

## INSTITUT DU BOSPHORE'S XIII<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SEMINAR IN ISTANBUL

### GEOPOLITICAL INTELLIGENCE AND ECONOMY

The XIII<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar of Institut du Bosphore (Paris Bosphorus Institute) entitled « Geopolitical Intelligence and Economy » was held on 19 – 20 October in Istanbul. 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 round tables namely “Change and continuity in the global order; implications for Europe”, and “Geopolitics and Business Partnerships: Trade, investments, sustainable development, post-earthquake reconstruction”, and was ended with a debate on the role of new technologies and digital soft power in international relations.

The Seminar was opened with the gala dinner organized under the auspices of France Ambassador to Türkiye H.E. **Isabelle Dumont** at Palais de France, with the participation of Mr. **Orhan Turan**, President of TÜSİAD. The opening speeches recalled the need to maintain a strengthened dialogue between France, the European Union and Türkiye as we enter the second century of the Turkish Republic. Mr. Turan stated: *“We believe that the revitalisation and concrete progress of Türkiye - EU relations as well as the improvement in functioning of the Customs Union will contribute to the European competitiveness and open strategic autonomy.”*

During the cocktail ceremony, Institut du Bosphore President Mr. **Bahadır Kaleağası** received the award of the title of the Knight of the National Order of the Merit by Her Excellency Ms. Isabelle Dumont. *“Receiving this knighthood, especially in the Turkish Republic’s centenary, is also a sign of confidence in Bosphorus Institute’s contribution to European and republican values. It is as well a call to continue our efforts for a better world.”* (Full speech: [bit.ly/BKaleaqasi\\_IB2023](https://bit.ly/BKaleaqasi_IB2023))

The next day at Sait Halim Paşa Yalısı, the all-day seminar was opened by Institut du Bosphore Scientific Committee Co-Presidents, **Ümit N. Boyner** and **Augustin de Romanet**. Ms. Boyner reiterated that the value- and rules-based nature of EU – Türkiye relations should be maintained and strengthened, and any other tailor-made relationship model without the accession process' conditionality may have significant negative effects in the region and around the world. Mr. de Romanet also emphasized the need to modernize Customs Union and the potential areas of further collaboration it represents beyond the increased trade between EU and Türkiye, such data management, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria and European Green Deal to reach the carbon neutrality target by 2050.

The round table discussions provided an overview of current issues related to global order and Europe as well as geopolitical and economic challenges through France-Türkiye axis. (The programme and speakers of the Séminar : [bit.ly/IBSeminar2023Programme](https://bit.ly/IBSeminar2023Programme))

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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## INSTITUT DU BOSPHORE

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

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