

Paris, March 16, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Inauguration of the Institut du Bosphore's 7th annual conference attended by Christophe Bouillon, President of the *Assemblée Nationale* (French parliament) Franco-Turkish Friendship Group and Cansen Başaran-Symes, President of TUSIAD, Turkish Industry and Business Association

#Bosphore2016

The Institut du Bosphore, in collaboration with the *Conseil Supérieur de la Formation et de la Recherche Stratégiques* ("CSFRS"), will host nearly one hundred political and intellectual personalities and business leaders from France and Turkey to debate *Turkey, France and the EU: Staying on course for Europe* during its 7th annual conference to be held on 17 and 18 March in Istanbul.

2015 witnessed a massive rise in threats, and international tension is running higher than ever. The fallout from the war in the Middle East is immense and requires the international community, especially Europe and Turkey, to take joint action.

At a time when Europe is undergoing all manner of crisis - economic, political, and institutional crises and above all a crisis of confidence - this conference will be an opportunity for participants to reflect on potential future institutional and economic scenarios for the EU and how they might play out on the future EU enlargement with particular regard to Turkey. The conference will allow us to restate our firm belief in the European project and to launch a debate about our shared future in a rapidly and fundamentally changing world.

Attended by the Co-Presidents of the Scientific Committee, **Ümit Boyner**, Member of the Board, Boyner Group, Vice-President of the High Advisory Council of TUSIAD, and **Anne Lauvergeon**, President of the Innovation 2030 Commission, this 7th annual conference will take a fresh look at the future of Europe, Turkey and France. It will make every effort to find solutions and identify the most relevant policies consistent with "more Europe", and to outline their cumulative effects and mutual benefits.

The debate will be introduced by **Christophe Bouillon**, President of the Assemblée Nationale Franco-Turkish Friendship Group, and **Cansen Başaran-Symes**, President of TUSIAD. Hosted by **Philippe Gélie**, Assistant Chief Editor of Le Figaro's International section and **Jacques Hubert-Rodier**, columnist for Les Echos and President of the French Diplomatic Press Association, the topics covered during this 7th annual conference will include current geo-political issues while emphasizing the benefits for Europe, France and Turkey of speaking with one voice internationally and bolstering cooperation and mutual support.



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The personalities attending the conference include:

Hakkı Akil, Turkey's Ambassador to France, **Georg Birgelen**, Germany's Consul General in Istanbul, **Hélène Conway-Mouret**, former Minister and now Senator representing French people outside France and member of Institut du Bosphore's Scientific Committee, **Eric Danon**, CSFRS Managing Director, Charles Fries, France's Ambassador to Turkey, **Beril Dedeoğlu**, Professor of international relations, University of Galatasaray and former Turkish Minister of European Affairs, **Augustin de Romanet**, Chairman and CEO of Aéroports de Paris, Member of Institut du Bosphore's Scientific Committee, **Thierry de Montbrial**, Founder and President of the French International Relations Institute and Member of Institut du Bosphore's Scientific Committee, **Muriel Domenach**, France's Consul General in Istanbul, **Bahadır Kaleağası**, President of the Board, Institut du Bosphore, **Jean-François Leguil-Bayart**, Professor of Anthropology and Sociology of Development and Yves Oltramare Chair of Religion and Politics in the Contemporary World at the Institut de Hautes Etudes Internationales et du Développement (Geneva), **Guillaume Lejeune**, Axa Sigorta Managing Director and Member of the Board, Institut du Bosphore, **Pierre Lellouche**, French Member of the Assemblée Nationale (Les Républicains – French center right party) Paris, and Les Républicains delegate for International Relations, former minister (Trade and European Affairs), Paris City Councillor, Member of Institut du Bosphore's Scientific Committee, **Rauf Engin Soysal**, Ambassador and Under Secretary, Ministry of European Affairs, Turkey, **Ludovic Subran**, Chief Economist and Director of Economic Research, Euler Hermes and **Muharrem Yilmaz**, President of SÜTAŞ, Member of Institut du Bosphore's Scientific Committee.

Please find the complete program on the Institut du Bosphore's website at: www.institut-bosphore.org

INSTITUT DU BOSPHORE

First ever think-tank dedicated to French/ Turkish relations founded in 2009 on the initiative of TUSIAD (Turkish Industry and Business Association), the Institut du Bosphore aims to reinvigorate and strengthen dialogue between Turkey and its European partners. Setting up this platform for dialogue and free and independent debate between business, society and intellectual figures has been both revealing and natural.

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