

International Conference

“Beyond the gap between the West and the Islamic world: A French-American Dialogue”

(agenda as of Dec.4th, 2008).

DATE:

December 11-13, 2008.

VENUE:

Académie Diplomatique Internationale, 4Bis Avenue Hoche, 75008 Paris.

All sessions will be conducted in English.

I Objectives

The international conference “ Beyond the gap between the West and the Islamic world: a French-American dialogue”, is co-organized by the French-American Foundation – France, The Middle-East-Mediterranean Chair program of Sciences Po Paris, and Foreign Policy France.

The conference will explore the grounds for developing positive relations between the West and the Islamic world, to replace hostility and resentment with a dialogue based on trust and understanding.

In that enterprise, France and the United States have a common interest in working together. Both countries are old allies, with U.S.-French diplomatic relations stretching back more than 225 years. Both countries have shared values, and are actively committed to addressing common problems, regionally and globally.

The conference will bring together key leaders in the fields of politics, business, media, academia, and civil society from the Islamic world and the West to discuss the most effective ways for interaction and collaboration.

It will also assess the opportunities and challenges facing political leaders in charting a new direction in the relationship between the West and the Islamic world, at a critical time in the US political agenda, in the aftermath of an unprecedented international financial crisis.

In mapping the different kinds of dialogue, this conference will emphasize the diversity between and within the terms “Islam” and the “West”: both worlds are not self-contained entities; they on the contrary interact and overlap in multiple ways. We will throughout the conference agenda remain fully aware of the complex and multifaceted reality that the West and the Islamic world represent.

The efforts led by our organizations to contribute meaningfully toward the promotion of the dialogue between the West and the Islamic world will be pursued and deepened over the next years.

Participation:

Partners to the project will be advised to send speakers to the different conference sessions.

Audience: 60-80 experts of the issues at stake, from the fields of politics, business, media, academia, and civil society.

II Provisional agenda (as of Dec.4th, 2008)

o Thursday, December, 11th :

Opening Dinner (8.00-10.00 pm)

Venue: Restaurant Goumard, 9 Rue Duphot, 75001 Paris.

Inaugural speech:

Hubert Védrine, Associé-Gérant, Hubert Védrine Conseil. Former French Minister for Foreign Affairs

o Friday, December, 12th :

Sessions on Friday December 12th will take place at the Académie Diplomatique Internationale, 4Bis Avenue Hoche, 75008 Paris.

8.30: Registration and welcome of participants

9.00-9.10: Introductions by **Michel Garcin**, Président du Directoire, French-American Foundation – France, and **François Roche**, Directeur, Foreign Policy

9.10-9.45: Plenary introduction.

Keynote speaker:

H.R.H Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Saud, Chairman of the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Saudi Arabia. HRH is the Co-Founder of the King Faisal Foundation. H.R.H Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Saud is the former Ambassador to the United States, the United Kingdom, and Ireland.

First roundtable (9.45am to 12.00): State of the mutual perceptions between the West and the Islamic world since 9/11.

Themes discussed:

- September 11 has exacerbated the sentiments of frustration and anger on both sides. The session will discuss the nature and the sources of resentment and the ways to build mutual respect and understanding between Western and Muslim societies, at every level.
- The integration of Muslim minorities in Europe

9.45-10.45: Panel. Moderator : **Jean-Christophe Bas**, Strategic Partnerships Manager, UN Alliance on Civilizations; Vice-President du Conseil d'Orientation de l'Institut Aspen France.

Discussants:

Magali Rheault, Senior Analyst, Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, USA.

Dr. Shafeeq Ghabra, Professor of Political Science, Kuwait University.

Hakim El Karoui, President and Founder, Club XXI^e siècle, Paris, France

Youssef Dib, Founder, Living Together, France.

David Laitin, Professor of Political Science, Stanford University

10.45-11.30 : discussion

11.30-12.00 : Plenary Conclusion by **Dalil Boubakeur**, Head of the Mosque of Paris

Lunch (12.00-1.30pm) : A “buffet déjeunatoire” will be provided
Location: Hilton Arc de Triomphe, 51-57, rue de Courcelles, 75008.

Second roundtable (3.15-5.45pm): A new economic balance between the West and the Islamic world

How do the changing sources of economic and financial leadership, strengthened by the international financial crisis, modify the global corporate governance system and broaden geographically the dialogue among business leaders of the West and the Islamic region ?

3.15-3.45: **Plenary Introduction**

Keynote speaker:

Shaukat Aziz, Former Prime Minister of Pakistan (2004-2007), Former Minister for financial affairs of Pakistan (1999 to 2007).

3.45-4.45: Panel

Olivier Pastré, Economist, Member of the Cercle des Economistes.

Steven Erlanger, Paris Correspondant, New York Times.

Issab Rebrab, Chairman, Cevital (expected).

Hassan Abouyoub, Roving Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco (expected).

4.45-5.30: Discussion.

5.30-5.45: Plenary conclusion

6.00-7.00 : cocktail

Location: Hilton Arc de Triomphe, 51-57, rue de Courcelles, 75008.

o **Saturday, December, 13th**

Sessions on Saturday December 13th will take place at the Académie Diplomatique Internationale, 4Bis Avenue Hoche, 75008 Paris.

8.30: Welcome of participants

Third roundtable (9.00am-12.45pm): New approaches for French, European and American political relations with the Islamic world

Themes discussed:

- The opportunities for the newly elected US President to redefine the US foreign policy in the Islamic region, in particularly with regard to Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- European initiatives for the promotion of the political dialogue between the West and the Islamic region

9.00-9.30: Plenary introduction:

Dr. Gilles Kepel, Director of the Chaire Moyen-Orient/Méditerranée at Sciences Po Paris.

9.30-10.45 : Panel 1: A new path to Resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict

H.R.H Prince Talal of Jordan, Member of the Jordanian Royal Family and Special Advisor to HM King Abdullah II.

Dr. Ian Lesser, Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Marwan Bishara, researcher, writer, journalist, Al Jazeera.

10.45-11.00: Break.

11.00-12.30 : Panel 2 : Conflict resolution in Pakistan, Iraq and Afghanistan, new approaches for US-Iranian relationships

Dr. Ian Lesser, Senior Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Sara Daniel, Grand Reporter, Service Etranger, Le Nouvel Observateur

Dr. Bassma Kodmani, Executive Director, The Arab Reform Initiative, Paris, France

Joseph Bahout, Politologue et chercheur associé, Sciences Po Paris (expected).

12.30-12.45pm: Plenary conclusion.

12.45-1.15pm: **Closing Speeches**

III About the co-organizers of the conference

The French-American Foundation –France

Dedicated to strengthening the bilateral relationship and mutual friendship between France and the United States, the French-American Foundation (FAF) is composed of two sister institutions, one based in New York and one in Paris. Since its founding in 1976, FAF has committed extensive resources to strengthening French-American relations and encouraging an active dialogue between the two nations. In doing so, it brings together French and American leaders, policy makers and thinkers to exchange views on common issues, thus creating productive links.

To reach out to both countries and stimulate questioning, FAF-France has developed a wide variety of programs. These programs, in constant evolution, address social, educational, cultural, business and political issues and are designed to identify and share innovative practices from both societies.

For more information on our activities, please visit our website: www.french-american.org

The Middle-East-Mediterranean Chair of Sciences Po Paris

In 1985, Prof. Rémy Leveau opened the doctoral Program on the Modern Arab World, joined by **Prof. Ghassan Salamé** and **Prof. Gilles Kepel**. The program, now chaired by Gilles Kepel, played a pivotal role in training the young generation of Middle east scholars in Europe: dozen of PhD candidates graduated, publishing many dissertations in different languages. **In 2003**, Sciences Po launched the **Middle East & Mediterranean Chair Program**. An endowed program funded by major corporations, it aims at bridging the gap between the private and public sectors and academia. It allows PhD students to develop ambitious fieldwork research, and provides administrations and corporation with first hand knowledge of the Modern Middle East & Mediterranean from a social Sciences viewpoint. **Eurogolfe was created by Sciences Po**, supported by the French ministry of Foreign Affairs. A hub between social sciences scholars from the GCC and Europe, with branches in the UAE and Kuwait, this program organizes a yearly forum where academics meet with private and public sector leaders. The fourth edition have taken place in Venice in October 2008, the next one will be organize in Kuwait. **In 2005**, Sciences Po launched its Middle east and Mediterranean undergraduate campus in Menton, with courses in Arabic, English and French. **In 2007 The Kuwait Program** at sciences Po is established, a cooperative agreement between the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and Sciences Po whose purpose is to enhance research, teaching and to provide decision makers with analysis capacity to deal with the impact of globalization on Kuwait and the Gulf Region, to foster networks between researchers and senior officials from the Gulf region with their

counterparts, and to contribute to the development of the Menton Education program. In 2008, the Kuwait Eurogolfe professorship appointed **Prof Steffen Hertog**. The Professorship is hosted by the Middle East and Mediterranean Chair Program and is focused on topics of relevance to Kuwait and the Gulf in their relationship to Europe.

Foreign Policy France

Founded in 1970 by Samuel Huntington and Warren Demian Manshel, and now published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington, D.C., FOREIGN POLICY is the premier, award-winning magazine of global politics, economics, and ideas. Its mission is to explain how the world works—in particular, how the process of globalization is reshaping nations, institutions, cultures, and, more fundamentally, our daily lives. FOREIGN POLICY draws on the world's leading journalists, thinkers, and professionals to analyze the most significant international trends and events of our times, without regard to ideology or political bias. Whether examining who the winners are in Iraq, determining solutions to save the world, or discovering the states that fail us, it strives to combine original thinking with real-world illustrations of ideas in action.

FOREIGN POLICY has supported for numerous years the launching of foreign editions by independent editors or think tanks. In Europe there two editions, one in Spain, operated by a foreign policy Foundation, (FRIDE) the other one in France launched in 2006 by private investors reunited in the media company Xorus Presse.

The Russian edition of FOREIGN POLICY due to be launched in Moscow on March 20th, is a new operation of Xorus Presse.

IV About the Partners to the conference

ACADEMIE
DIPLOMATIQUE INTERNATIONALE

ADVANCING EFFECTIVE PRINCIPLED DIPLOMACY IN GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND CIVIL SOCIETY



The Arab Reform Initiative

JLG Strategy

Three eminent and internationally renowned experts are participating in the project:

Dr. Gilles Kepel : Dr. Kepel is a prominent French scholar and analyst of the Islamic and the Arab world. He holds degrees in Arabic, English and philosophy, a Ph.D. in sociology and a Ph.D. in political science. He has previous international teaching experiences that include a visiting professorship at New York University (1994) and a visiting professorship at Columbia University (1995-1996). He is the Chairman of the Middle East & Mediterranean Studies, of the doctoral program on the Muslim World at Sciences Po Paris and of Eurogolfe Program.

Dr. Bassma Kodmani: A dual French and Syrian national, Bassma Kodmani is the Executive Director of the Arab Reform Initiative. She is also senior adviser on international cooperation to the French national research council (CNRS). From 1999 to 2005 she headed the Governance and International Cooperation Program at the Ford Foundation office for the Middle East and North Africa. She had special responsibility for initiating and supporting joint Israeli-Palestinian projects, including track II meetings. Previously, she established and directed the Middle East Program at the Institut Français des Relations Internationales (IFRI) in Paris and was Associate Professor of International Relations at Paris University.

Dr. Antonella Caruso, Chercheur associée, Institut Montaigne. Antonella Caruso graduated in Arabic Language and Islamic Sciences at the University la Sapienza in Rome. She worked as special Adviser on Middle Eastern affairs to the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs (1989-1992) and as senior adviser to the CEO of the Italian energy company ENI before leaving Italy in 1999. Author of several academic publications, she has been associate researcher at the French think-tank Institut Montaigne, where she completed her research on the institutionalization processes of Islam in Europe (In the Name of Islam, Note, September 2007) and she is the North Africa and the Middle East editor of the Italian geopolitical magazine Limes (L'espresso group). She is heading a non-governmental project on national reconciliation in Iraq in partnership with the American NGOs IISD and USIP.