

3rd edition of the

# **STRATEGIC MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE**

Free entrance - Open to everyone



**OCTOBER  
8-9, 2024**

**TOULON  
FRANCE**

**LET'S SHARE  
OUR  
PERSPECTIVES**

# PROGRAM

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

**8 am** | OPENING AND WELCOME COFFEE

**9 am** | INTRODUCTION PANEL

**PASCAL AUSSEUR**

Director of the Mediterranean  
Foundation for Strategic Studies

**FRANÇOIS DE CANSON**

Vice-Chairman of the Regional  
Council of the Region Sud

**KARIM AMELLAL**

Ambassador and Interministerial  
Delegate for the Mediterranean

**XAVIER PASCO**

Director of the Foundation for  
Strategic Research

**10.30 am** | FIRST CYCLE OF ROUND TABLES

**08**

TRUCY  
AMPHITHEATER



WHAT FRENCH DEFENSE  
POLICY IN THE FACE OF A  
FRACTURED WORLD?

Strategic and Political Issues

**08**

COLBERT ROOM



ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY  
AND POWER ISSUES: WHAT  
STRATEGY AND MODEL FOR  
FRANCE?

Crossing security challenges

**08**

RAIMU ROOM



FRENCH DETERRENCE IN THE  
FACE OF NEW THREATS:  
ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND  
DEVELOPMENTS.

Technological Challenges and Disruptions

**12 am** | LUNCH BREAK

**2.30 pm** | SECOND CYCLE OF ROUND TABLES

**08**

TRUCY  
AMPHITHEATER



ASSERTING POWER AND  
RIVALRIES: REDEFINING THE  
BALANCE OF POWER?

Geopolitical recompositions

**08**

COLBERT ROOM



GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY:  
THE CHALLENGES OF  
ENERGY SECURITY.

Crossing security challenges

**08**

RAIMU ROOM



AFRICA AT THE HEART OF  
INFLUENCE STRATEGIES:  
GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS IN THE  
SAHEL-SUDAN STRIP.

Geopolitical recompositions

**4.30 pm** | KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **MAMAN SAMBO SIDIKOU**



# PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH

**8 am** | OPENING AND WELCOME COFFEE

**8.30am** | THIRD CYCLE OF ROUND TABLES

**09**

TRUCY  
AMPHITHEATER



WHICH MODEL FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION REGARDING THE WORLD'S GEOPOLITICAL AWAKENING?

*Geopolitical recompositions*

**09**

COLBERT ROOM



INFLUENCE STRATEGIES AND INFORMATION MANIPULATION: CHALLENGES FOR 2024, A MAJOR ELECTION YEAR?

*Crossing security challenges*

**09**

RAIMU ROOM



MARITIME SURVEILLANCE: WHAT THREATS? WHAT OPPORTUNITIES?

*Technological Challenges and Disruptions*

**10.15am** | PLENARY SESSION

TRUCY AMPHITHEATER  
*Strategic and political issues*

**CONFLICT EVOLUTION: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE ARMY.**

**12 am** | LUNCH BREAK

**2 pm** | KEYNOTE SPEAKER : **KAMEL DAOUD**

**3.15 pm** | FOURTH CYCLE OF ROUND TABLES

**09**

TRUCY  
AMPHITHEATER



CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST: A STRATEGIC TURNING POINT?

*Geopolitical recompositions*

**09**

COLBERT ROOM



THE WAR ECONOMY AND REINDUSTRIALISATION: WHAT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RESURGENCE OF HIGH-INTENSITY CONFLICTS?

*Technological Challenges and Disruptions*

**09**

RAIMU ROOM



YOUTH AND WAR: PERCEPTIONS, REACTIONS, ENGAGEMENTS.

*Strategic and Political Issues*

**5 pm** | PLENARY SESSION

TRUCY AMPHITHEATER  
*Strategic and political issues*

**GEOPOLITICS AND CONFLICT:  
THE VIEWPOINT OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF.**

**6 pm** | CLOSING REMARKS

# WHAT FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY IN THE FACE OF A FRACTURED WORLD?



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**  
**10.30 AM, TRUCY-VAUBAN AMPHITHEATER**



**STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES**

“Defence! This is the primary *raison d'être* of the State. It cannot fail to do so without destroying itself”. (Charles de Gaulle, Bayeux speech 1952). In a fractured [and] tense world, in which antagonisms and resentments were growing stronger on the international scene, the question of France's defence was once again raised. After several decades of insouciance during which defence budgets and manpower played the role of an adjustment variable, the time has come to reassess the place and form that the defence effort should take in the action of the State.

The 2024-2030 Military Planning Act (LPM) voted through on 7 June this year (314 votes in favour, 87 against) provides for an increase in the defence budget to a total of €413 billion over the next 7 years, raising the national defence effort to 2% of GDP from 2025. Can the recent legislative elections call this commitment into question? Do we need to review the balance between national autonomy, the development of a European defence and the Atlantic Alliance? Do we need to reassess the balance between technology and mass?

This round-table discussion, which will bring together elected representatives from the French National Assembly and the Senate of different political parties, will help to determine what visions, strategies and political options are being proposed to the French people by the various parties. For we are leaving behind the days of mere management and entering the era of real politics.

## MODERATOR

### DIDIER LAURAS - AFP

Didier Lauras is a journalist at Agence France-Presse, covering terrorism, intelligence, geopolitics, defence and diplomacy.

### YANNICK CHENEVARD

Member of Parliament for the 1st constituency of Var (Ensemble pour la République). Member of the National Defence and Armed Forces Committee.

### ANDRÉ GUIOL

Senator for the Var (Rassemblement Démocratique et Social Européen). Member of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces Committee.

### JEAN-LOUIS THIERIOT

Member of Parliament for the 3rd constituency of Seine-et-Marne (Republican Right). Vice-Chairman of the National Defence and Armed Forces Committee.

### AURÉLIEN SAINTOUL

Member of Parliament for the 11th constituency of Hauts-de-Seine (La France Insoumise, Nouveau Front Populaire). Member of the National Defence and Armed Forces Committee.

### FRANCK GILETTI

Member of Parliament for the 6th constituency of the Var (Rassemblement National). Member of the National Defence and Armed Forces Committee.

**ROUND  
TABLE**





# ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY AND POWER ISSUES: WHAT STRATEGY AND MODEL FOR FRANCE?



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**  
**10.30 AM, COLBERT ROOM**



**CROSSING SECURITY CHALLENGES**

After decades of economic and political convergence driven by the liberal globalisation that began in the early 1980s, the world is now in a structural phase of fragmentation. Economic interdependence, once seen as a guarantee of efficiency and peace, is now seen as a vulnerability that limits freedom of action and authorises coercion.

How can we regain the necessary level of sovereignty in a world that remains both interdependent and in competition, or even confrontation? What sovereignty should we guarantee *vis-à-vis* China? Energy producers? The United States? Or even other European countries? Does the notion of European sovereignty still have any meaning? Are defence industries particularly at stake? The participants in this round table will attempt to answer all these questions.

## MODERATOR

**HÉLÈNE MASSON - FRS**

Hélène Masson holds a doctorate in political science from the University of Paris Sud-XI. She is an analyst of the defence industrial sector (restructuring, strategy, cooperation), industrial policy and acquisition strategy, export control and the European armament's industry.

**FREDERIC PIERUCCI - IKARIAN CONSEIL**

Frédéric Pierucci, founder of the compliance and corruption prevention consultancy Ikarian, is a former ALSTOM executive with extensive international experience. He has lived and worked in China, the United States, Algeria, the United Kingdom, Singapore and France.

**MATTHIEU LOUVOT - AIRBUS**

Matthieu Louvot has been Executive Vice President Strategy at Airbus since January 2024. He was previously Executive Vice President Programmes at Airbus Helicopters, a position he has held since September 2019.

**OLIVIER LECOINTE - DGA**

Olivier Lecoïnte is an armament engineer at DGA's International Division, in charge of defence industrial sector policies and ensuring that the defence industrial and technological base is able to meet armaments and security needs.

**François-Xavier CARAYON - ANSA**

François-Xavier Carayon is a partner at Ansa, a strategy and sustainable development consultancy. He has taught ethical finance at HEC and IRIS. In 2024, he published 'Les Etats prédateurs' (Predatory States) with Editions Fayard.

**ROUND TABLE**





# FRENCH DETERRENCE IN THE FACE OF NEW THREATS: ISSUES, CHALLENGES, AND DEVELOPMENTS



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**  
**10.30 AM, RAIMU ROOM**



**TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES AND DISRUPTIONS**

Is the notion of 'conventional deterrence' still relevant?

For the past 80 years, nuclear deterrence has made it possible to avoid a major conflict between major nuclear-armed powers. As Raymond Aron noted, peace was unlikely but war became impossible. However, the fracturing of the world and the growing antagonism between the powers, of which the war in Ukraine is an illustration and the war in Taiwan an option, make it possible to envisage a high-intensity conflict that would circumvent the nuclear deterrent 'from below'. The proliferation of high-tech weapons, now in the hands of many states or even militias, makes us even more vulnerable. How can we discourage a potential assailant from attacking our forces or our territory?

## MODERATOR

### BRUNO CLERMONT - FAIRE FACE DÉFENSE & AÉRO CONSEIL

Air Force Lieutenant General (Ret) Bruno Clermont has had a 36-year career as an aviator. He has worked for the Délégation aux affaires stratégiques (NATO office), NATO's International Staff and the SGDSN. He now runs a consulting firm in the aeronautics and defense sector.

### EMMANUELLE MAITRE - FRS

Emmanuelle Maitre has been a research fellow at the Foundation for Strategic Research since July 2014. A graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), she works on issues of nuclear non-proliferation, deterrence, and disarmament.

### JEAN-LOUIS LOZIER - IFRI

Vice admiral Jean-Louis Lozier (Ret) is an adviser to Ifri's Centre for Security Studies and a naval officer who served for 39 years in the French Navy. His work focuses on naval and maritime affairs and deterrence.

### BRUNO TERTRAIS - FRS

Bruno Tertrais is Deputy Director of the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS) and Associate Expert at the Institut Montaigne. His areas of expertise are geopolitics and international relations, defence and security, and demographic issues.

### STANISLAS GOURLEZ DE LA MOTTE - NAVAL GROUP

Admiral (Ret) Stanislas Gourlez de la Motte was appointed Major General of the Navy in 2019. On 1 August 2022, he became IGAM, until his retirement in June 2023. Since then, he has been Naval Advisor to the CEO of Naval Group.

**ROUND TABLE**





# ASSERTING POWER AND RIVALRIES: REDEFINING THE BALANCE OF POWER?



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**  
**2.30 PM, TRUCY-VAUBAN AMPHITHEATER**



**GEOPOLITICAL RECOMPOSITIONS**

We are living through a period of global geopolitical recomposition, with China challenging American supremacy. This challenge is opening up strategic areas to a declining power - Russia - and an emerging power - India. How is this quartet positioning itself? All against the United States, as the growing role of the BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) might suggest? In two camps, as the interplay of alliances ('unlimited friendship' vs. QUAD) suggests? Or every man for himself, in an all-out transactional form? What is the impact of this power game for the strategic region that covers the Indian Ocean, the Middle East, the Mediterranean basin and Africa? This round table will decipher developments within these four powers and in their relations and balances of power.

## MODERATOR

### PASCAL AUSSEUR - FMES

Vice-Admiral (Ret) Pascal Ausseur became Director of the FMES Institute in 2018. After a career in operations, he was in charge of international relations in the Euro-Atlantic area at the Armed Forces General Staff. He was also Maritime Prefect for the Channel and the North Sea.

### LAURENCE NARDON - IFRI

Laurence Nardon heads Ifri's Americas program. She edits the Potomac Papers collection of online research notes on the United States. She is a member of the editorial board of the journals *Politique étrangère* and *The Washington Quarterly*.

### ISABELLE FACON - FRS

Isabelle Facon is Deputy Director of the Foundation for Strategic Research. She specialises in Russian security and defence policies. She is particularly interested in the transformation of the Russian military and developments in the arms industry.

### MÉLISSA LEVAILLANT - SELDON CONSEIL

Mélicca Levallant is co-founder and managing director of SELDON Conseil. She is also a senior research associate at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

### EMMANUEL PUIG - SEAE

Emmanuel Puig is currently Indo-Pacific Adviser to Charles Fries, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS). Emmanuel Puig holds a doctorate in political science and is a CNRS post-doctoral fellow. He spent part of his studies in the United States. He continues to teach at Sciences Po Paris/PSIA.

**ROUND  
TABLE**





# **GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY:** **THE CHALLENGES OF ENERGY SECURITY**



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**  
**2.30 PM, COLBERT ROOM**



**CROSSING SECURITY CHALLENGES**

Energy has an eminently strategic dimension for all countries. Whether in terms of extraction, infrastructure, technology or supply routes, energy can be a vector for international cooperation or tension. Powers can use the energy sector as a means of influencing regional geopolitical dynamics for specific ends. This round table seeks to identify the players and their influence strategies in the energy sector in Mediterranean countries.

## **MODERATOR**

**ANNABELLE LIVET - FRS**

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 is preparing a thesis on the conceptual and spatial divergences of energy security in Europe and the implications for the EU and NATO.

## **NICOLAS MAZZUCCHI - CESM**

Nicolas Mazzucchi is Director of Research at the Centre d'Études Stratégiques de la Marine. He has a doctorate in economic geography, and for over ten years has pursued both an academic and an operational career focusing on the energy issues surrounding raw materials and cyberstrategy.

## **CAMILLE LONS - ECFR**

Camille Lons is deputy director of the Paris office of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). Her recent work focuses on the foreign policy of the Gulf States, Gulf-China relations, Gulf-Asia relations and the geopolitics of the Red Sea.

## **DIANA-PAULA GHERASIM - IFRI**

Diana-Paula Gherasim is Researcher, Head of European Energy and Climate Policy at IFRI.

**ROUND  
TABLE**





# AFRICA AT THE HEART OF INFLUENCE STRATEGIES: GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS IN THE SAHEL-SUDAN STRIP



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**  
**2.30 PM, RAIMU ROOM**



**GEOPOLITICAL RECOMPOSITIONS**

Security, political-institutional, cultural, media, information, militant and economic changes are profoundly reshaping the face and international trajectory of the African continent. These structural disruptions are contributing to changes both in the contours of governance on the continent and in its relations with its international partners. African governments, like their populations, are expressing - sometimes virulently - nationalist and patriotic demands in both authoritarian and democratic contexts. Relations with traditional transatlantic partners and multilateral organisations (United Nations, European Union) are being called into question, while alternative partnerships with players whose presence has been enhanced over the last two decades (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey, Iran, UAE, Israel, Morocco, India, Russia, China, Brazil) are increasingly on the table. The aim of this round table is to review all these changes from a more endogenous perspective, i.e. the perspective of the African experts themselves.

## **MODERATOR**

**OUSMANE NDIAYE - TV5 MONDE**

A graduate of the University of Dakar and the Institut Français de Presse de Paris 2, Ousmane Ndiaye has been Africa editor-in-chief at TV5Monde since June 2017. An editorialist, he writes an international column on France Info and is a regular contributor to various meetings, forums and media.

**NIAGALÉ BAGAYOKO - FMES**

Niagalé Bagayoko is head of the FMES Africa Department. She is a specialist in international security policies in sub-Saharan Africa and African conflict management mechanisms.

**SONIA LE GOURIELLEC - UNIVERSITÉ  
CATHOLIQUE DE LILLE**

Sonia Le Gouriellec is a lecturer in political science at the Catholic University of Lille, specialising in the Horn of Africa.

**DJENABOU CISSE - FRS**

Djenabou Cisse works on defence and security issues, in particular strategic and security dynamics in Africa (Sahel and Gulf of Guinea). She worked for seven years at the Ministry of the Armed Forces, where she held various position.

**IDRISS LALALI - CAERT**

Idriss Lallali is Deputy Director of the African Union Counter Terrorism Centre (AUCTC), which assesses the counter-terrorism capabilities of the Member States of the African Union.

**ROUND  
TABLE**





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# KEY SPEAKER

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**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH**  
**4.30 PM, TRUCY-VAUBAN AMPHITHEATER**

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## MAMAN SAMBO SIDIKOU

### Diplomat and politician

Ambassador Maman Sambo Sidikou is currently Special Correspondent for Africa of the Global Fund for Community Engagement and Resilience (GCERF) in Geneva.

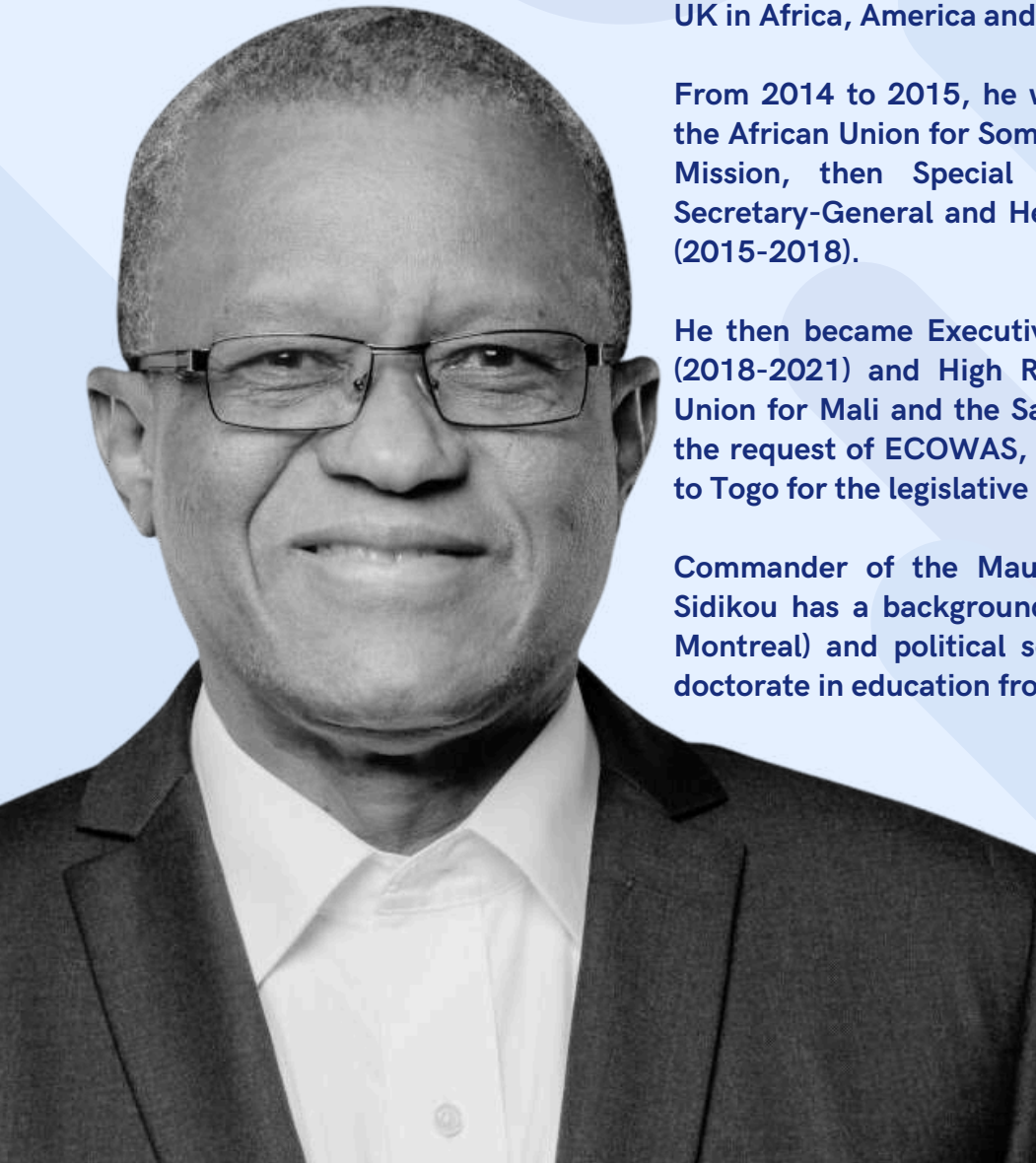
Since 1976, this Nigerian journalist has held key positions, including Ambassador to the United States (2011-2014), Chief of Staff to the Head of State (1999) and Minister of Foreign Affairs (1997-1999).

From 1999, he worked in international development, joining the World Bank, UNICEF and Save The Children UK in Africa, America and Asia.

From 2014 to 2015, he was Special Representative of the African Union for Somalia and Head of the AMISOM Mission, then Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General and Head of MONUSCO in the DRC (2015-2018).

He then became Executive Secretary of the G5 Sahel (2018-2021) and High Representative of the African Union for Mali and the Sahel (2021-2023). In 2024, at the request of ECOWAS, he led an exploratory mission to Togo for the legislative elections.

Commander of the Mauritanian Order of Merit, Mr Sidikou has a background in journalism (Dakar, Paris, Montreal) and political science (Madrid), and holds a doctorate in education from Florida State University.



# KEY SPEAKER



# WHICH MODEL FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION REGARDING THE WORLD'S GEOPOLITICAL AWAKENING?



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
**8.30 AM, TRUCY-VAUBAN AMPHITHEATER**



## GEOPOLITICAL RECOMPOSITIONS

Nearly seven decades after the Treaty of Rome, the European Union is facing challenges that are difficult to overcome: economic stagnation, the crisis of political representation and the war in Ukraine have all undermined a model that was already riddled with contradictions. Against this backdrop, there are a number of arguments to support anti-European sentiment, a key factor at the heart of the European elections in June 2024. What is the future and what direction should European governance take in the face of rising internal paradoxes and external perils?

### MODERATOR

#### MARIE-FRANCE - CHATIN - RFI

Marie-France Chatin is a journalist at Radio France Internationale. Producer of the 'Géopolitique' programme, she was previously a senior reporter with RFI's International Service.

#### OLAF WIENTZEK - KAS

Olaf Wientzek is director of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) program in Brussels, which deals with the EU's relations with third countries. Previously, he founded and headed the KAS office at the United Nations in Geneva. Between 2009 and 2019, he worked as a researcher and then coordinator in European affairs for KAS in Brussels and Berlin.

#### PIERRE HAROCHE - QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY

Pierre Haroche is Senior Lecturer in International Relations and International Security at Queen Mary University of London. He previously worked at the Institut de Recherche Stratégique de l'École Militaire (IRSEM) and at King's College London. His research focuses on European integration and European security.

#### FERGAL O'REGAN - CESD

Fergal O'Regan heads the European Security and Defence College (ESDC), a network of educational establishments responsible for training civilian and military personnel in the field of European security and defence policy.

#### TERESA DE ALMEIDA E SILVA - UNIVERSITY OF LISBON

Teresa de Almeida e Silva is Professor of International Relations at the Institute of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lisbon. She is Vice-President of the Orient Institute (University of Lisbon).

**ROUND  
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# INFLUENCE STRATEGIES AND INFORMATION MANIPULATION: CHALLENGES FOR 2024, A MAJOR ELECTION YEAR?



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
**8.30 AM, COLBERT ROOM**



## CROSSING SECURITY CHALLENGES

Influence has been established as a strategic priority and a new area of conflict. It refers to all the non-military strategies put in place by belligerents to influence conflicts, whether they involve them directly. This gives rise to a format of 'hybrid warfare', bringing together a range of techniques, methods and tools to achieve its ends. The 'war of influence' gives rise to a number of responses on the part of states, which are increasing their vigilance in the face of these threats and creating different structures to adapt to these crucial issues. So what are the practical effects of this adaptation? How can we analyse and respond effectively to these new threats at national, European and international level?

### MODERATOR

#### SAMIRA EL GADIR - TF1

After some fifteen years working as a field reporter, Samira El Gadir is now head of TF1 and LCI's Verifiers department, a unit dedicated to fact-checking. She also hosts two weekly programmes on LCI and TF1 news.

#### DAVID COLON - SCIENCES PO CERI

David Colon is a professor at Sciences Po Paris, where he teaches the history of propaganda and persuasive communication techniques, and a researcher at the Centre d'histoire de Sciences Po (CHSP).

#### CHINE LABBÉ - NEWSGUARD

Chine Labbé is Editor-in-Chief and Vice President, Partnerships, Europe and Canada. In April 2023, she was nominated by Radio France's Board of Directors to the Committee for Honesty, Independence and Pluralism in Radio France's News and Programmes.

#### CHARLES THÉPAUT

Charles Thépaut is deputy director for intelligence and strategy in the Communications and Press Division. A career diplomat specialising in North Africa and the Middle East, he has been posted to Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Germany and the United States.

#### CHLOÉ DEBIÈVE - MINISTRY OF THE ARMED FORCES

After working for the Ministry of the Interior and the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), Chloé Debiève has been working for the Ministry of the Armed Forces since October 2023, where she is in charge of the influence and information warfare domain at the Joint Centre for Concepts, Doctrines and Experiments (CICDE).

**ROUND  
TABLE**





# MARITIME SURVEILLANCE: WHAT THREATS? WHAT OPPORTUNITIES?



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
**8.30 AM, RAIMU ROOM**



## TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES AND DISRUPTIONS

The maritime world faces many challenges, not the least of which is that of surveillance capabilities. The resources and organisation put in place must not hinder the many peaceful uses of maritime areas, while enabling the detection of threats, whether intentional or accidental, particularly in times of contestation or confrontation. They must respond to a number of challenges: defending our maritime approaches, protecting people, property and infrastructures located on the coast, securing underwater communication networks and preserving the environment, all of which are under threat from multiple sources (terrorism, illegal trafficking, illegal immigration, economic espionage, hybrid or military strategies). To prevent these threats, there are a variety of surveillance resources (drones, satellites, radar), but they do not cover all areas. They are often used in silos by their respective operators, and the increase in the volume of data collected comes up against the limits of operational capacity. Given this situation, technological advances in sensors and information processing systems must be harnessed to create an integrated maritime surveillance system, which is still lacking.

### MODERATOR

#### JEAN-MICHEL MARTINET - FMES

Jean-Michel Martinet is deputy director of the Maritime Department of the FMES. He has had an operational career in surface forces. In particular, he commanded Combined Task Force 150 in the Indian Ocean, responsible for the fight against terrorism. He was also deputy general officer to the commander of the European Union operation EUNAVFORMED IRINI.

#### KARINE TESSON - EXAIL

Graduated of a business school, Karine Tesson is Sales Manager France for the Exail group, an industrial company specializing in autonomous robotics, navigation systems, aerospace and photonics.

#### ALAIN GABORIT - FRENC NAVY

Having joined the Naval Academy in September 2001, Commander Alain Gaborit's career has been mainly embarked and focused on operations. Since the summer of 2024, he has been Chief of Operations at the Mediterranean Operations Centre.

#### FRANÇOIS GELEBART - THALES

A former naval officer, François Gélébart spent almost 18 years in operational service on French Navy warships. François Gélébart now works in Toulon for Thales, focusing on connectivity, data and mission and command systems.

#### GAËL SCOT - CNES

Homeland security and civil security program manager and In-Orbit Services at CNES.

#### ARNAUD BLANCHARD - TEKEVER

After spending almost 25 years with the French Ministry of Defence, Arnaud Blanchard joined CLS in 2015. In 2024, Arnaud Blanchard joined TEKEVER's French subsidiary, as a strategic expert, to develop the group's activities in the fields of security through UAV and space activities.

**ROUND  
TABLE**





# CONFLICT EVOLUTION: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE ARMY.



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
**10.15 AM, TRUCY-VAUBAN AMPHITHEATER**



**STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES**

Conflict has now settled in Europe and on its southern flank: while the ruins in Nagorno-Karabakh, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Eritrea and Libya are still smouldering, Ukraine, Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan and the Sahel are once again the scene of the use of military force. These conflicts are characterised by increased intensity, an emancipation from international law and actions that are profoundly transforming the way war is waged. This round table will look at current conflicts on the European Union's southern flank and their operational consequences for France's land forces.

## MODERATOR

**CHRISTINE OCKRENT - FRANCE CULTURE**

Christine Ockrent is an editorial writer for several European publications (The Guardian, El Pais...) and the International Herald Tribune. She produces and hosts the International Affairs program on France Culture. Previously, she was Deputy Managing Director of France External Audiovisuel.

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRUNO BARATZ - ARMY**

Promoted to Lieutenant General on 1 August 2023, Bruno Baratz was appointed Commander of Future Combat on the same day. He is a Commander of the *Légion d'Honneur* and the *Ordre National du Mérite*. He has been deployed on operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1995, 1998 and 2001), Afghanistan (2006 and 2012) and the Sahel (2011).

**OLIVIER ZAJEC - JEAN MOULIN-LYON III UNIVERSITY**

An agrégé and doctor in history (Paris-IV Sorbonne), Olivier Zajec is a lecturer in political science at Jean Moulin-Lyon III University, where he heads the Institute for Strategy and Defence Studies.

**HÉLOÏSE FAYET - IFRI**

Héloïse Fayet is a researcher at Ifri's Centre for Security Studies and head of the Dissuasion and Proliferation research programme. Her work focuses mainly on nuclear issues: doctrines of nuclear-armed states, proliferation in the Middle East and North-East Asia, and the impact of new technologies on deterrence.

**ROUND TABLE**





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# KEY SPEAKER

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**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
**2 PM, TRUCY-VAUBAN AMPHITHEATER**

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## **KAMEL DAUD** Writer and journalist

Kamel Daoud was born on 17 June 1970 in Mesra, Algeria. A journalist with *Le Quotidien d'Oran* (Algeria's third-largest French-language national daily), he was its editor-in-chief from 1994 to 2015. Since 2014, he has written a weekly column for *Le Point*.

His first novel, *Meursault, contre-enquête*, translated into more than thirty-five languages, was a huge international success, winning the Goncourt prize for first novel in 2015. He won the Lagardère prize for best journalist of the year in 2016, and was awarded the 2017 Livre et Droits de l'Homme prize for *Mes indépendances*, a collection of almost two hundred texts published between 2010 and 2016. His novel *Zabor ou Les Psaumes*, published in 2017, won the Transfuge prize for best French-language novel and the Prix Méditerranée. He was awarded the Grande Médaille de la Francophonie by the Académie Française in 2018. In 2019, Kamel Daoud will be the first holder of the new Sciences Po writers' chair on creative writing. He was awarded the Prix international de la Laïcité 2020.

He was nominated for the Prix Goncourt des lycéens 2024 for his book *Houris*.



**KEY  
SPEAKER**



# CONFLICTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST: A STRATEGIC TURNING POINT?



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
**3.15 pm, TRUCY-VAUBAN AMPHITHEATER**



**GEOPOLITICAL RECOMPOSITIONS**

With the exception of the confrontation between Israel and Iran, the strategic and geopolitical realignments in the Middle East are characterised by an appeasement of tensions between Iran and the Gulf monarchies, and by the resulting primacy of economic and demographic issues, by the spectacular breakthrough of Chinese influence in the region, by the return of Russia and the systematic multi-alignment of regional players, by the assertiveness of Iran, which has almost reached the nuclear threshold, by the affirmation of Turkey and India, and by the growing isolation of Israel, which puts the United States in an uncomfortable position. Paradoxically, Europe remains a secondary player in this recomposition, which nevertheless concerns it.

In this context, the war between Israel and Hamas and Hezbollah, with its risk of regional extension, is disrupting these recompositions and restoring the United States to its role as provider of security, while reinforcing its dissuasive posture towards all those who dream of expelling it from the Middle East. This round table will analyse the latest significant evolutions in the region, at a time when the conflict involving Israel is continuing and the US presidential election is approaching, the outcome of which will have a crucial impact on the recompositions underway.

## MODERATOR

### DIDIER LAURAS - AFP

Didier Lauras is a journalist at Agence France-Presse, covering terrorism, intelligence, geopolitics, defence and diplomacy. He has reported from the Black Sea, Romania and Qatar, and was on several occasions sent to reinforce AFP's Jerusalem bureau after the Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October.

### PIERRE RAZOUX - FMES

Pierre Razoux is a PhD qualified to direct research and the academic director of the FMES institute.

### LAURE FOUCHER - FRS

With degrees in International Relations (Master 2, INALCO), History (Maîtrise, Paris IV-Sorbonne) and Arabic, Laure Foucher specialises in the domestic and foreign/defence policies of the countries of the Near and Middle East, as well as European policy in the region.

### DOROTHÉE SCHMID - IFRI

Dorothee Schmid is a researcher at IFRI and Head of the Contemporary Turkey and Middle East Programme. She is a specialist in Mediterranean and Turkish issues and joined IFRI in 2002 after working as a consultant for public institutions, NGOs and private companies.

### CÉLINE TOUBOUL - ECF

Céline Touboul is Co-Executive Director of the Economic Cooperation Foundation (ECF). Céline Touboul holds a master's degree in public international law from the Université Paris-Sud and a master's degree in international relations from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**ROUND  
TABLE**





# THE WAR ECONOMY AND REINDUSTRIALISATION: WHAT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RESURGENCE OF HIGH- INTENSITY CONFLICTS?



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
**3.15 PM, COLBERT ROOM**



**TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES AND DISRUPTIONS**

After 40 years of disarmament and deindustrialization, a consensus is emerging that the time has come to give our armies the means to fight in conflicts that require both high-tech equipment and large numbers of it. The dilemma between quality and quantity is a different one for armies in service that are now considering the possibility of war on a shorter timescale. However, European and French societies are not really aware of the change in times. How could war be prepared, morally and practically, in a society that still felt at peace? How should the economy be organised to meet the contradictory demands of maintaining a welfare state and ensuring the survival of a vulnerable society? What are the capacities for which quality must be preserved? And those for which quantity should be privileged?

## MODERATOR

### LAURA KAYALI - POLITICO

Laura Kayali is defence correspondent for POLITICO Europe, based in Paris. Previously, she covered technology policy for eight years, focusing on platforms, privacy and competition, among other topics. She spent five years in Brussels, including three at POLITICO.

### ALEXIS D'ABOVILLE - ARIANE GROUP

Alexis d'Aboville is Director of Future Defence Programmes at ArianeGroup's Defence Programmes Division, responsible for developing hypersonic weapons and ballistic missile defence systems, surveillance systems and services and space warfare.

### JULIEN MALIZARD - IHEDN

Julien Malizard is Deputy Chair of Defence Economics at IHEDN. He holds a doctorate in economics and was awarded the IHEDN thesis prize in 2011. His research covers budgetary issues, the economic impact of defence, arms exports and procurement issues in Europe.

### BENOIT RADEMACHER - IRSEM

Benoît Rademacher is Deputy Director of IRSEM. He was previously Director of the Armaments and Defence Economics Domain since October 2016. A graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique (class of '96) and ENSTA ParisTech, he began his career at the Defence Analysis Centre of the French Defence Procurement Agency (DGA) as head of technical and operational studies.

**ROUND  
TABLE**





# YOUNG PEOPLE AND WAR PERCEPTIONS, REACTIONS, COMMITMENTS



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
**3.15 PM, RAIMU ROOM**



## STRATEGIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER LIEUTENANT GENERAL PIERRE-JOSEPH GIVRE

A graduate of the Lyon Institute of Political Studies, Lieutenant General Pierre-Joseph Givre is from Saint-Cyrien. A graduate of the Ecole de Guerre, he has been Director of National Service and Youth (DSNJ) at the Ministry of the Armed Forces since 2023.

For more than two years, conflicts in the immediate vicinity of France and the European Union have multiplied. The Russian invasion of Ukraine and the intensification of the conflict in the Middle East have brought high-intensity wars back to the forefront of the international stage. The major paradigm of the last thirty years, which advocated international cooperation through multilateralism, now seems incapable of resolving these conflicts. Faced with this new reality, young people seem particularly determined to make their voices, their own concerns and their priorities heard in order to rethink the system of international governance.

This round table will give young people the opportunity to express their views on the issues underlying conflicts and on the notion of commitment, as well as to debate the various consequences that these upheavals are having on the younger generations: are young people ready to wage war? Under what conditions and for what purpose? Is war necessary to end a conflict? Is the feeling of belonging to a wider community such as the European Union enough for the younger generation to commit to defending a country that is not their own? Do multilateral bodies still make sense today when it comes to resolving conflicts?

**ROUND  
TABLE**

### MODERATOR

#### MICHAEL KARAFILAKIS - LA REVUS DEMOS

Michael Karafilakis is the founder of Collectif [DEMOS], a publisher of educational and popular media on social networks. A political scientist by training and a negotiator by trade, he is committed to encouraging young people to get involved in journalism and social issues.

#### FIONA BESSIOUD-JANOIR - FDNU

A graduate of Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Sciences Po Strasbourg, Fiona Bessioud-Janoir is a volunteer at the Centre d'Etudes en Diplomatie et Relations Extérieures (CEDIRE). She edits the journal Madiba, which focuses on conflict prevention and resolution.

#### MARTIN HÉBERT - JEUNES IHEDN

Martin Hébert holds a Master's degree in International Cooperation in Africa and the Middle East from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and is head of the Africa committee of the Jeunes IHEDN. He completed a military training course in the French Navy.

#### TITOUAN MIKOLAJCZYK - SCA

Superintendent 3rd Class Titouan Mikolajczyk holds a master's degree in European Legal Culture. Confronted in Poland with the practical consequences of the war in Ukraine, he joined the class of 2023 of career commissioners at the Ecole des Commissaires des Armées.

#### ANTONIN BORTOLOTTI - ECOLE DE L'AIR ET DE L'ESPACE

Midshipman Antonin Bortolotti trained in scientific preparatory classes before joining the Ecole de l'Air et de l'Espace in Salon-de-Provence, as part of the 'Jean Moulin' class.

#### LOLA REINWARTH - SCIENCES PO MENTON

Lola Reinwarth is a second-year double degree student at Sciences Po's Menton campus and Columbia University. She is also involved with Amnesty International and Samu Social de Paris, working with refugee women.





# **GEOPOLITICS AND CONFLICTS:** **THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE CHIEF OF** **NAVAL STAFF**



**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH**  
**5 PM, TRUCY-VAUBAN AMPHITHEATER**

## **ADMIRAL NICOLAS VAUJOUR** **CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF**

Admiral Nicolas Vaujour joined the École Navale in 1989 and took part in several missions in Africa, Haiti and the Indian Ocean. He commanded various ships, including the frigate Chevalier Paul, and held a number of positions on the Armed Forces General Staff. Promoted Rear Admiral in 2018, then Vice Admiral in 2020, he became Chief of Staff of the French Armed Forces in 2021. In 2023, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Navy, with the rank of Admiral. He is an Officer of the Legion of Honour and Commander of the National Order of Merit.

The geopolitical tensions that are on the rise originate on land, but are also expressed at sea. In our fractured world, military action at sea is more frequent, more diverse and more sensitive, because our everyday lives depend on maritime trade and undersea cables. The naval battle in the Black Sea, the Houthi strikes in the Red Sea, the Chinese provocations in the China Sea, the Russian demonstrations in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Turkish intimidation around Cyprus and the American or European operations in the Mediterranean and Red Sea are all illustrations of these growing balances of power.

The Chief of Naval Staff is responsible for thinking, preparing and leading the Navy of today and tomorrow. What is his analysis of geopolitical developments and their impact on conflicts at sea? How are conflicts evolving, driven by new players with new technologies (hypervelocity missiles, information networks, drones, cyber, AI, etc.)? How can we adapt our sailors and their ships to a battle that can start right now? What kind of navy for the middle of the century? These are the issues that will be addressed in this discussion with Admiral Vaujour.





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