augustin de Romanet**, Chairman & CEO, Groupe ADP as well as **Faruk Kaymakcı**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Director for EU Affairs of Turkey.

The gala dinner of the Seminar was organized under the auspices of France Ambassador to Turkey **H.E. Charles Fries** at Palais de France in Istanbul with the participation of **Jacques Maire**, Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee, French National Assembly and **Erol Bilecik**, President of TÜSİAD.

Moderated by **Görgün Taner**, Director General, IKSU (Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts), **Barçın Yınanç**, Columnist, Hurriyet Daily News and **Livio Manzini**, Vice-President, Institut du Bosphore; France Network President, TÜSİAD; Chairman & CEO, Bell Holding, the three sessions, respectively entitled « Cultural inspirations », « Global Trends » et « Business not as usual » enabled the participants to exchange in a forward-looking reflection on the various cooperation perspectives for strengthening EU – Turkey relations as well as the Turkish-French bilateral cooperation with a focus on the cultural and economic grounds.



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During the debates, the following messages were highlighted:

- In a changing world order marked by the mismanagement of globalization and the rise of populism, we need a strong Europe able to face the challenges. Beyond the European Union's fundamental values, the challenge is to invent a new European story for the future. In this context, key focus needs to be on avoiding a downturn in institutional relations between Turkey and the EU as well as strengthening the economic and political, but also cultural and societal cooperation links between Turkey and France. Turkey and Europe need to find a common language to address common challenges.
- Turkey and the European Union must both take their share of responsibility in the blocking of the accession process which has negative consequences for all parties. In the scope of Turkey's European integration, modernization of the Customs Union to include agriculture, services and public procurement as well as the digital dimension, to establish a dispute settlement mechanism and to correct the decision asymmetries necessitates the determination and efforts of all actors.
- In the era of digital transformation where technology and innovation create new opportunities for horizontal collaboration, Turkey and France offer important assets to implement projects dedicated to young entrepreneurs including training and support programs. Turkey has also strong potential in highly skilled human resources in this sector.
- While it is more important than ever to establish a genuine dialogue between civil societies, the strengthening of bilateral cultural projects was underlined for a better synergy between Turkey and France through the unifying force of art and culture. Literature, documentaries, cooperation between museums and projects around modern art have been mentioned among important tools in this field.

These reflections set the first lines of a roadmap for 2019 edition of the Seminar.

Among the personalities who participated in the seminar:

Filiz Akdede, President, TÜSİAD ICT (Information Communication Technologies) Working Group, CEO, HP Turkey, **Nazan Aktan**, President, Association of Contemporary Turkish Artists of Paris (ACT), **Evren Balta**, Political scientist, Associate Professor, Özyeğin University, **Olivier Caron**, Director General, CSFRS, **İzel Levi Coşkun**, Mentor "These Young People Have the Potential" (Bu Gençlikte İş Var) Project, TÜSİAD; CEO, Mazars Denge, **Laurence Daziano**, Economist, **Oya Eczacıbaşı**, Chair of the Board, Istanbul Museum of Modern Art, Scientific Committee Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Béatrice de Clermont Tonnerre**, Independent Board Member Hürriyet, Klepierre, Scientific Committee Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Laurence Dumont**, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Vice-President of the France-Turkey Friendship Group, French National Assembly, Scientific Committee Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Taner Horoz**, CEO, Horoz Bolloré Logistics, **Simone Kaslowski**, Vice President, TUSIAD, Board member, Institut du Bosphore, CEO, Organik Kimya, **Denis Lohest**, CEO, Engie Turkey, Board Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Delphine O**, Vice-President of the France-Turkey Friendship Group, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, French National Assembly, **Yavuz Ölken**, CEO, Axa Sigorta, **Soli Özel**, Professor of International Relations, İstanbul Kadir Has University; Scientific Committee Member, **Özlem Özüner**, CEO, Euler Hermes Turquie, Board Member, Institut du Bosphore, **Jean-Luc Soulé**, President, Mécénat & Entreprise/MEC'ENE, President, "Périgord Noir" Fast, **Haluk Tükel**, Board member, Institut du Bosphore, Advisor to the President of Süttaş, **Osman Ulagay**, Economist, Columnist, the Daily Dünya and the Press illustrator and cartoonist **Jul**.

Click for the [program](#) and the [photos](#) of the Seminar

Furthermore, Institut du Bosphore has been collaborating for several years with **RFI** (Radio France International) to organize the "Carrefour de l'Europe" program in Istanbul on the occasion of the Bosphorus Seminars. This year, **Vincent Souriau** has welcomed to the radio debate **Bahadır Kaleağası**, President, Institut du Bosphore & CEO, TUSIAD, **Jacques Maire**, Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Committee, French National Assembly, **Franck Mereyde**, Deputy CEO, TAV Airports & President, CCE - Foreign trade advisors of France and **Barçın Yinanç**, Columnist, Hurriyet Daily News to the discuss the future of EU – Turkey relations.

Click for the [podcast](#) (in French) of RFI radio program

INSTITUT DU BOSPHORE

Institut du Bosphore, the first think tank entirely dedicated to the Franco-Turkish bilateral relationship, created in 2009 at the initiative of TÜSİAD (Association of Industries and Enterprises of Turkey), aims to renew and strengthen the dialogue between Turkey and its European partners.

www.institut-bosphore.org

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