



European Stability Initiative  
BERLIN - BRUSSELS - ISTANBUL

## COMMUNICATING EUROPE: FRENCH PERSPECTIVES ON ENLARGEMENT

Wednesday 16 – Thursday 17 April 2008



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

With the Assistance of the  
**GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND – REUNITING EUROPE** of the  
**UK FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH OFFICE**

This conference examines the nature and dynamics of the French debate on EU-enlargement related to South East Europe.

With additional support of:



The conference will discuss the state of opinion in France among policy-makers, politicians, think tankers and opinion formers. Distinguished guests from media, government, political parties and academia will provide insight into the French debate in an environment allowing for informal and frank discussion.

- What are the attitudes to future EU enlargement in France? What are the key problems and challenges as seen by French decision makers?
- What French internal political dynamics impact on the EU-enlargement agenda?
- What will be the plans of the French EU Presidency towards South East Europe?
- Who are the key players and opinion formers – who matters in the French EU enlargement debate?
- What can be done in order to present the case of South Eastern Europe more clearly and more effectively to a French audience?

### WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL

1530

Welcome coffee and refreshments

1600-1630

**INTRODUCTION – AIMS & OBJECTIVES**  
**Chris LANGDON and Kristof BENDER**  
ESI

1630-1730

### **FRENCH PERSPECTIVES ON ENLARGEMENT**

*Has there been a shift towards a more pro-active enlargement policy in the Quai d'Orsay? Could the constitutional requirement for referenda on EU accession for all countries after Croatia soon belong to the past?*

### **Denis SIMONNEAU**

Chief of Cabinet of State Secretary for European Affairs, Jean-Pierre Jouyet, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

1730-1800

Coffee

1800-1930

**HOW IS FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY MADE?**

*How has French foreign policy changed since the presidential elections in 2007? Is there a genuine “sea change” on enlargement, as has been described by State Secretary Jean-Pierre Jouyet? Who are the mayor players in French foreign politics? How are important policy decisions made?*

**Daniel VERNET**

Chief Editor of the International Relations Section, Le Monde

**Arnaud DANJEAN**

Former Balkan adviser to French Ministers of Foreign Affairs  
Michel Barnier & Philippe Douste-Blazy

2030

**“The future of the Western Balkans in the European Union”**

**DINNER hosted by HM Ambassador, Sir Peter WESTMACOTT, at his Residence**

For the conference participants and special guests, including the Ambassadors of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia.

**THURSDAY 17 APRIL**

0915-1045

**THE FRENCH EU PRESIDENCY AND SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

*What can be expected of the French EU presidency in the second half of 2008?*

**Jacques RUPNIK**

Research Director CERI (*Centre d’Études et de Recherches Internationales*)/*Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris* (Science Po)

1045-1115

Coffee

1115-1205

**THE BALKANS AND FRENCH DEFENCE POLICY**

*How important are the Balkans for the French military? How much influence has the French military and defence community on French politics on the Balkans?*

**François HEISBOURG**

Chairman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London, and of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy; Special Advisor, *Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique*, Paris

1205-1320

**UNDERSTANDING “LA GRANDE NATION”: FINDING ONE’S WAY THROUGH THE FRENCH ESTABLISHMENT****Ben HALL**

Paris Correspondent, Financial Times

**Thomas KLAU**

Director of Paris Office, European Council on Foreign Relations

1330-1500

Lunch

1500-1630

**WHO CARES ABOUT THE BALKANS IN FRANCE?**

*What are the debates on the Western Balkans at French think tanks? Where are the important debates led? What is the position of French business on enlargement in South East Europe?*

**Nadège RAGARU**

Research Fellow at CNRS (ISP), the *Institut des Sciences sociales du Politique* at the *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique*, Paris, associated with CERI

**Jérôme BÉDIER**

Head of the MEDEF Commission for the EU, MEDEF (*Mouvement des Entreprises de France*), Paris

1630-1700

Coffee

1700-1800

**PROGRESS OF THE WESTERN BALKANS TOWARDS EU MEMBERSHIP IN 2008****Introductory remarks**

**“Montenegro’s progress towards EU candidacy”**

**Gordana ĐUROVIĆ**

Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration of Montenegro

*Followed by group discussion on achieving progress by all the countries in 2008 on the EU agenda, and on taking forward the Communicating Europe series.*

2000

**FINAL CONFERENCE DINNER**

*With additional guests:*

**Bernard Guetta (TBC)**

Commentator on International Affairs, L’Express, Radio Inter

**Natalie NOUGAYREDE**

Le Monde

**Matthew KAMINSKI**

Wall Street Journal Europe

**Arnaud DANJEAN**

Former adviser for South-eastern Europe to French Ministers for Foreign Affairs Michel Barnier & Philippe Douste-Blazy

**Judy BATT**

EU Institute for Security Studies (EU-ISS)