

INSTITUT DU BOSPHORE'S XIth ANNUAL SEMINAR IN ISTANBUL EUROPE'S GEOSTRATEGY BEYOND THE PANDEMIC

Institut du Bosphore Annual Seminar is a key international event taking place in Istanbul to debate world affairs and to promote insightful analysis on key issues concerning France, Turkey and the European Union in view of identifying strategic takeaways for a common future. The XIth Annual Seminar of Institut du Bosphore (Paris Bosphorus Institute) was held on 14 – 15 October on the theme « Europe's Geostrategy and Beyond the Pandemic ». Link to the programme → bit.ly/IBSeminar2021

The Seminar was opened with the gala dinner organized under the auspices of France Ambassador to Turkey H.E. Hervé Magro at Palais de France. Welcome and keynote remarks were delivered by Institut du Bosphore President **Bahadır Kaleağası** as well as Ambassador **Hervé Magro**, TÜSİAD President **Simone Kaslowski** and Ambassador **Engin Soysal**, Member of the Foreign Policy Advisory Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Former Undersecretary of the Ministry for EU Affairs, Turkey.

Institut du Bosphore President Bahadır **Kaleağası** stated “*We are determined to avoid sailing off different analytical dimensions of our field of interest. This is an effort to not isolate political, economic, social dimensions from each other; to make sure that the green and digital transformations with their technological, financial, regulatory and social dimensions are included in the debates and recommendations whether the focal topic is the transatlantic relationship, Europe's future, French-Turkish partnerships or the modernization of the EU – Turkey Customs Union*”. Link to the speech → bit.ly/IBPresidentOpening

The next day, plenary sessions took place in a hybrid format in Hilton Bosphorus Hotel. The opening remarks were delivered by Institut du Bosphore Scientific Committee Co-Presidents, **Ümit N. Boyner** and **Augustin de Romanet** and Turkey's Ambassador in Paris H.E. **Ali Onaner**.

Both co-presidents emphasized strategic importance of EU-Turkey relations and the upcoming France EU Council Presidency in their speech. **Ms. Boyner** underlined: “*The EU is our historical and geographical trajectory. Whenever Turkey had better relations with the EU, it moved to a more rules-based, market-oriented policies. Turkey contributed to the prosperity and the security of the European citizens.*” **Mr. de Romanet** stated: “*After tumultuous times, the Turkey-EU agenda proposed under the German EU Council Presidency last year has represented an opportunity for positive steps between the two and I hope that France, which will take over the EU presidency in 2022, will keep a close eye on strengthening this dynamic.*”

Following the opening session, the seminar continued with three sessions namely “Reinventing the transatlantic relationship: democracy and economy”, “Dynamics of political, green, and digital transitions in the EU and relations with Turkey” and “Institut du Bosphore Business Network” meeting focused on Turkish and French start-up ecosystems, from the smart city and clean urban mobility perspective.

The hexagonal table discussions hosted prominent business representatives, opinion leaders, politicians and media from the EU, France and Turkey. Two days debates were concluded with the « **Let's think together, let's build together** » motto, putting forward the idea of supporting concrete steps in many fields such as digital transformation, climate change, smart cities and education, despite the political fluctuations between Turkey and the European Union.



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Video recordings of the Seminar are available on www.institut-bosphore.org.

RFI broadcasts recorded on the sideline of our Seminar

Institut du Bosphore has been collaborating for several years with **RFI** (Radio France Internationale) to organize the "Carrefour de l'Europe" program in Istanbul on the occasion of the Bosphorus Seminars. This year, **Juliette Rengeval** has welcomed to the radio debate Institut du Bosphore President **Bahadır Kaleağası** and from Institute's Board and Scientific Committee Members: IRIS Deputy Director **Didier Billion**, Ambassador (ret.) **Joachim Bitterlich** and independent journalist **Barçın Yinanç** to discuss "How to rebuild relations between the EU and Turkey?". The podcast (17/10/2021) is available on the link → bit.ly/IB-RFICarrefourdeleurope

Didier Billion, author of "*La Turquie, un partenaire incontournable*" ("*Turkey, an essential partner*", Editions Eyrolles) was also the invitee of the program "Accents d'Europe" to discuss "Turkey, Europe: beyond the blockages". The podcast (18/10/2021) is available on the link → bit.ly/IB-RFIaccentsdeurope

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 (Turkish Industry & Business Association), aims to renew and strengthen the dialogue between Turkey and its European partners.

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