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Colloquium

IS THE EUROPEAN UNION FADING FROM HISTORY?

Europe and the BRICS

**26
MAY**

Hôtel de l'Industrie
4, Place Saint-Germain, Paris 6th

2:00 PM - 8:00 PM





The rise of the BRICS, the emergence of a new American administration, and profound questions within the European Union in the face of current geopolitical upheavals - particularly the conflicts in Ukraine and other regions of the world - are redrawing the architecture of international relations.

In this context, it seems essential to organize an in-depth reflection on these developments and their implications, bringing together experts and representatives from the major powers concerned.

The objective of this meeting is to analyze the ongoing dynamics and identify the strategic issues that result for the European Union and its partners. As the BRICS assert their influence and redefine global economic and political balances, Europe must rethink its role in this new world order. This colloquium thus aims to shed light on the choices available to the European Union: adaptation, cooperation, or confrontation with these emerging powers?

It is from this perspective that we are organizing the colloquium "Is the European Union Fading From History? - Europe and the BRICS," which will be held on Monday, May 26, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at the Hôtel de l'Industrie, 4, Place Saint-Germain, Paris 6th arrondissement.

High-level personalities from Brazil, Russia, India, China, the African continent, the United States, as well as European representatives will be present at the colloquium to better understand the expectations and visions of each in the face of this global reconfiguration.

To ensure the quality of the discussions and given the limited number of places, registrations will be confirmed by return email.

PROGRAM

13:30	Welcoming of participants	
14:00	General presentation	Speaker Yves Pozzo di Borgo, President of the Institut Jean Lecanuet, Honorary Senator
14:20	Opening	Speaker Alain Houpert, Senator of Côte-d'Or, Member of the Foreign Affairs, Defense and Armed Forces Committee
14:30	<i>First Sequence: Is Europe fading from History?</i> Opening Keynote : What place for the European Union in the new world architecture? - <i>By Henri Malosse, President of Vocal Europe, Former President of the European Economic and Social Committee</i>	Moderator Marc Bousquet, President, Médiatique International Speakers • Alberto Ruiz Thierry, Vice-president Executif of IDC.Africa • Alexander Orlov, Former Ambassador of the Russian Federation to France • Rosine Ghawji, Founder of Working Mothers for Donald Trump International, Co-founder of Tennessee Women for Honest Government, Member of the Republican party since 2005 • Representative from Brazil
15:30	Break	

PROGRAM

16:00

Second Sequence: Towards a new economic, military and political architecture of the world

Moderator

Régis le Sommier, Journalist

First Address: Towards the strategic erasure of Europe?

Speakers

- **Christian Saint Etienne**, Scholar and Economist

17:00

Special Address:
France can bring Peace: Will the Schuman Plan 2 save Europe?

Speakers

- **Ján Figel'**, Former European Commissioner

17:20

Conclusion

18:30

Closing followed by a Press cocktail

SPEAKERS



Ján Figel'

Former Slovak politician and European Commissioner, founder of the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology), the first Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief outside the EU. Ján Figel' remains a committed voice for human dignity and religious freedom. His diplomacy was essential for saving lives and freedom of over 20 persecuted people (Pakistan, Sudan, Cuba, Iran). Figel' initiated international Declaration on Human Dignity for Everyone Everywhere. With extensive global experience, he works today for peace with the Clementy Foundation, Abu Dhabi Forum for Peace, G20 Religion Forum (R20) and with the likeminded personalities in the world.



Alberto Ruiz Thierry

Alberto Ruiz Thierry is the Vice-president Executif of IDC.Africa, the African branch of the Internationale Démocrate Centriste (IDC-CDI). He has played a key role in coordinating IDC activities across Africa, fostering centrist democratic values and supporting political parties aligned with these principles. He is respected for his diplomatic skills and his dedication to promoting democratic and inclusive governance in Africa.



Purnima Anand

Purnima Anand is the President of the BRICS International Forum. An activist for multilateralism and South-South cooperation, she plays a key role in promoting dialogue among the emerging powers of the BRICS group. She has notably initiated several platforms for scientific and cultural cooperation between member countries.



Alexander Orlov

Alexander Orlov is a career Russian diplomat, former Ambassador of the Russian Federation to France. He worked for more than ten years in Paris to strengthen Franco-Russian relations, particularly in the cultural, economic, and strategic domains. A defender of dialogue between East and West, he continues to express himself in international debates on collective security and Euro-Russian relations.



Alain Houpert

Alain Houpert has served as Senator for Côte-d'Or since 2008, and was re-elected in 2014 and again in 2020. A member of the Les Républicains group, he sits on the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense, and the Armed Forces. He has held several local mandates, notably as Mayor of Salives (1995–2014), General Councillor for Côte-d'Or (1998–2014), and Municipal Councillor of Dijon (2014–2020). Deeply committed to health issues, his career is also distinguished by significant involvement in international relations and various parliamentary delegations.



Rosine Ghawji

Rosine Ghawji is a political figure known for her commitment to supporting U.S. President Donald Trump. She is the founder of Working Mothers for Donald Trump International, a global advocacy group dedicated to bolstering the American president. Additionally, she is a co-founder of Tennessee Women for Honest Government and has been a member of the Republican Party since 2005.



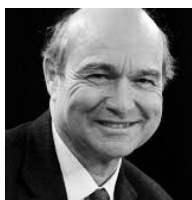
Pierre Louvrier

Pierre Louvrier is a Belgian consultant and entrepreneur, born in 1973 in Mons. Chairman of the supervisory board of Groupe Clementy, he specializes in corporate restructuring and special situation investments. He notably distinguished himself by his attempt to buy the Vivacom group in 2015 and remains active between London, Geneva, and Rome in the luxury, tech, and finance sectors.



Henri Malosse

Henri Malosse is a recognized expert in European affairs. He was President of the European Economic and Social Committee, where he advocated for a European Union closer to citizens and engaged in contemporary social and economic challenges. He regularly shares his vision for a more democratic Europe better anchored in the local realities of member states.



Yves Pozzo di Borgo

President of the Institut Jean Lecanuet, Yves Pozzo di Borgo is a French politician. Former Senator of Paris, he was Vice-President of the European Affairs Committee, distinguished by his commitment to Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and international cooperation. He is also active in contemporary geopolitical debates, advocating a strategic balance between Europe, Russia, and Asia, for France.



Christian Saint-Étienne

Christian Saint-Étienne is an economist, professor, and strategy consultant. Educated in Paris, London, and Pittsburgh, he worked at the IMF and OECD. A member of the Circle of Economists, he chaired national commissions and co-founded the Institute of Economy. Author of 31 books and 300 articles, he regularly contributes to Les Echos, Le Figaro, and radio. His work focuses on industry, taxation, and economic geopolitics.



Marc Bousquet

Marc Bousquet is a recognized expert in political communication and strategy. With more than 30 years of experience, he has participated in over 300 electoral campaigns worldwide. Founder of Agence Média-tique International, he has designed visibility and nation branding strategies for various countries around the world. Former Vice-President of the International Association of Political Consultants, he has also taught at Paris XII, training future professionals in the sector.



Régis Le Sommier

Journalist and senior reporter, Régis Le Sommier is an emblematic figure in the French media landscape. Former Deputy Director of Paris Match and founder of the media Omerta, he has been covering major international conflicts and geopolitical upheavals for more than twenty years. A specialist in international relations and field journalism, he brings incisive insight into power dynamics, security issues, and transformations in the multipolar world.

FRANCE CAN BRING PEACE: THE SCHUMAN PLAN 2

Seventy-five years ago, the vision of Robert Schuman and Jean Monnet of a partnership, initially economic, between the belligerents of the Second World War led to the creation of the European Union, which today has 27 members. A new West-East Community could achieve a comparable objective, without isolating itself from the rest of the world. - **Ján Figel** *

Peace in Europe is necessary and possible. But as the Cold War of the last century demonstrated, there is a fundamental difference between the end of open hostilities and genuine peace. The best way to achieve this is through multilateral agreements that promote economic and trade cooperation and the common good.

This was the vision of Robert Schuman and Jean Monnet in the aftermath of the Second World War. Since 1870, it had already been the third major war between Germany (Prussia) and France in 75 years. Today, we recognise Schuman as a modern-day 'Father of Europe'. But on 9 May 1950, when he was French Foreign Minister, his proposal to invite Germany and other countries to form a cooperative European Coal and Steel Community - cleverly creating a common market for the raw materials needed for war - was rejected by many as illusory. The Communists accused Schuman of betraying France.

Schuman persevered, as great statesmen do. And over the next 75 years, his community of peace became a European Union of 27 members, with a single market, the Schengen system and a common currency. Lasting peace, stability and prosperity between the participating countries is a rewarding reality, both internally and externally.

Before his death, Schuman stressed that 'we must create Europe not only in the interests of the free nations, but also to welcome the nations of the East who, freed from the oppression of which they are victims, will ask us for acceptance and moral support'. Germany's first democratic Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, shared this view. 'A united Europe,' he observed, 'was the dream of some, the desire of many, and has become a necessity for all.'

However, for several reasons, the construction of a peaceful Europe remains an unfinished project. The war in Ukraine, which has been going on for three years, bears witness to this tragic reality. A new 'iron curtain' has unfortunately been erected further to the East; whatever the reasons, it marks the reality of a failure. So, it's time to take up the work of Robert Schuman and establish an area of cooperation, trade and stability between the West and the East! And beyond the actual tensions, we should imagine ways and tools to promote reconciliation like Schuman, de Gaulle and Adenauer did for the French and the Germans after WW II !

* Ján Figel is Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Venerable Schuman Legacy of the Clementy Foundation, in collaboration with the Vatican Pontifical Academy of Sciences. He is also the founder of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a former European Commissioner and Slovak Deputy Prime Minister, and the first Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief outside the EU (www.janfigel.sk).

But first and foremost, the bloodshed must stop. Europeans must work for peace and support President Trump's laudable efforts. This ongoing war in Ukraine is the absolute emergency for us, Europeans.

The nations of Western Europe are making a grave mistake in supporting those who claim that the solution lies in increased military spending. Indebted states and weakened economies will not benefit from this. With a policy of deterrence, we may win the battle or at least achieve a draw in this new Cold War, but we will certainly not win the peace. We would do better to devote the billions spent on rearmament to speeding up the upgrading of Central and Eastern Europe, supporting the countries of the Balkans and also investing in cooperation projects in the Mediterranean and Africa, which are our natural neighbours but which are increasingly turning their backs on us!

The recipes of the Schuman plan have not been exhausted. They are like the roots from which the tree of the human community must grow and prosper.

Transformation of relations begins with dialogue, which is now underway on the initiative of the new Trump administration in the United States. It is paramount, though, that these efforts be directed toward the creation of a new community of nations. In that vein, the dialogue between the United States and Russia should focus on establishing common markets, open to other countries and designed for the participants' mutual benefit, for the crucial commodities needed to wage war. This would encompass not only natural resources and energy but information technologies and the protection of intellectual property.

Such a Northern Hemisphere Community or West-East Community would connect Alaska with Kamchatka through Europe and Central Asia, stretching over three continents - with Europe at its centre. It would bring unprecedented development to the participating states, economies and regions, particularly in Europe. It would be open to cooperation with other neighbouring groupings or sub-groupings, such as Central Asia, Africa and the EuroMed zone, and would seek ways of cooperating with the BRICS countries.

This type of framework should neither supplant nor compete with the EU but complement it. But such a qualitative change, worthy of a more humane 21st century, requires a shared security architecture, which does not exclude a future defence alliance.

This long-term vision cannot be summed up by leaders who are just passing through. Peace is in the interests of the nations that remain and must bear the hardships of war and the burden of human loss. The value of a person goes beyond material dimensions. It is therefore important to put an end to this fratricidal conflict by seeking a new quality of relations, centred on the dignity of every person, family, nation and community

This vision of rapprochement and cooperation between the West and the East will require a long and demanding process. It is in line with the image presented by the great Pope John Paul II of a 'Europe that breathes with its two lungs'. Today, the West is sick with moral relativism and new ideologies, while the East is in the grip of fratricidal conflict.

Such a vision may seem surprising or improbable at the present time, or even unacceptable to some. But.... The American Secretary of State Dean Acheson would later describe the Schuman Plan in his memoirs as 'a spectacular advance towards the unification of Western Europe, which he could not even comprehend at first'.

Today, we take the EU for granted, but it looks very fragile, attacked on its western flank by a trade war from the USA and on its eastern flank by a war at all.

Such a dramatic turnaround is necessary in the current situation. The crisis and the continuing tragedy of war could end in a historic catastrophe or, on the contrary, mark a new beginning for a qualitative change in relations. But without an early ceasefire, an acceptable solution and a lasting peace agreement with Ukraine, there will be no strategic change in relations between West and East. The two challenges are therefore closely linked and interdependent.

In Western and Central Europe, we all need more wisdom and courage to pursue a sensible and responsible policy, rather than simply spending more money on munitions and armaments. We need statesmen and leaders who think big and look ahead to future generations. Peace, security and prosperity in our East-West civilisational area are possible and attainable!

Co-Signatories

- *H.E. Sheikh Abdallah Al Mahfoud bin Baya, Secretary-General of the Abu Dhabi Peace Forum, Chairman of the Religion and Civil Society Committee on the Ethics of AI*
- *Mgr. Bernard Ardura, Postulator of the Venerable Schuman's Beatification cause, Chairman Emeritus of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences*
- *Bertrand Demole, Member of Board of Directors of Pictet Alternative Advisors*
- *Ján Figel, former European Commissioner, former Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia*
- *H.E. Nikolaus von Liechtenstein, former Ambassador to the European Union, former Ambassador to the Vatican*
- *Pierre Louvrier, Chairman of the Clementy Schuman Legacy Foundation, Private Equity Entrepreneur and Philanthropist*
- *Henri Malosse, Chairman of the Jean Monnet Association, Former President of the European Economic and Social Committee*
- *Alberto Michellini, Anchor Journalist at the RAI, former Member of the European Union Parliament, former Member of the Italian Parliament*
- *Maria Grazia Ricciardi, Lawyer at the Supreme Court of Italy's Bar Association, Senior Partner at CPR Lex*
- *Michael Schumann, Chairman of the Bundesverband für Wirtschaftsförderung und Ausenwirtschaft Global Economic Network.*

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