



Institut du Bosphore XI. Annual Seminar
EUROPE'S GEOSTRATEGY BEYOND THE PANDEMIC

Dr. Bahadır Kaleağası, President of Paris Bosphorus Institute; inaugurating the XIth Annual Istanbul Seminar
Palais de France, 14 October 2021

« In Paris, beginning of last century, Marcel Proust.

In *In Search of Lost Time* (also known as *Remembrance of Things Past*), author Marcel Proust's narrator, visiting his mother in Paris, involuntarily recalls an episode from his childhood after tasting a madeleine dipped in a cup of tea.

The flavor of the cake and the tea triggers a process of remembering that brings his past to life.

Palais de France, its flavors, its cultural and intellectual heritage remind us a lot about the French-Turkish relationship.

We also remember the 11 years of Institut du Bosphore's work. We discussed so many topics which relay the past to present and to the future.

Marcel Proust reasons: "I was conscious that it was connected with the taste of tea and cake, but that it infinitely transcended those savors, could not, indeed, be of the same nature as theirs. Whence did it come? What did it signify? How could I seize upon and define it?"

Time lost? Things past?

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 Agenda for an updated customs union between Turkey and the European Union.

Looking ahead for the time to conquer, time to understand, analyse and make best out of it...

As another famous French person, not from the past, but from the distant future the Star Trek ship Enterprise Captain Jean-Luc Picard says : "The only way forward is into the unknown..."

Thank you for being altogether in this journey to unknown, the uncharted territory that the future is. »