

INSTITUT DU BOSPHORE'S XIIth ANNUAL SEMINAR IN ISTANBUL

RISKS, HOPES AND ACTIONS EUROPE'S GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The XIIth edition Annual Seminar of Institut du Bosphore (Paris Bosphorus Institute) was held on 20 – 21 October in Istanbul on the theme « Risks, Hopes and Actions : Europe's Global Challenges ». As the flagship event of the Institute, the debates concentrated on the world affairs and endeavors to promote insightful analysis on key issues concerning France, Türkiye and the European Union in view of identifying strategic takeaways for a common future.

This year, the seminar was held with two main round tables namely “A Geostrategical Europe?” and “France and Turkey: At a time of changes?”, and the lunch-debate “What to understand from Green Transition in light of the energy crisis?”. The discussions recalled the need to maintain a strengthened dialogue between France, the European Union and Türkiye, intrinsically linked by their common geography and history.

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, with the participation of TÜSIAD President Mr. **Orhan Turan** and Türkiye's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs & Director for EU Affairs, Ambassador Mr. **Faruk Kaymakci**. During his welcome speech, Institut du Bosphore President **Bahadır Kaleağası** highlighted the need for the EU-Türkiye Customs Union modernization addressing digital, green and social dimensions, in line with the realities of the 21st century: *“Beyond the EU-Türkiye relations, for the future of Europe, the future of Western democracies, the transitions are not only and inevitably green and digital, but also social.”*

The next day at SALT Galata Museum, the all-day seminar was opened by Institut du Bosphore Scientific Committee Co-Presidents, **Ümit N. Boyner** and **Augustin de Romanet** as well as Mr. **Akif Çağatay Kılıç** et M. **Jean-Louis Bourlanges**, respectively President of the Foreign Affairs Commission of Türkiye's and France's Parliaments. Round table discussions were held following Permanent Representative of France to NATO Ambassador **Muriel Domenach**'s assessments.

Ms. Boyner underlined that *“Türkiye has to re-gain its status of a transatlantic, European and democratic partner. Unfortunately, Türkiye-EU relations became the victim of short-term political calculations and transactional tactics of both sides.”* **Mr. de Romanet** stated: *“In these turbulent times, communication and cooperation are more important than ever. I would like to recall the role of our entrepreneurs who have always maintained this open dialogue. Institut du Bosphore is a vibrant testimony to this.”*

The Seminar hosted more than one hundred prominent business representatives, opinion leaders, politicians and media from the EU, France and Türkiye.

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On Institut du Bosphore

Institut du Bosphore, the first think tank entirely dedicated to the Franco-Turkish bilateral relationship, created in 2009 in Paris at the initiative of TÜSIAD (Turkish Industry & Business Association), aims to renew and strengthen the dialogue between Türkiye and its European partners.

For more information on the seminar

- You may find in the link hereafter the programme and speakers of the Séminar on website → <https://bit.ly/IBProgramme2022>
- 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, **Frédérique Lebel** has welcomed **Sinan Ülgen**, Director of EDAM (Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies) and Scientific Committee Member of Institut du Bosphore and **Dorothee Schmid**, Head of Turkey Programme at IFRI (French Institute of International Relations) to the radio to discuss « La Turquie, nouvelle puissance géopolitique? » (Turkey, new geopolitical power?). The podcast (23/10/2022) is available on the link → https://bit.ly/IB_RFI_CarrefourdeEurope2022

Contact: Ms. Didem Bora Özler, Director, Institut du Bosphore (didem.bora@institut-bosphore.org)

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