




STRATEGIC MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE

PALAIS NEPTUNE, TOULON
PROGRAM 9TH &
10TH NOVEMBER



RS 
Med

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

8 am

Opening and welcome coffee

9 am

Introduction panel

Trucy/Vauban Amphitheater

Pascal Ausseur
Executive Director of
the FMES Institute

Xavier Pasco
Executive Director of
the FRS

François de Canson
Vice-President of the
Region SUD-PACA

Thomas Gassilloud
President of the Defence and
Armed Forces Committee of
the French National Assembly

Karim Amellal
French Ambassador for the
Mediterranean

10.30
am

First cycle of round tables

Trucy/Vauban Amphitheater

Colbert Room

Raimu Room



The Mediterranean :
a multi-theatrical
geographical space
of air and space
power

The Levant and
the Eastern
Mediterranean : a
renewed area of
interest for regional
and global powers

Technological and
environmental
disruptions in the
seabed

12am

Lunch break

2.30
pm

Second cycle of round tables

Trucy/Vauban Amphitheater

Colbert Room

Raimu Room



South-
European land
convergences

Influence strategies
Information
warfare, normative
powers and
religious factors

Artificial
intelligence and
drones : the
challenges of the
collaborative
warfare

Trucy/Vauban Amphitheater

4.30 to
6 pm

From the Suez Canal to the horn of Africa : a major geostrategic challenge

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

8 am

Opening and welcome coffee

Trucy/Vauban Amphitheater

9 am



Keynote speaker : Nathalie Loiseau, Member of the European Parliament and Chief of the European Parliament's Sub-Directorate for Security and Defence

10.30 am

Third cycle of round tables

Trucy/Vauban Amphitheater

Colbert Room

Raimu Room



Maritime flows in the Mediterranean, issues and threats : What actions should European and coastal navies take?

The Maghreb, the Mediterranean and Europe: strategic issues

Disruptive technologies: have the offensive weapons taken over the defensive ones ?

12 am

Lunch break

2 pm



Keynote speaker : Georges Malbrunot, French journalist, Middle East and Israeli-Palestinian conflict expert, former hostage

3.30 pm

Fourth cycle of round tables

Trucy/Vauban Amphitheater

Colbert Room

Raimu Room

Power rivalries : China, USA, Russia and the Middle East

Energy issues

Disparities and Common Challenges in the Mediterranean : Perspectives from the Euro-Mediterranean Youth

5 pm

Conclusion by Alice Rufo, Executive Director of the DGRIS - Ministry of Armed Forces

The Mediterranean : a multi-theatrical geographical space of air and space power



Major General Philippe Morales - French Air and Space Force



General Osama Abbas Soliman Abdelmaksoud - Egyptian Air and Space Force



Major General Panagiotis Georgakopoulos - Hellenic Air and Space Force



Major General Andrea Argieri - Italian Air and Space Force

Round Table

The Mediterranean area is a strategically important region. Linking Europe, Africa and Asia, it is a place of economic, cultural and political exchange. Centered on the Mediterranean Sea, the area encompasses the 21 countries that border it, and is a major crossroads for international security and stability. Indeed, these geostrategic features are accompanied by numerous risks and threats to be curbed: geopolitical tensions brought to bear by local, often non-state actors and/or external powers, obstacles to supply flows, denial of access to resources, migratory flows, terrorism, and so on. Aerospace power's responsiveness, reach, agility and versatility enable it to prevent and intervene in trouble spots, either in complete autonomy or in support of other components. Air and space forces thus have a central role to play in security and defense in the Mediterranean.

The Levant and Eastern Mediterranean: a renewed area of interest for regional and global powers



Moderator : **Pierre Razoux** is a doctor habilitated to direct research and the Academic Director of the FMES institute. Prior to joining the FMES, he headed the "Europe/Russia/Mediterranean/Middle East" section at the Institut de Recherche Stratégique de l'Ecole Militaire.



Dorothee Schmid is a specialist in Mediterranean and Turkish issues. She is a graduate of Science Po Paris, and holds a PhD in political science from the Université Paris-II Panthéon-Sorbonne.



Hasan Yükselen is the Director of Security and Strategic Studies at the Ankara Foreign Policy Institute in Turkey (TFPI), since 2023. He has held many positions, including advisor to the Head of the Intelligence Division at Turkish General Staff Headquarters (2020-2023).



Marc Semo is a well-known french journalist working for *Le Monde*. Previously, Marc Semo was head of the world section at *Libération*. A long-time reporter in Turkey, he has an in-depth knowledge of the Middle-East. Since 2016, he has been working for *Le Monde* to cover diplomatic news, and then to co-host the newspaper's ideas-debate pages as deputy editor.



Nomi Bar-Yaacov is a Research Associate in the International Security Program at Chatham House, an expert in diplomacy and the Middle East, an international human rights lawyer, an international negotiator and mediator with over twenty years' experience in mediating international conflicts.

Round Table

This round table will decipher the consequences of the war between Israel and Hamas, particularly for Israel's neighbors, as well as the risks of the conflict spreading to the regional scene. It will also analyze the consequences of the war in Ukraine on the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as the tensions between Turkey and Greece around the island of Cyprus, and address cross-cutting issues such as the delimitation of territorial waters and the status of Turkish straits, whose geostrategic importance has been brought back to the forefront of public debate since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. In the Levant, the regional destabilization caused by the civil war in Syria and the gradual disengagement of the United States from the region have also given rise to new power policies from other part of states such as Russia, China, Iran and Turkey.

Technological and environmental disruptions in the seabed



Moderator : Thierry Duchesne is Commissary General of 1st class (French Navy) and Director of the Maritime Department at the FMES institute. During his career in the navy, he has developed expertise in maritime issues and government action at sea.



Olivier Guyonvarch is the French Ambassador to Jamaica and French representative to the International Seabed Organization. He specializes in foreign affairs, particularly with China, the Law of the Sea and polar issues.



Nicolas Mazzucchi is Director of Research at the CESM (Center for Marine Strategic Studies). With a PhD in economic geography, he has spent over ten years in both academic and operational fields, focusing on energy, commodities and cyber-strategy.



Marc Delorme is Submarine Product Line Manager at Thales Underwater systems. He has held several positions in the French Navy, including commander of a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine.



Alain Fidani is Director of Partnerships and Innovation Financing within the EXAIL's Maritime Systems Division. Formerly, he has successively worked for Airbus, Cybernetix and Technip, where he was in charge of the development, marketing and commissioning of automatic and robotic systems.

Round Table

The seabed is currently undergoing an upheaval of two kinds. Firstly, new undersea technologies are making the seabed more accessible and exploitable every day, creating a growing strategic dimension in our modern world (undersea cables, biological and mineral resources, marine renewable energies). But the arrival of these technologies is also bringing new threats in terms of security, safety, heritage and environment to States. Another new factor is a growing environmental awareness linked to climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Against this backdrop, the international community is now questioning the environmental consequences of poorly controlled exploitation of the seabed, given the lack of scientific knowledge and the fragility of this environment.

South-European land convergences



General Pierre Schill - Chief of Staff of the French Army



Lieutenant General Angelos Choudeloudis - Chief of Staff of the Hellenic Army



Lieutenant General Salvatore Camporeale - Commander of the Italian Land Operations Forces



Major General Rafael Colomer Martinez Del Peral - Advisor to the Spanish Army Chief of Staff



General Paulo Pereira - Commander of the portuguese Land Forces



Colonel Cucos César - Commander of the Romanian Land Forces

Round Table

In the context of the war in Ukraine and, more broadly, the upheaval of the world order inherited from the Second World War, security and collective defence issues are playing an increasingly important role in European inter-state relations. Threats emerging at the eastern gateway to the continent are increasing the cohesion of States and influences public opinion : it highlights the strategic use of force especially as a tool for protection and as a strategic signal. More credible. Threats from areas bordering the Mediterranean basin, particularly on the south-eastern flank, add to those from Russian power and become additional matters of vigilance. In this context, the nations of southern Europe, and in particular their land-based components, are called upon to commit to anticipating potential crises and preparing collective responses.

Influence strategies : information warfare, normative powers and religious factors



Moderator : **Alexandre Jubelin** has a PhD in modern history from the Paris-Sorbonne university. He founded and produced two podcasts: Le Collimateur the first French-language podcast on military and strategic issues, and Le Rétrovisseur, a podcast from Entre-temps magazine devoted to historical research articles.



Marie-Doha Besancenot is Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy at NATO. She is a graduate of the École Normale Supérieure (ENS), with a DEA in English and a Masters in German Studies.



Maxime Audinet is a researcher on influence strategies at IRSEM, and an expert on Russia. He holds a PhD in Slavic Studies and Political Science from the University of Paris Nanterre.



Blandine Chelini-Pont is a Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Aix-Marseille and holds a doctorate in law. She is in charge of the law and religion section of the Law and Social Change Laboratory at the Faculty of Law and Political Science in Aix-en-Provence.



Nad'a Kovalčíková is a Senior Analyst in charge of the Transnational Security Portfolio at the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and Project Director of the multi-million dollar EU-funded initiative "Countering Foreign Interference".

Round Table

Erected as a strategic priority and a new axis of conflict, influence corresponds to all the non-military strategies put in place by belligerents to influence conflicts, whether they concern them directly or not. "Hybrid warfare" therefore encompasses a whole range of techniques, methods and tools for achieving one's goals. The "war of influence" gives rise to a number of responses on the part of States, which are increasing their vigilance to these threats, and creating various structures, with the aim of adapting to these crucial issues. What are the concrete effects of this adaptation? How can we analyze and respond effectively to these new threats, at national, European and international level ?

Artificial intelligence and drones : challenges of the collaborative warfare



Moderator: **Philippe Gros** is a senior researcher at FRS. His work focuses on military issues, in particular military concepts and capabilities, and the methodology of strategic analysis and situation assesment.



Nilza Amaral is a programme manager of the International Security programme at Chatham House. Her areas of expertise include the conduct of war, including ethics and the transformation of warfare, with a particular focus on armed drones.



Bruno Fichfeux is Head of the Future Combat Air System (FCAS) programme at Airbus and was appointed member of the Airbus Defence and Space Executive Committee in January 2022. He has been leading the FCAS programme at Airbus since 2018.



Cyril Lévy is the Director of Drones and Autonomous and Collaborative Systems at Naval Group. In 2012, he took charge of the drone design and deployment programs assigned to Naval Group by the French Ministry of Defence.



Loïc Rullière is Head of the Deep and Tactical Strike sector within MBDA's Future Systems Division. He leads the team responsible for developing future weapons concepts for strikes and is involved in work to develop collaborative combat capabilities.

Round Table

Military operations are undergoing multiple transformations. Among these, collaborative combat considers much greater integration of the tactical actions of different units, platforms and even their munitions. This collaborative combat will involve a growing number of drone systems, the criticality of which is already foreshadowed by recent conflicts such as the war in Ukraine, in all fields (Unmanned Aerial / Surface / Undersea Systems). Artificial intelligence techniques will provide critical means to control these vast systems of systems, and to make these drone systems increasingly autonomous, which will not be without facing major challenges in terms of the trust to be placed in these devices. How do these different transformations fit together ? What are the operational, technological, industrial and ethical issues involved ?

From the Suez Canal to the horn of Africa : a major geostrategic challenge



Moderator: Marie-France Chatin is a journalist at Radio France Internationale. Producer of the "geopolitics" program, she was previously a Grand Reporter with RFI's International Service.



Camille Lons is a Visiting Fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). Her recent work focuses on Gulf foreign policy, Gulf-China relations, Gulf-Asia relations and the geopolitics of the Red Sea.



Géraldine Pinault is a specialist on the Horn of Africa. She works as a consultant for international and national public institutions, NGOs and private companies. She is the author of several academic articles on local and regional geopolitics, international migration and refugee issues.



Rear-Admiral (R) Jean-Michel Martinet is a researcher for the FMES' maritime department. He has had an operational career with surface forces, commanding three warships. He also commanded the Combined Task Force 150 in the Indian Ocean.



Richard Watts is the founder of HR Maritime, which provides professional services and bespoke training to the trade, shipping and trade finance sectors.

Round Table

The Red Sea is a transit area for almost 40% of the world's maritime trade, and a geopolitical axis under tension. Guarded and secured by Egypt near the Suez Canal, which it administers to the north, the Red Sea is locked off to the south by the Gulf of Aden, a strategic area regularly targeted by piracy in the Horn of Africa. At the same time, the Gulf of Aden is a strategic issue in the conflict between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis who are fighting forces loyal to President Hadi in Yemen. Across the strait, Djibouti occupies a key geostrategic position. The country alone was home to some six foreign military bases, attracted by its vantage point over the Horn of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and the serious ongoing conflict in Yemen.

Friday November 10th
9am - Trucy/Vauban Amphitheater

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the European Parliament's Sub-Directorate for Security and Defence.

NATHALIE LOISEAU

Since 2019, Nathalie Loiseau has been a Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the European Parliament's Sub-Directorate for Security and Defence. Nathalie Loiseau is a graduate of IEP Paris and INALCO. She was a French diplomat at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs from 1986 to 2012, she joined Emmanuel Macron's government in 2017 as Minister for European Affairs.

Amphitheater

Maritime flows in the Mediterranean, issues and threats : What actions should European and coastal navies take?



Admiral Nicolas Vaujour - French Navy
Chief of Staff



Rear Admiral Mohamed Tahin : Inspector of
the Royal Moroccan Navy - Chief of Naval
Staff



Rear Admiral Ayman Adel Abbas El Daly - Egyptian
Navy



Vice Admiral Martínez-Merello y Díaz de Miranda -
Spanish Navy



Admiral Andrea Gueglio, director for the employment
of Navy military personnel

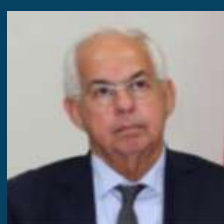
Round Table

At a time when the world is undergoing accelerating change and international balances are being called into question, the Mediterranean basin is concentrating these imbalances while remaining a vital area for trade and communications between States, whether bordering the Mediterranean or not. This characteristic gives the straits (Gibraltar, the Sicilian Canal, the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus, the Suez Canal) and the countries bordering them a particular responsibility, at a time when conflicts are multiplying on the fringes of the Mediterranean. In the context, what is the role of the navies bordering the Mediterranean? What strategy should they put in place, both autonomously and in cooperation, to meet the issues and challenges of maritime safety and security?

The Maghreb, the Mediterranean and Europe : strategic issues



Moderator : Miguel Alvarez de Eulate y Moreno is founder and CEO of FESEI, an analysis center and institution dedicated to higher education, diplomatic training, the intelligence community, leadership and business intelligence.



Mohammed Tawfik MOULINE has been Managing Director of the Institut Royal des Études Stratégiques since 2007, an institution whose main mission is to help shed light on Morocco's major strategic choices. In July 2003, he was appointed to the Royal Cabinet as Chargé de Mission, where he led strategic studies and reflections on the future.



Rear Admiral (R) Kamel Akrouf is President and Founder of the IPASSS think tank (Institute for Prospective and Advanced Strategic Security Studies) and former Senior Advisor for National Security to the President of the Republic and Permanent Secretary of Tunisia's National Security Council from January 2015 to November 2019.



Djenabou Cisse is a research fellow at the FRS and works on defense and security issues, in particular military and operational issues, as part of the Observatory of Future Conflicts. Her research also focuses on strategic and security dynamics in Africa (North Africa, Sahel and Gulf of Guinea).

Round Table

Dedicated to relations between the Maghreb, the Mediterranean and Europe, this round table will address the major strategic issues in the region. From the chaos in Libya to the renewed tensions between Algeria and Morocco, from migration issues to resource management, Euro-Mediterranean relations are the product of a long history and encompass political, diplomatic, military, security and strategic issues. What, then, are the prospects for cooperation and the axes of dissonance? We will analyze the historical underpinnings of their relationship, and the various exchanges that link them.

Disruptive technologies : have the offensive weapons taken over the defensive ones?



Moderator : Xavier Pasco is the managing director of the Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS) since 2016, where he previously coordinated work on space, high technology and security. He has worked extensively on space policy issues in their civilian and military dimensions.



Laurent Duport is director of business strategy, in charge of the missiles and systems product portfolio for MDBA. He has held senior positions in software and systems engineering in the fields of missiles, ground-to-air systems, air defence, missile defence and air traffic control at Thales.



Xavier Mesnet is director of the Naval segment at Thales. He was previously Director of Naval Strategy at Thales Defence Mission System, and has been working in the naval industry for some 15 years. He previously served in the French Navy, commanding several nuclear submarines.



Younik Thomas is a program manager for C2 activities dedicated to Ballistic Missile Defence, at ArianeGroup. He is also in charge of Business Development with NATO.

Round Table

The outbreak of the war in Ukraine on February 24, 2022 marks a return to high-intensity warfare on the European continent. This historic shift is synonymous with major upheavals for the defence industry. The so-called "offensive" weapons seem to have taken precedence over "defensive" weapons, particularly those mobilized in the context of counter-terrorism and guerrilla warfare that marked the 2000s in the African and Middle Eastern theaters. Do missiles still leave room for shields, drones and A2AD bubbles? What influence do defensive and offensive weapons have in the tactical balance, and what balance needs to be found between these technologies?

Friday November 10th
2pm - Trucy/Vauban Amphitheater

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



French journalist, specializing in the Middle East and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, currently Grand Reporter at Le Figaro.

GEORGES MALBRUNOT

Georges Malbrunot graduated from the Institut Pratique du Journalisme (IPJ) in Paris in 1986. In 1994, he moved to the Middle East and became a correspondent for French newspapers. He continues to work for La Croix, but also for Le Figaro, Ouest-France, Europe 1, RTL and AFP. In 2004, he was taken hostage for several months by the Islamic Army in Iraq.

Power confrontations : China, USA, Russia and the Middle East



Moderator : Admiral (2s) **Pascal Aousseur** is the managing director of the FMES institute. After an operational career, he was in charge of international relations in the Euro-Atlantic region at the Armed Forces General Staff and head of the Minister's military cabinet.



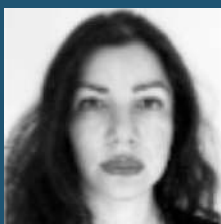
Maya Kandel is a specialist in American foreign policy, and a research associate at the Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3 (CREW). In 2021 and 2022, she was senior fellow and director of the United States program at the Institut Montaigne.



Igor Delanoë has been deputy director of the Franco-Russian Observatory (CCI France-Russia, Moscow) since 2015, and holds a PhD in history from the University Côte d'Azur (Nice). His expertise covers the geopolitics of Russia, Russian presence and interests in the Black Sea, the Mediterranean and the Middle East.



Emmanuel Lincot is a French university professor and consultant. He is a lecturer at the Faculty of Arts of the Institut Catholique de Paris. He has also been a regular consultant to the French Presidency and Matignon on Chinese affairs for almost ten years.



Lina Blin is a diplomat specializing in the Near and Middle East. She is a project officer at the Center for Analysis, Forecasting and Strategy at the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. She was previously director of the private office of the Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean and a political counsellor at the French Embassy in Amman.

Round Table

In a world that is becoming increasingly fragmented and constructed along the lines of antagonistic blocs, we will try to decipher which forces are present, which are allied, but also against whom, and for what reasons. Whether rooted in history, ideologies, religions or cultures, how do these logics influence world geopolitics? What is Europe's place in this game, and what are the prospects for change in these dynamics?

Geopolitics of energy



Moderator : **Annabelle Livet** is a research fellow at the FRS working on energy security issues. She is also developing work on Germany and the European Union, and preparing a thesis on the conceptual and spatial divergences of energy security in Europe, and the implications for the EU and NATO.



Elai Rettig is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. He also serves as the head of the energy division at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA). He specializes in energy geopolitics, Israeli foreign policy, and regional environmental politics.



Michel Derdevet is President of the Think Tank Confrontations Europe and the Maison de l'Europe de Paris. He was Senior Advisor EY - Parthenon, former General Secretary, Member of the Enedis Management Board (2013 - 2019), French essayist specialized in energy.



Eric Baldecchi is currently leading the Threat Intelligence and Analysis Department within Total's Global Security Intelligence Department. He has served in operational units in France and abroad, as well as in central administration and French embassies as a Defence Attaché.



Anne-Lise Teani is Deputy Director of European and International Affairs and Cooperation at the Commission de Régulation de l'Energie (CRE). She is vice-president of the institutional affairs group of the association of Mediterranean energy regulators, MedReg.

Round Table

This round table will address the geopolitical, security, economic and environmental challenges posed by the exploration, exploitation and marketing of fossil and renewable energies. How do contemporary energy issues constitute a major political and diplomatic challenge? How have they returned to the heart of geostrategic tensions, negotiations and exchanges between states? What then are the challenges and prospects facing France and Europe as they seek to ensure their energy independence, around increasingly scarce, contested and coveted resources, in areas undergoing constant strategic recomposition?

Disparities and Common Challenges in the Mediterranean : Perspectives from Euro-Mediterranean Youth



Moderator : **Gildas Leprince**, alias **Mister Geopolitix**, is a videast who popularizes themes such as illegal jungle camps, migration, drug trafficking, terrorism, the Foreign Legion and corruption. It aims to “help people discover and understand the world”.



Diogo Cardoso is a doctoral student in international relations at the Institute of Social and Political Sciences of the University of Lisbon (ISCSP - ULisboa). His thesis focuses on China's space program.



Kamilia Bentala is currently in her second year of a Master's degree in Mediterranean and African politics in Euromed University of Fes. She was the only Moroccan student to participate at the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations panel.



Antoine Poirier holds a Master's degree from the Institut of Political Studies of Bordeaux in International Affairs, specializing in Peace and Security, and is also a graduate in Arab Languages and Societies. He has been involved with the Jeunes IHEDN for 4 years.



Nael El Kihal is a second year student at Science Po Paris, on Menton campus, specializing in the study of the Middle East and the Mediterranean and Vice-President of the student association “Centre Science Po pour la Recherche Stratégique” (CRS).

Round Table

The Mediterranean is both a place of exchange and sharing, as well as a sea that separates societies divergent in their economic, social, societal, cultural, and political models. This roundtable will address, from the perspective of youth, the challenging pursuit of a balance between solving common challenges, managing tensions between countries, and the need to respect identities and models, both in the North and the South. Faced with security challenges, geopolitical issues, and migratory movements, how can an agreement be reached despite disparities?

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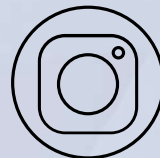
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