



Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India


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RAISINA

MEDITERRANEAN

12-13 June 2025
Marseille, France

CONFERENCE REPORT





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For centuries, the shores of the Mediterranean have hosted cultural exchange, trade, and diplomacy; the sea has served as a vital link between continents and civilisations. By connecting the Indo-Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans, the Mediterranean has acted as a critical link between East and West, North and South — and determined thereby the flow of goods, ideas, and culture. Today, as the global economic order undergoes profound transformation, the region is once again emerging as a strategic maritime hub.

This comes at a time of strategic convergence between Europe and the Indo-Pacific, highlighted by Prime Minister Modi's successful visit to Paris and the recent visit to India by the President of the European Commission and the entire EU College of Commissioners. From de-risking supply chains, to investing in critical defence technologies, to negotiating a new trade pact — the EU-India relationship has the potential to emerge as a system-defining partnership.

As envisioned by the President of the French Republic and the Prime Minister of India, Raisina Mediterranean will convene the conversations that matter to this region, and describe how its links to India and the Indo-Pacific will shape our common future. From modern shipping corridors and undersea cables to renewable energy projects and regional security cooperation, the Mediterranean is no longer just a bridge between the past and present—it is a launchpad for the future.

ORF, in collaboration with France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and key regional partners, seeks to chart a new course for Mediterranean cooperation. By addressing shared challenges and capitalising on emerging opportunities, Raisina Mediterranean aims to lay the foundation for a resilient, interconnected Mediterranean community capable of driving global conversations on governance, sustainability, and shared prosperity.

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PANEL REPORTS



Curtain Raiser

India and Europe: Shaping a Shared Future

Shivam Shekhawat

The return of the Trump administration to the White House has caught the world off guard. As tensions continue to persist in different parts of the world, countries have been forced to reconsider how they view the world and their partnerships with other countries and work towards securing their own interests amidst this uncertainty. The new administration in the US has heightened concerns about the future of the transatlantic relationship and the possible implications for Europe. As Washington reassesses its partnerships and its policymaking becomes more ad-hoc under the new administration, there is a growing consensus in both India and Europe about the need to expand their multifaceted partnership.

Sharon Sterling set the tone of the session by highlighting the need to strengthen the momentum of the relationship and the ties between the people, urging the leadership to invest in cooperation. Underscoring the importance of shared democratic values between Europe and India, Marcos

MODERATOR



Sharon Stirling

Director, ORF Global; Chief Operating Officer, ORF America, United States of America

SPEAKERS



Fernando Gutiérrez

Member of Parliament, Spain



Marcos Perestrello

Member of Parliament, Portugal



Natalia Pouzyreff

Member of Parliament, France



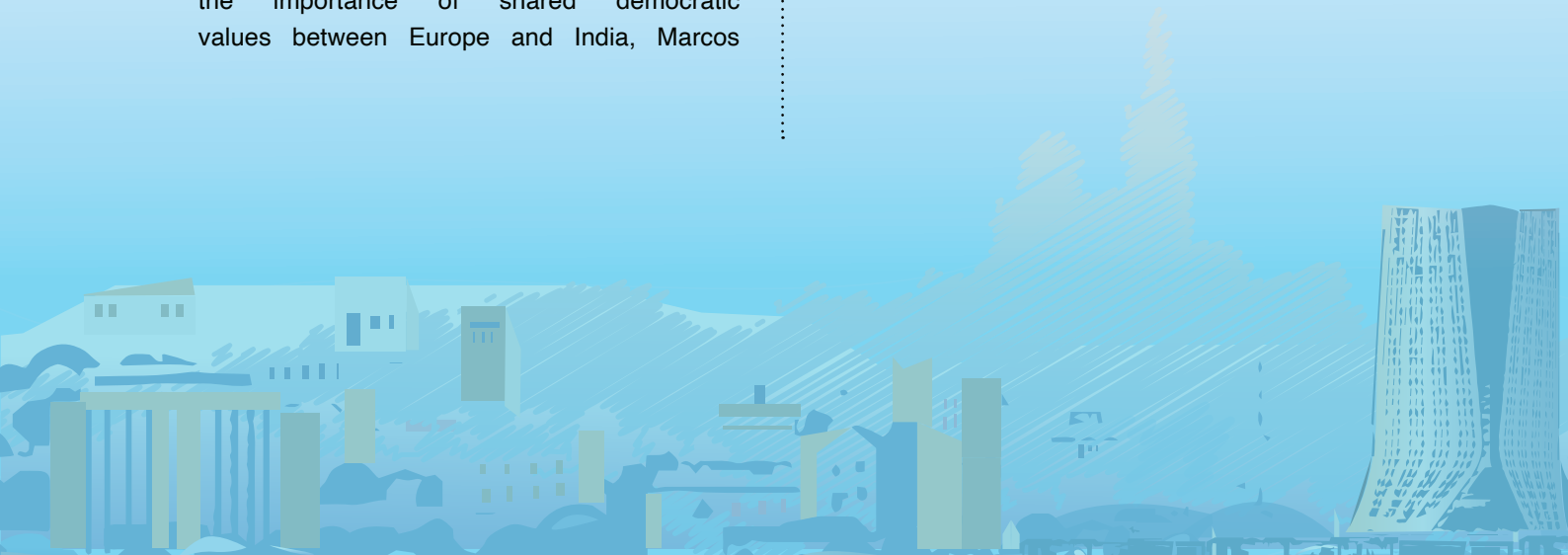
Priyanka Chaturvedi

Member of Parliament, India



Dinesh Trivedi

Former Minister for Railways, India




Perestrello emphasised on how important it was for the two sides to establish a permanent dialogue mechanism—a fitting partnership between the alliance of democracies and the biggest democracy. The continuation of the Ukraine war and the indispensable need for stability on the continent and the scourge of terrorism are also seen as an avenue for India and Europe to work together. The increase in defence expenditure in Europe could also open new areas for cooperation in the domain of military and defence. Natalia Pouzyreff also highlighted the position of the Mediterranean sea as being at the crossroads of continents, culture and commerce and the importance of the Indo-Pacific for France.

Both Europe and India grapple with common non-traditional security concerns like cyber-attacks, food safety and security, climate change, etc. These are seen as a gateway to further deepen ties between the two sides. Fernando Gutierrez highlighted the potential for the two sides to increase cooperation to counter the effects of climate change, stating the devastation caused by the floods in Spain in November last year.

Bringing in an Indian perspective, Priyanka Chaturvedi remarked how countries of the Global South, many of which are performing way better than certain other countries and are growing at a steady rate, are still not part of the security shaping narrative. She highlighted India's bid to secure a permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council as a case in point. From India's lens, there is a growing need for the world order to reconcile itself to the concerns of the Global South. Europe and India can also further align on technology and manufacturing. Addressing the concerns raised by sections in Europe about New Delhi's strong ties with Russia, she highlighted the importance of de-hyphenating certain ties and understanding the divergences to keep the convergences stronger. Dinesh Trivedi highlighted the indispensability of India for Europe and the importance of people-to-people ties between the two countries. According to him, the focus should be on building the people-to-people ties from the ground up, focusing on the exchange of students, an increase in tourism, and utilising the power of Indian cinema and sports like cricket to build ties.

As the rules-based order comes under increasing stress, it will become crucial for the leadership in India and Europe to prioritise their relationship and work together to cushion the impact of a world order in flux.

[Watch the full session here](#) 



Inaugural Session

The Next Special Relationship: Deepening the Strategic Partnership between the Indo-Pacific and Europe

Vivek Kumar

In an era defined by geopolitical flux and fractured global institutions, the Indo-Pacific and Europe stand at a strategic inflexion point. The inaugural panel at the Raisina Mediterranean examined how these two regions, both anchored in maritime histories, can forge a forward-looking, resilient partnership. What was once a peripheral relationship, largely shaped by trade and colonial-era legacies, is now central to conversations about strategic resilience, connectivity, and global governance.

Jaishankar underscored that Europe's pursuit of self-reliance and strategic autonomy opens new opportunities for cooperation with India. India's growing ties with individual European states on mobility, technology, and defence complement ongoing negotiations with the EU on a Free Trade Agreement and broader security arrangements in defence and space.

Abigaël Vasselier argued that Europe's approach to India remains significantly influenced by its equations with China and the United States. With China accounting for nearly 70 percent of Europe's trade in

MODERATOR



Samir Saran

President, Observer Research Foundation, India

SPEAKERS



S Jaishankar

Minister of External Affairs, India



Ararat Mirzoyan

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Armenia



Francesco Parisi

President & Managing Director, Parisi Group of Companies, Italy



Abigaël Vasselier

Director, Policy & European Affairs; Head of Program, Foreign Relations, Mercator Institute for China Studies, Germany




certain sectors, this dependence makes diversification an urgent strategic priority. However, she argued, diversification must extend beyond trade to encompass security and strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Jaishankar added that Europe should look at India as an individual partner with its strategic weight and long-term alignment, rather than merely as a hedge against China or the US.

Panellists discussed that trust, not just economic efficiency, is key to long-term partnerships. Ararat Mirzoyan added that beyond the economic ties, India and Europe also share geopolitical aspirations in the multipolar world order. For Armenia, the India-Europe axis represents a shift toward more equitable and inclusive global governance. Jaishankar warned against “cost determinism” and advocated for a recalibration where reliability, shared values, and strategic depth take precedence over marginal cost advantages.

The panel also underscored that economic resilience now hinges on rethinking connectivity. In recent years, disruptions—from the pandemic to the war in Ukraine—have exposed serious vulnerabilities in global supply chains. Francesco Parisi noted the importance of diversifying routes, particularly through projects like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), which can create land bridges for trade and reduce reliance on congested maritime chokepoints. Mirzoyan pointed to Armenia’s geostrategic location as critical to these emerging corridors. With strong relations with Georgia and Iran—and peace efforts underway with Türkiye and Azerbaijan—Armenia could offer vital overland access between Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

Jaishankar added, given the growing conflicts and new uncertainties, we need new and diverse answers to the connectivity challenges. Drawing a parallel with the Suez Canal, he remarked that while it took years to build, it now plays a pivotal role in global trade.

Looking forward, the most promising terrain for deepening the Indo-Pacific–Europe partnership may lie in the digital sphere. Promoting innovation, securing access to affordable energy, and advancing strategic technologies were identified as core priorities for both regions. Vasselier highlighted the need for collaborative frameworks that foster complementarity across innovation ecosystems. Jaishankar added that aligning on Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, fintech, education, and talent mobility would define the strength and sustainability of this “next special relationship”.

[Watch the full session here](#) 



Securing the IMEC: Actors, Arrangements and Agenda

Vivek Kumar

Since its announcement at India's 2023 G20 summit, the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor has emerged as a multi-modal alternative to existing sealanes. Yet within eighteen months, it finds itself unfolding against the most volatile security backdrop in decades. War rages in Ukraine, the Gaza conflict has spilt into the Red Sea shipping lanes, and the global capital is skittish. Initiating the discussion, Prof. Harsh Pant framed IMEC as a litmus test of whether visionary connectivity can survive real-world geopolitics, reminding the audience that enthusiasm has cooled in lieu of recent geopolitical crises and developments. Against this backdrop, a six-person panel weighed IMEC's commercial logic against its political headwinds, asking how a conceptual corridor can be turned into a reliable steel, rail and digital infrastructure.

Ludovic Renou highlighted that commercial connectivity along the IMEC route already exists. He described how his company's strategic roadmaps presently connect essential ports in India, the Gulf, the Levantine and the Mediterranean, aligning

MODERATOR



Harsh V Pant

Vice-President, Observer Research Foundation, India

SPEAKERS



Manish Tewari

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, India



Francesco M. Talò

Special Envoy for IMEC, Italy



Ludovic Renou

Executive Vice President, Global Experience Network, CMA CGM Group, France



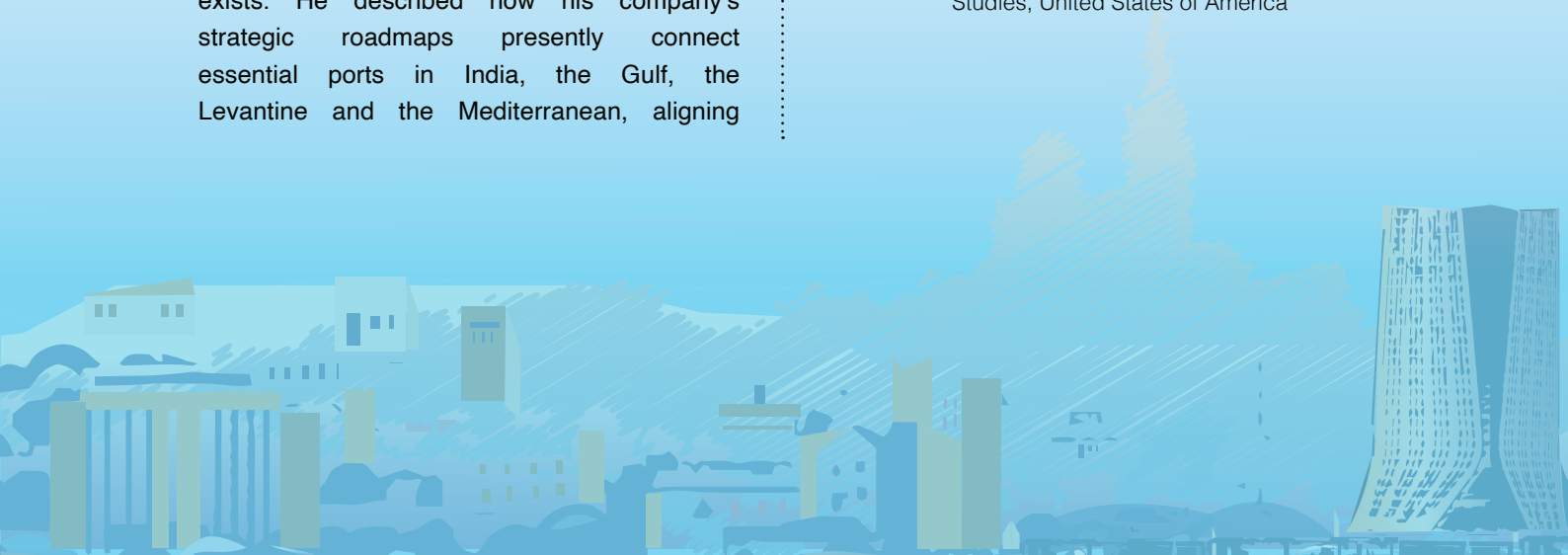
Abla Abdel Latif

Executive Director and Director of Research, The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, Egypt



Randa Slim

Non-Resident Fellow, Foreign Policy Institute, The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced and International Studies, United States of America



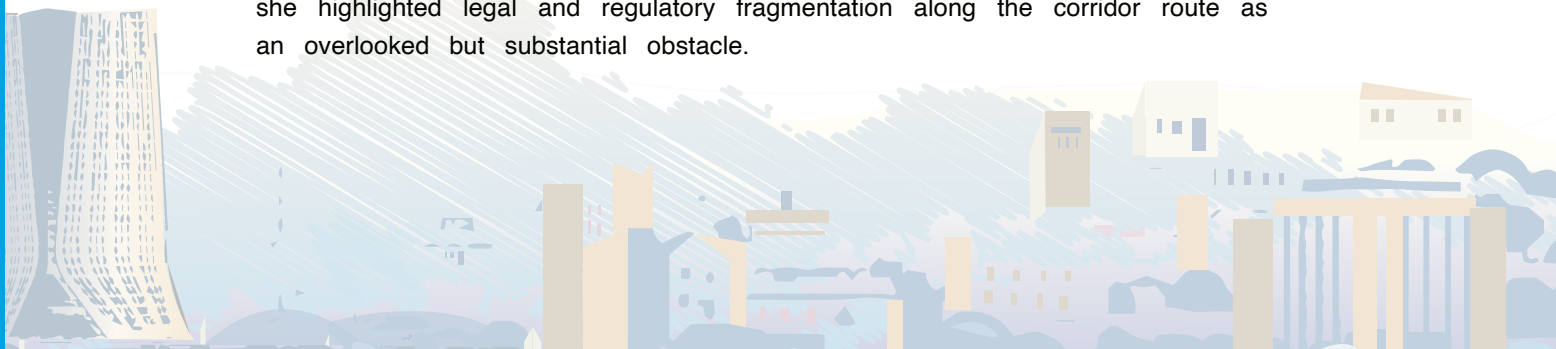
seamlessly with the priorities of each nation. He argued that IMEC would essentially federate these existing nodes, facilitate granular Gulf and Red Sea feeder loops and accelerate green-energy hubs from India and Saudi Arabia. Nonetheless, he stressed the fragility of the current operating environment, noting that vessels now transit the Suez Canal under heightened security protocols, requiring naval escort and crew consent.

Recognising these operational realities, Manish Tewari welcomed the concept of IMEC but warned of two fundamental obstacles. First, he emphasised the unprecedented challenge of three simultaneous great power frictions – Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Gaza, and China’s assertiveness, since World War II. Such a climate makes investors skittish and projects uncertain. Second, he underscored financing as a critical issue: without large sovereign injections, private players will shy away, just as they did from the Iran–Pakistan–India gas pipeline. He emphasised that a robust governmental backing is indispensable for IMEC’s progression beyond mere aspiration.

Despite these concerns, Francesco Talo presented a contrastingly optimistic perspective, arguing that the current global crises heighten the need for Mediterranean-Indo-Pacific redundancy. He framed the “Indo-Mediterranean” basin as the hinge between the Atlantic and the Indian basin. He stressed that Europe’s recent “wake-up call” on security is already visible in the EU’s deployment in Bab-el-Mandeb. He also pointed out that IMEC, the EU’s global gateway and US support from a rare alignment that Europe should exploit, particularly before Arctic sea routes erode Suez’s centrality in connecting the Pacific and the Atlantic.

Abla Abdel Latif highlighted the paradoxical nature of IMEC, which promises to bring economic prosperity and regional stability, yet remains hindered by the very same geopolitical instability. She presented an alternative: “IMEC+ Egypt” blueprint: ship cargo from Europe to Alexandria, instead of Haifa, move it by train ferries to Safaga and then sail to the Indian Ocean, completely circumnavigating the conflict zones. She argued this solution could be swiftly implemented due to Egypt’s upgraded infrastructure, creating direct Asian access to Africa that complements the Suez.

Randa Slim discussed the crucial link between infrastructure, trade and regional peace. She contended that infrastructure projects like the trade corridor could genuinely foster stability only when the root causes are addressed; here, the Israel-Palestine dispute and the Israel-Iran rivalry. With these issues unresolved, the corridor would remain vulnerable. She warned that Arab public opinion has hardened post-Gaza; without grassroots business constituencies, regional leaders may hesitate to support a project perceived as Western-backed. Additionally, she highlighted legal and regulatory fragmentation along the corridor route as an overlooked but substantial obstacle.



Prof. Pant synthesised the discussion; IMEC offers unprecedented economic upside, yet security, financial and local legitimacy remain unresolved. He pressed the panel on whether India and Europe could co-craft frameworks—financial, legal and maritime— that would attempt to nullify the risk for private participation.

The panel converged on three preconditions for IMEC's successful implementation. Firstly, credible security guarantees must be ensured with solutions to the conflicts in the region, and naval security is essential to keep ships moving and costs tolerable. Secondly, robust sovereign capital commitment is crucial to alleviate initial risks and crowd in private financing and logistics. Lastly, broader legitimacy among regional stakeholders must be fostered. Arab public opinion, African market aspirations and uniform legal and regulations must be woven into design. Meeting these conditions could convert IMEC into the resilient Indo-Mediterranean lattice that the current trade routes urgently need. Without them, it risks joining a long list of projects that looked bold but failed to be implemented.

[Watch the full session here](#) 



Speed-Talk

Anurag Thakur

Anika Chhillar

Infrastructure and diplomacy are influencing the shift in economic powers, and India, as a global digital and innovation powerhouse, has a key role to play. India's burgeoning technology industry contributes US\$280 billion to the economy, and over 160,000 startups and 120 unicorns exist. In such a context, Anurag Thakur, member of the Indian Parliament and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal, Mines, and Steel, highlights India's role in providing globally exportable and affordable technology to the world.

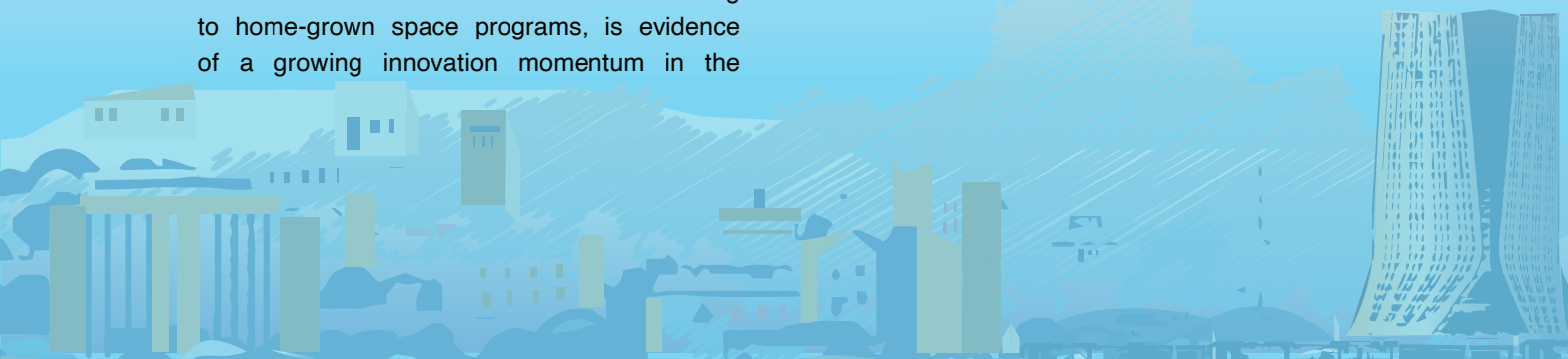
Thakur highlighted India's potential contribution to digital public infrastructure by citing the example of the home-grown Unified Payments Interface (UPI) technology that is now being implemented in France, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Singapore. India's approach is centred around providing open-source and people-first technology, and it is well-positioned to be the provider of such technology to the world. Thakur highlights India's potential to deliver scalable solutions in artificial intelligence, energy, digital health and biotechnology to help shape the world. The rapid spread of technology in the country, from advanced semiconductor manufacturing to home-grown space programs, is evidence of a growing innovation momentum in the

SPEED-TALK



Anurag Thakur

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha;
Former Minister for Information and
Broadcasting, India



country. Government initiatives such as Start-Up India, Digital India and the newly launched Anusandhan National Research Fund, with a US\$12-billion allocation, have created fertile ground for innovation. Moreover, innovation activities in India are not confined to a few cities, as 45 percent of new startups are from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. A major theme in the discussion was the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), launched under India's G20 presidency. IMEC provides a transparent, rules-based and multilateral infrastructure model that is backed by India, France, the United States, UAE and Saudi Arabia among other countries. Thakur called for IMEC to not just be about connectivity but also about building innovation bridges between the Global North and South.

In conclusion, India's transition from a technology adopter to an innovation leader is underway. As it continues to build digital infrastructure and foster global partnerships, it is opening pathways for shared progress. India is shaping up to be the driver of affordable, accessible, and impactful technology for everyone.

[Watch the full session here](#)



Recovering Resilience: Sustainability, Growth, and Energy Access

Gopalika Arora

Amidst a climate crisis and growing development gaps, this panel sought to unpack the intersections between climate action, economic security, and energy access, especially in emerging markets and vulnerable regions. The discussion emphasised financing the green transition, governance challenges, and the unequal distribution of benefits across the Global South and North.

Kira Vinke opened the panel by laying out the urgency and complexity of the global moment. With just five years left until the 2030 deadline for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), progress remains alarmingly off track. She emphasised that while the world is experiencing a renewable energy revolution, the benefits are distributed unevenly, leaving many countries and communities behind. She further framed the discussion around the critical challenge of how to mobilise more financing for development, especially for the green energy transition, while ensuring institutional reforms that unlock North–South cooperation and support greater equity in access, opportunity, and resilience.

Mohamed Nasheed emphasised the need for bankable renewable energy projects

MODERATOR



Kira Vinke

Head, Center for Climate and Foreign Policy, German Council on Foreign Relations, Germany

SPEAKERS



Mohamed Nasheed

Secretary-General, Climate Vulnerable 20; Former President, Maldives



Michael Falzon

Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights, Malta



Herbert Krapa

Former Minister of Energy, Ghana



Jayadev Galla

Former Member of Parliament; Chairman & Managing Director, Amara Raja Energy and Mobility Ltd, India



Geraldine Ang

Team Lead, Clean Energy Finance & Investment Mobilisation, OECD

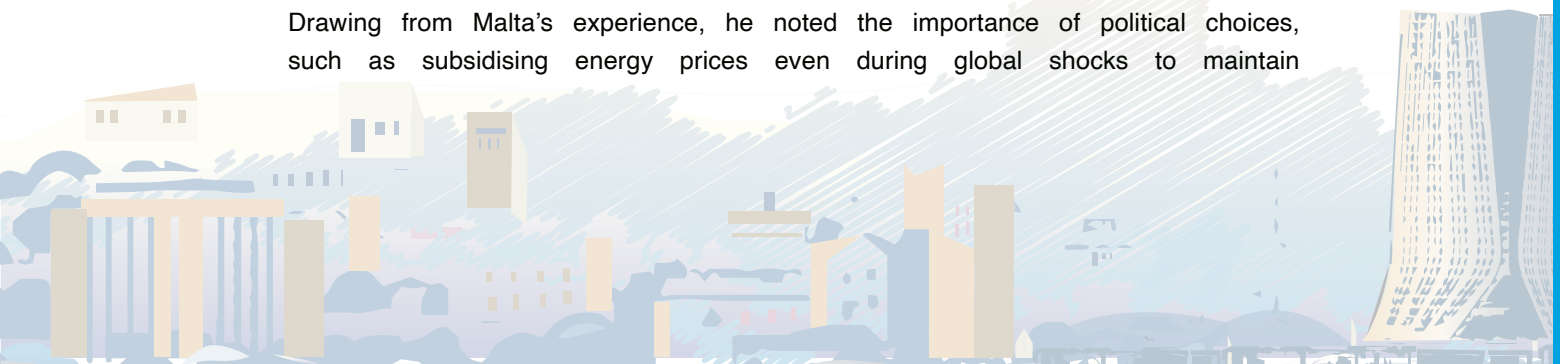
in developing countries and stressed that development finance should cover viability gaps to crowd in private investment. He addressed the burden of legacy fossil fuel-based Power Purchase Agreements and called for their restructuring to unlock space for new investments. He also urged guarantees to hedge currency and political risks, critiqued the cost of capital disparity, and warned against frequent contract terminations, which discourage investor confidence. He advocated for South-South collaboration, particularly Africa–India partnerships, and emphasised value addition and mineral processing within the resource-rich countries.

Geraldine Ang acknowledged the mismatch between available global capital and the actual flow of investments into emerging markets. She criticised the current structure of development finance institutions, noting that only 18 percent of their instruments prioritise private finance mobilisation. She also identified post-2008 financial regulations like Basel III and Solvency II as inadvertently stifling long-term infrastructure finance. She also called for blended finance, guarantees, and institutional reforms to enhance private sector engagement. She identified financing of transmission infrastructure as the number one global bottleneck for scaling renewables and shared insights from the OECD's work in Egypt and elsewhere.

Jayadev Galla highlighted the enormous financing gaps, noting that India alone requires US\$2.5 trillion by 2030 for climate goals. He stressed that the cost of capital in the Global South remains a fundamental barrier, and transformative reform of the international financial architecture is urgent. Galla laid out a clear roadmap for action, calling for MDB capital optimisation, blended finance facilities, and improved technology partnerships to reduce overdependence on a single manufacturing hub. He advocated for capacity-building, not just equipment transfers, and noted that India's development trajectory requires a just transition that supports both economic growth and climate targets.

Herbert Krupa addressed the link between electricity access and socio-economic opportunity, emphasising that the lack of electricity leads to exclusion from jobs, education, and healthcare. Drawing on his own experience, he highlighted the complexity of lowering electricity costs while maintaining system viability. He also spoke about the centrality of energy in the climate–development–security nexus, urging greater investment in off-grid solutions, local manufacturing, and holistic regulatory reform. He also stressed the need to harmonise public and private efforts and innovate financing mechanisms like green bonds and local currency funding.

Michael Falzon brought a human-centric lens to the conversation, highlighting how the green transition risks marginalising communities if not pursued inclusively. Drawing from Malta's experience, he noted the importance of political choices, such as subsidising energy prices even during global shocks to maintain



affordability. Falzon further emphasised that sustainability and development must not be viewed in opposition, advocating for a politics of inclusion and long-term investment in human capital.

The session concluded by underscoring that resilience, sustainability, and energy access are interconnected and must be tackled through inclusive, innovative, and systemic reforms. While renewable energy offers both economic and environmental benefits, current financial and institutional structures fall short. As the world navigates multiple crises, this panel reinforced the urgent need for cooperative, coordinated action to deliver just and sustainable growth, particularly across the Global South.

[Watch the full session here](#) 



Remarks & Gala Dinner

Ambar Kumar Ghosh

Sanjeev Singla expressed his pleasure to be in the city of Marseille, a city with a modern spirit, a historic trading port that has stood as a gateway between cultures, continents and civilisations. He reiterated that with a rich history, it is a priority to look eastwards at the Indo-Pacific, especially at the IMEC initiative, for strengthening the future relationship between Europe and India. He also underlined that Prime Minister Modi and President Macron, during their recent visit to Marseille, emphasised the inherent potential of Marseille as a hub to deepen India-France strategic partnership. He pointed out how this partnership has been anchored in domains related to space, nuclear energy and defence cooperation over the last few decades. He reiterated that it's crucial to now work on the roadmap of Horizon 2047 as India and France are deepening their partnership in areas of technology and talent. He also highlighted the initiatives, such as a consulate in Marseille that covers southern regions of France above the Mediterranean, along with rising bilateral trade volume through Marseille.



S Jaishankar

Minister of External Affairs, India



Sanjeev Singla

Ambassador of India to France



Tristan Aureau

Head, Policy Planning Department,
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs,
France

S. Jaishankar touched upon two aspects. He recalled that a few years ago, a European prime minister who was the chief guest for Raisina in India had described the Mediterranean as the connecting water body between the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific. He appreciated how the Mediterranean has brought such a diverse gathering from all corners of the world. Second, he emphasised that India has a serious interest in the Mediterranean and is taking a lot of initiatives in the region. Tristan Aureau, in his closing remarks, expressed his sincere thanks and congratulations to all those who made this event possible. He also extended his gratitude to the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Indian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the CMA CGM and Raisina for hosting and supporting this event. He reiterated the need for strengthening relations between the two countries and underlined the importance of Marseille as a bridge connecting the Mediterranean Sea to France and to the whole European continent.



Opening Remarks

Rodolphe Saadé

Abhishree Pandey

In his opening remarks, Rodolphe Saadé highlighted the growing need for open and constructive dialogues, especially in a rapidly changing world. As he sees it, discussions that are free from impositions allow for the kind of reflection and free conversation that is essential in times of uncertainty. A major theme of Rodolphe Saadé's address was the growing collaboration between India and CMA CGM. Noting India's strategic importance, Saadé asserted that strengthening CMA CGM's partnership with India in global trade and innovation will mark the genesis of a transformative era, particularly in shipbuilding.

CMA CGM views India as central to the future of global shipping routes and logistics infrastructure. Thus, Saadé stressed the need for deep-sea ports in the country. CMA CGM, among other groups, is willing to help develop this "terminal of the future." Speeding up the process will be crucial, as without accelerated progress, he warned, India risks ceding ground to competitors such as China. Saadé mentioned that the group is interested in developing and expanding maritime services



Rodolphe Saadé

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,
CMA CGM, France

in India as well. The group is also actively exploring ways to expand its footprint in India across areas such as training, technology, and education.

Another key point of discussion was the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Saadé articulated CMA CGM's strong support for the IMEC, calling it a "corridor of the future" that places India at the centre of global maritime connectivity. He believes that the IMEC offers many opportunities for both businesspeople and the general population, even when geopolitical conditions may not be optimal. Another important takeaway from the discussion was CMA CGM's emphasis on action. Saadé asserted that when it comes to such initiatives, action is more important than words. Mistakes are part of the process, he noted, but what matters more is the willingness to correct and move forward.

The session concluded with Saadé highlighting the growing collaboration between India and Europe, especially in deep-sea ports and new trade corridors, which will shape the future of connectivity, technology, and global commerce. He acknowledged that while the world is difficult, there will always be opportunities and ways of looking at things differently.

[Watch the full session here](#) 



France, India and Europe: A Multi-Dimensional Strategic Partnership

Shairee Malhotra

The panel discussion “France, India and Europe: A Multi-Dimensional Strategic Partnership” examined the strengths of the India-France bilateral partnership and how these are shaping the wider India-EU partnership.

The session was moderated by Samir Saran, who began by asking the panellists to share their perspectives on the India-France partnership in a world of opportunities and disruptions.

Jean-Noel Barrot highlighted Marseille as the gateway to continental Europe, and an important platform for connectivity, energy, communication and logistics. India and France are keen on progressing on the IMEC launched during India’s G20 presidency, and second to Mumbai, Marseille is the ideal place to discuss this, particularly after Prime Minister Modi’s visit in February. Innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) are emerging fields of India-France cooperation, as both countries co-chaired the largest AI summit in Paris this year, with the next one to be held in New Delhi. 2026 will mark the India-France

MODERATOR



Samir Saran
President, ORF

SPEAKERS



S. Jaishankar
Minister of External Affairs, India



Jean-Noël Barrot
Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs,
France

year of innovation, coinciding with India and France's respective chairing of the BRICS and G7, paving the way to complement bilateral and global agendas.

S. Jaishankar emphasised the sense of strategic independence as central to the foreign policies of both countries, along with the ability to take worldviews and develop them into practical propositions for cooperation. He reiterated how India has historically approached Europe through the prism of nation states. India is now more cognisant of the role of Brussels and the interaction between national and EU competencies, and is engaging Brussels more deeply, which in turn is also aiding the various bilateral relationships. Member states active in Brussels and committed to increasing India-EU cooperation, such as France, make a huge difference.

Barot described France's status as a resident power in the Indian Ocean that has enabled specific cooperation with India, given this shared geography as well as the seven-decades-strong history of cooperation on defence, economic and other domains. France strongly supported the recent trip of the European Commission to India and the ongoing India-EU FTA discussions.

The NATO summit is an opportunity for Europe to make fresh security commitments and for the US to clarify its strategic focus. While Europe and the US negotiate a trade agreement, Europe is also vowing to defend its commercial interests if the US administration persists in applying high trade barriers. Countries across Europe are now convinced of the need for greater strategic autonomy and diversification of global relationships. Jaishankar highlighted how changes in the transatlantic alliance have resulted in a sharper awareness and realism in Europe about its interests and dealings with the world. These traits, already strong in France, are now present in the rest of Europe. This enhances the Indian rationale to invest more time and attention in developing the India-EU relationship.

Barot highlighted France's honest dialogue with China and cooperation on global issues such as the economy and climate change, but also emphasised France's commitment to global trade and WTO rules, as well as the difficulties in developing new forms of cooperation with China as long as the latter facilitates Russia's war effort against Ukraine. Barot highlighted President Macron's call during his recent visit to Southeast Asia for a coalition of independent countries that believe in the principles of open trade, multilateralism, and the international order.



Continuum across different US administrations and the need for nations to strategise their foreign policies bearing this sharp competitive element.

India and France share common third-country partners such as Armenia and the UAE, demonstrating convergent mindsets that underline these overlapping choices. There is an intent on both sides to capitalise on these overlaps and develop trilateral cooperation with these countries.

Overall, the panel expressed a positive view of the India-France partnership and the numerous synergies and convergences that underpin it.

[Watch the full session here](#) 



The Leviathan Wakes: The Re-Emergence of Europe as a Global Actor

Debosmita Sarkar

As geopolitical fault lines intensify, Europe finds itself at a critical juncture—reasserting its identity not merely as a normative power but as a net security provider. In this context, the panel discussion, *“Leviathan Wakes: Europe as a Global Security Actor,”* brought together experts to explore Europe’s expanding strategic footprint in the Mediterranean and Indo-Pacific regions. Opening the session, moderator Kristina Kausch urged participants to consider what kind of global actor Europe is becoming and explore whether Europe’s renewed strategic ambition reflects the Hobbesian vision of a moderating force or risks becoming a fragmented, overburdened giant.

Jean-Noël Barrot emphasised the urgent need for Europe to become a credible security provider for itself and its partners amid rising geopolitical threats. He cited Russia’s growing militarisation, persistent global terrorist networks, and the anticipated reduction of the US military presence in Europe as key drivers behind the call for strategic autonomy and investment in a robust European defence industrial base. He also stressed Europe’s broader role in defending the post-World War II

MODERATOR



Kristina Kausch

Deputy Managing Director and Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund South, Spain

SPEAKERS



Jean-Noël Barrot

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France



Mehdi Jomaa

Former Prime Minister, Tunisia



Giorgos Papanastasiou

Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Cyprus



Athanasios Ntokos

National Security Advisor, Greece



Valeria Talbot

Senior Research Fellow; Head, Middle East and North Africa Centre, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), Italy

international security architecture, advocating for UN Security Council reform to include countries such as India, Japan, and Brazil. On Middle East stability and the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC), he argued that credible infrastructure cooperation can reduce regional tensions.

Mehdi Jomaa argued that Europe's security strategy must move beyond budgetary expansion and instead focus on defragmentation of its defence sector and fostering synergies among member states. He further emphasised that Europe's technological capabilities are strong, but its failure to prioritise specific policies weakens competitiveness and strategic autonomy. He stressed the need for a clear industrial strategy backed by political commitment, noting that real innovation and security capacity should be market-driven.

Athanasios Ntokos, referencing NATO's strategy for the South, cautioned against unrealistic expectations around defence spending, pointing out the trade-offs with social cohesion and economic competitiveness, especially amid the rise of far-right populism. He underscored the need for Europe to break out of the Brussels bubble, urging genuine engagement with partners in the South based on listening and shared interests. He identified maritime security, freedom of navigation, and rules-based order as areas where Europe, especially Mediterranean states like Greece, must lead collaboratively.

Giorgos Papanastasiou, reflecting on the symbolic meaning of "Leviathan", urged that Europe must be seen not as a monster but as a powerful and responsible global actor. He argued that Europe's overreliance on Russian energy was a strategic error, and the Ukraine war served as a harsh wake-up call. While the European Green Deal aims to foster self-reliance through renewables, he warned that the technological readiness is insufficient, making the transition costly and rendering European industry uncompetitive relative to the U.S. and China. He criticised the lack of European solidarity during crises, highlighting how national priorities often override collective strength. Looking ahead to Cyprus's EU presidency in 2025, Papanastasiou emphasised the interdependence of energy, trade, and industry portfolios.

Valeria Talbot emphasised that for connectivity initiatives like the IMEC to advance EU strategic autonomy and competitiveness, Europe must act with a "Team Europe" mindset, rather than through fragmented national approaches. While there is growing interest across the EU in infrastructure, digitalisation, and transport projects, she warned that competition among southern European states for national economic gains can dilute the long-term collective vision. Talbot emphasised that for Europe to act as a global player in connectivity, greater synergy and convergence, particularly among Mediterranean countries, are required.



In conclusion, the panel painted a nuanced picture of a reawakening Europe—one that must consolidate its internal strengths to navigate external challenges. As the continent recalibrates its defence posture, energy strategies, and infrastructure ambitions, it must also nurture solidarity, coherence, and institutional agility. The promise of Europe as a net security provider lies not just in its hard power or economic clout, but in its ability to forge inclusive partnerships and shape the global order through collaboration, rather than competition.

[Watch the full session here](#) 



Corridors of Power: Geopolitics, Smart Ports, and the Future of Global Trade

Kalpita A. Mankikar

To examine how global volatility is changing trade, infrastructure, and resilience plans, a roundtable debate brought together strategists and officials from Europe and India. Amidst growing geopolitical disarray, the panel discussed how countries might concurrently attain sustainability, competitiveness, and national security in a world system that has been upended.

The moderator of the session, Romana Vlahutin, set the tone for the roundtable by emphasizing the profound geopolitical shift the world is currently experiencing. She highlighted that for decades, global stability was anchored in the idea of interdependence—the belief that economic integration would foster peace and cooperation. However, she noted that this idea has been upended by rising volatility, systemic shocks, and geopolitical fragmentation. She posed the central challenge of the discussion: How can governments build resilience, competitiveness, and economic growth all at once, especially while adapting on the move? Each speaker was invited to share how their country is adjusting its strategies in the evolving times.

MODERATOR



Romana Vlahutin

Visiting Distinguished Fellow, German Marshall Fund, Belgium

SPEAKERS



Sanjeev Sanyal

Member, Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister, India



Edoardo Rixi

Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Italy



Stefanos Gkikas

Deputy Minister for Shipping and Insular Policy, Greece



Sachin Pilot

Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, India



Tristan Aureau

Head, Policy Planning Department, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France

A significant change in India's resilience strategy was explained by Sanjeev Sanyal. He maintained that India functions as an "economic island" because of its limited trade with its neighbours, although not geographically isolated. Consequently, marine security is inextricably linked to India's economic resiliency. He pointed out that foreign ships currently carry 95 percent of India's trade, which is a significant risk. India has taken major steps to solve this, including commissioning more than 100 large ships and implementing reforms to marine legislation and port development. In order to protect against system shocks, India also views trusted partnerships and alternate pathways as essential.

From Italy, Eduardo Rixi emphasised Europe's growing reliance on maritime routes as land borders become less reliable due to political tensions. Italy plans to invest over €200 billion in modernising infrastructure, especially rail networks and ship retrofitting, to align with the green transition. Rixi stressed the Mediterranean's strategic importance, given it handles 23 percent of global trade despite comprising only 1 percent of the world's water surface. He called for greater coordination across Europe and deeper cooperation with emerging partners such as India and Africa.

According to Christina Alexopoulou, there are four pillars of resilience: Maritime security, technical innovation, skilled labour, and environmental sustainability. Greece is prioritising energy transformation, AI integration in ports, and cold ironing. Crucially, she underlined that to guarantee fair competition and long-term viability, international marine legislation must provide an even playing field. Stephanos Kyriazis provided real-world instances of effective public-private cooperation. Through innovation and investment, Greek ports run by private companies, such as Piraeus and Thessaloniki, have developed into regional hubs. According to Kyriazis, this kind of collaboration is the most effective approach to expand and quicken port renovation, particularly for clean shipping and green ferries.

Sachin Pilot emphasised the significance of converting foreign policy into observable domestic results in a political setting. Public support for democratic governments depends on proving that global collaboration leads to economic stability, jobs, and reduced inflation. The pilot highlighted the difficulty of striking a balance between immediate electoral demands and long-term strategic objectives, particularly in big, varied nations like India.

The necessity of interoperable standards, particularly in developing corridors like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), was agreed upon at the end of the event. Speakers emphasised that just as important as physical infrastructure is soft infrastructure, such as standardised legal frameworks, customs cooperation, and regulations.



Near-unanimous agreement was found during the roundtable about the main priorities: diversified supply chains, green transition, resilient infrastructure, and reliable alliances. As a conceptual link between Europe and the Indo-Pacific, speakers urged a rethinking of strategic geography, especially as it relates to the Indo-Mediterranean zone.

[Watch the full session here](#) 



Mediterranean Matters: Infrastructure, Trade, and Strategic Centrality

Rajoli Siddharth Jayaprakash

In recent years, the Mediterranean region has seen a multitude of developments. Given the growing geopolitical instability in the Middle East and North Africa, and climate change-related challenges faced by the Mediterranean countries, the European Union has set a policy prerogative in strengthening regional and multilateral cooperation in the region. One such avenue for the strengthening of cooperation in the region is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. The rationale for it remains that strengthening maritime logistics and ports will inevitably lead to the strengthening of people-to-people relations and interlinking of economies, as reiterated by Dubravka Šuica. This interest can be manifested in the creation of the EU forum for strengthening cooperation within the Mediterranean region.

Rami Mortada highlighted the economic divide between the northern and southern Mediterranean and the lack of an inclusive multilateral framework. He called for a revival of redistributive traditions and mechanisms similar to the 1995 Barcelona Process.

MODERATOR



Tara Varma

Visiting Fellow, Brookings Institution, United States of America

SPEAKERS



Jawed Ashraf

Former Ambassador of India to France and Monaco



Ambre Eyoum

Diplomatic Advisor to the Special Envoy of the French President for IMEC



Karim El Aynoui

Executive President, Policy Center for the New South, Morocco



Valbona Zeneli

Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Europe Center, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, Atlantic Council, United States of America



Michel Narchi

Vice President and Head of International Operations, Airbus, France

Michel Narchi spoke about the convergence of European and Indian interests in light of recent developments in the World. Moreover, according to Narchi, in Europe's calculus, India is beyond a market and a key strategic partner in the strengthening of the rules-based international order in the long run. In recent years, Airbus has been able to establish two assembly lines in India and build a resilient supply chain. Airbus India operations have been able to grow from a modest US\$500 million to now inching towards the US\$2 billion mark, reflecting India as a perfect destination for investment.

Jawad Ashraf expressed his scepticism regarding the project. He stated that the prominence of IMEC was highly context-dependent, particularly due to several claimants of the project. Since the IMEC has been signed, there has been no meeting. There is no coordinator, no private sector coordinator. He raised concerns about financing and customs integration, particularly the need for a streamlined system for multimodal goods transit. According to Ashraf, the discussion so far has been largely theoretical. He cited the case of INSTC and TAPI, and there has not been any growth.

Ambre Eyoun spoke about cooperation within the framework of IMEC and spoke about the political and economic momentum emerging among IMEC countries. For instance, the Trump administration has established a task force to increase the geoeconomic impetus within the IMEC. In contrast to Ashraf, Eyoun stated that 90 percent of IMEC's infrastructure is already in place, with the Gulf segment being the only major construction requirement. She saw the project as developing through clusters with varying levels of intensity and focus.

Karim el Aynoui, shared a Moroccan perspective. Called for openness within the project, and having solutions and having long-term goals rather than short-term developments, and stated that "Underwriting" and "trust" were two key elements of making the project a success.

According to Valbona Zeneli, the Mediterranean route has become further relevant after the Ukraine war. In light of the fragmentation of the world order and trade, and rising protectionism, reducing non-tariff barriers and creating conditions for fostering the private sector is the only way forward. Further, in the security realm, the interest has increased, manifested in NATO's Southern flank strategy, giving more emphasis to the region.



If implemented effectively, IMEC holds the potential to transform the Mediterranean into a hub of strategic connectivity, fostering deeper economic integration, reducing regional disparities, and offering a credible alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative. However, for this vision to materialise, early and sustained coordination, particularly around financing, logistics, and governance, is essential. Bridging the Mediterranean's north-south divide will require not just infrastructure, but political will, trust, and a shared long-term commitment to regional stability and prosperity.

[Watch the full session here](#) 



The New Tech Corridor: Working Together for our Digital Future

Basu Chandola

Paula Ciperre, moderator of the session, underscored the prevailing uncertainty across geopolitics, economics, and the future of the rules-based order and democracy. She added that the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is an important trading corridor and an opportunity to deepen strategic ties. As the digital layer becomes central to power and prosperity, the IMEC Tech Corridor represents a unique opportunity to shape shared infrastructure, frameworks, and values for the digital age.

Christopher Schroeder opened with a deceptively simple question: What does it mean when most of the world carries a supercomputer in their pocket? He argued this shift has profound implications for innovation, politics, and business, especially as AI accelerates it. He emphasised that talent is now global, with entrepreneurs in smaller cities solving real-world challenges that are often overlooked by Silicon Valley. He highlighted key challenges: fragmented markets, difficulty accessing top-tier talent, a gap in mid-stage funding, and regulatory capture. Innovators, he noted, are often

MODERATOR



Paula Ciperre

Director, Data Ethics & Innovation, ada, Germany

SPEAKERS



Christopher Schroeder

Co-founder, Next Billion Ventures, United States of America



Asma Mhalla

Political Scientist, France



Megan Reiss

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, SolidIntel Inc, United States of America



Maggie Sprenger

General Partner, Audere Capital, United States of America



Arvind Gupta

Head and Co-founder, Digital India Foundation, India

penalised by rules favouring incumbents. He urged policymakers to rethink regulatory frameworks to enable leapfrogging innovation.

Arvind Gupta highlighted India's distinctive role in democratising technology from the ground up. Unlike the dominant "P5" platforms or China's "C4," India stands as the "big U", i.e. a billion users empowered through digital public infrastructure. With India Stack, it has addressed key challenges such as identity and financial inclusion at scale, offering open-source tools freely to other nations. Gupta positioned India's contribution to the IMEC corridor as a values-driven, development-first model that prioritises inclusion over profit. He emphasised India's ability to apply technology through political leadership to solve real-world problems, leapfrog legacy systems through innovation, and empower a thriving startup ecosystem. He also stressed India's strengths in public-private collaboration, open digital infrastructure, and a regulatory framework designed for scale, making it a replicable model for the Global South.

Megan Reiss noted that in the US, discussions on AI and security are framed as a contest between the West and China, with a focus on protecting democratic values. Reiss distinguished between civilian threats, such as restrictions on free speech, and national security threats, where AI already plays a role in systems like Israel's Iron Dome. What's new, she argued, is the rise of offensive AI capabilities, particularly in Ukraine. Reiss warned that authoritarian regimes may not interpret international norms in the same way. As AI begins making life-or-death decisions, she urged the West to uphold and embed those protections. The challenge ahead, she emphasised, lies in setting clear standards and guardrails before the complexity outpaces our ability to govern it.

Maggie Sprenger described "deep tech" as the cutting edge of innovation, spanning scalable AI, quantum computing, hypersonics, and experimental technologies. While the term remains loosely defined, the field is advancing rapidly, driven by the convergence of compute power, AI, and data. This acceleration, she argued, makes regulation, values, and global collaboration both harder and more urgent. Sprenger highlighted key trends like "friend-shoring" and growing tensions around strategic capital. Democracies, she warned, risk falling behind as adversaries move faster. She stressed the need for public-private partnerships capable of responding to new threats like drone warfare and decentralised violence. Deep tech, she concluded, must be guided by frameworks rooted in equity, agility, and long-term global resilience.

Asma Mhalla argued that power is shifting from states to large technology firms, especially American and Chinese ones. She described this evolving structure as a public-private leviathan, a "techno-military complex" where platforms have



become indispensable public utilities, shaping everything from speech and healthcare to space infrastructure. Europe, she warned, remains stuck in a defensive mode, relying on regulation without a coherent industrial strategy. In contrast to the strategic capitalism practised by the US and China, Europe lacks the political cohesion to act decisively. She called for a rethinking of sovereignty, especially in light of dual-use technologies like AI and quantum.

In conclusion, the panel agreed that the EMAC tech corridor is more than a trade route; it is a strategic and philosophical opportunity. Whether through India's digital model, Europe's push for autonomy, or the US focus on secure innovation, its success will depend on collaboration grounded in openness, trust, and urgency.

[Watch the full session here](#) 



Deep Tech Network at Raisina Mediterranean: Developing Future Solutions for Shared Global Challenges

Amoha Basrur

The Deep Tech Network, launched in Dubai in 2024, brought together startups from around the world to communicate and collaborate for our shared technology future. This initiative is being taken forward at Raisina Mediterranean to further these conversations and create actionable plans for domestic problems, international alignments, and borderless challenges.

Reem Baggash opened by highlighting the three key takeaways from Dubai: the need for common principles for Artificial Intelligence (AI), the need for government funding to mobilise R&D, and the importance of human-centric values in innovation. Angus Blair emphasised the importance of bilateral capital flows for smaller countries like New Zealand and the central role played by government intervention in catalysing local VC growth and increasing outbound investments. David Woods elaborated on New Zealand's investment ecosystem and the capital market failures in climate tech. Short electoral cycles and policy uncertainty were identified as risks that deter foreign and domestic investors.

OPENING REMARKS



Samir Saran

President, Observer Research Foundation, India



Reem Baggash

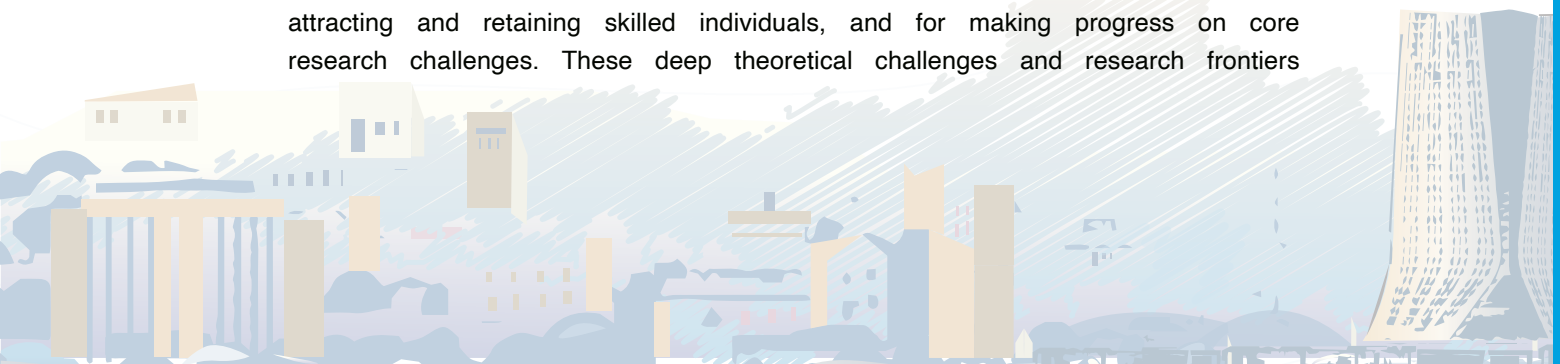
Deputy Managing Director for Strategy, Content, and Communication, World Governments Summit, United Arab Emirates

Klaudia Kloc warned that AI dramatically reduces the technical barrier for cyberattacks, making proactive regulation and real-time vulnerability monitoring vital. Megan Reiss advocated for using GenAI to detect adversarial actors and regulatory violations in hardware supply chains. She highlighted the need for dual-use AI systems that support both commercial and national security objectives.

Digvijay Singh brought out the importance of market access for deep tech startups, particularly in defence and space. He noted that American defence startup success is often tied to Department of Defense contracts, however, countries such as India are lacking early adopters for their products that would accelerate their growth. While countries are increasingly opening up defence procurement to startups, participants warned against accepting strategic capital from investors linked to Chinese defence firms, given rising US scrutiny. The threefold concern over Chinese influence was outlined as follows: military threats (adversaries developing superior capabilities), economic entrenchment (supply chain dependence, data poisoning, cyber risks), and political repression (values embedded in technology that contradict democratic norms). The African Union's experience with Chinese surveillance infrastructure was cited as a cautionary example. China's scale in real-time AI-driven influence operations, such as those in Taiwan, also represent an imminent challenge, exacerbated by China's access to data sets that liberal democracies eschew for ethical reasons.

Technology is playing a pivotal role in levelling the playing field, not just through products and services, but also by transforming talent development even in under-resourced regions. Del Titus discussed policy and education as pillars of Africa's blockchain future and presented Ghana's central bank as a case study. Challenges like KYC and regulatory interoperability were flagged as major concerns, but stories like the success of mobile money offer optimism for the future of the continent. He blamed weak leadership for allowing foreign actors to exploit infrastructure development but urged emerging leaders to craft more resilient policies. Towards the challenges faced by African countries, Arvind Gupta offered India's Aadhaar-based eKYC system as a replicable open-source model to reduce KYC costs significantly. He introduced India's national-level Deep Tech Fund of Funds as a major funding opportunity, especially for foreign entities setting up subsidiaries. He pointed out the advantage of investing in emerging economies, noting that capital deployed in these markets typically has a greater impact and purchasing power compared to more developed contexts.

Matthew Kennedy reflected on how fundamental scientific problems, particularly in AI research, have direct implications for broader strategic concerns. Beyond commercial competition, there is a critical competition for talent, both in attracting and retaining skilled individuals, and for making progress on core research challenges. These deep theoretical challenges and research frontiers



should be considered integral to discussions on strategic partnerships and innovation ecosystems as they underpin long-term capability and competitive advantage.

Finally, Peter Ackerson emphasised urgency and the importance of convenings like this to catalyse real-world outcomes. He stressed that while everything begins with a meeting, delayed action can turn solvable problems into irreversible ones.

These discussions reflect a growing recognition that the future of deep tech will be shaped not only by innovation and investment but by the strategic choices nations make today about whom to partner with, what values to embed in emerging technologies, and how to build ecosystems that are resilient, inclusive, and geopolitically aware.



Calm Amidst the Currents: Conflicts, Crises and Opportunities

Anika Chhillar

The world today is marked by great power struggles, technological transformations and a weakening multipolar system. In this context, maritime security cannot be viewed in isolation from the broader global shifts and its preservation demands cooperation and sustained legal action. The roundtable discussion brought forward diverse international perspectives to examine the evolving landscape of maritime security.

Davit Karapetyan framed the discussion by highlighting the fundamental role oceans play in global trade. Over 80 percent of international trade is carried out through international waters, and over 2 million seafarers help transport food, energy and essential goods across oceans. However, he warned that the erosion of multilateralism has intensified disputes over maritime territories, and crimes such as piracy and trafficking are undermining global stability. Karapetyan stressed that adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is critical. Additionally, unified responses to the root causes of organised crime, such as poverty and exclusion, need to be responded to. Karapetyan noted that

OPENING REMARKS



Davit Karapetyan

Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Armenia

Armenia, despite being a landlocked nation, has actively engaged in maritime security by signing the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction agreement and committing to hosting the COP27 on maritime biodiversity.

However, turning principles into practice has proven to be more difficult in today's world. Isabelle Saint-Mezard highlighted that the coordination of the naval forces of countries has reduced since early 2010, when the global response to piracy was more united. At that time, the cooperation created a unified deterrence framework, but now, threats in the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean have prompted uncoordinated deployments by various countries. She argues that although both India and the European Union are propagating initiatives such as Maritime Domain Awareness, there is more competition than synergy between the two. In tandem, Camille Lons observed that fragmentation reflects deeper geopolitical fault lines. Since the Red Sea crisis in 2023, maritime traffic through the area has dropped by over 55 percent, forcing ships to reroute via the Cape of Good Hope. The shift has effects on Mediterranean economies and supply chains, contributing to long-term inflation. Lons noted that the United States' leadership has eroded and maritime security issues have become increasingly politicised, both of which limit the multilateral action that can be taken. Alexis Morel argued that oceans are becoming areas for state assertions since maritime zones host critical national interests such as nuclear deterrence capabilities. Morel suggests that a coalition of the willing may offer a solution.

The confluence of industrial strategy and maritime security was explored by Gladden Pappin. He pointed to the fact that policymakers in the United States have renewed interest in the domestic maritime industry in response to China's dominance in ship production and related infrastructure. Chinese investment in South American ports is bringing back the philosophy of the Monroe Doctrine in American political discourse. Noar Gilon added to the discussion by arguing that multilateralism is no longer effective. Instead, unilateral groupings are becoming increasingly relevant. He further pointed out that technological capability is the backbone of maritime strength, and countries must cooperate in this area. The theme of technology was also central to Ji Yeon-Jung's discussion. Maritime Domain Awareness depends greatly on satellite and space technology. India currently operates over 130 satellites that cover its maritime zones. Jung calls for deeper research and development among countries, through unilateral activities such as joint naval drills.

Samuel Bashfield expanded the conversation to include undersea infrastructure. Seabed cables that enable renewable energy and communications infrastructure operate in a legal and operational grey zone. Maritime security frameworks address issues such as piracy and trafficking; however, they fail to address the issue of threats to seabed infrastructure. The Indo-Pacific, he noted, is lagging in developing frameworks for the protection and repair of seabed assets.



Finally, Anne-Marie Brady offered a cautionary note on foreign interference in the Pacific. Many island nations in the Pacific are prone to foreign interference due to their geographic isolation and lack of maritime security agreements. Brady argues that tactical responses that take into account the unique needs of smaller island nations are required.

In conclusion, the roundtable discussion noted that maritime security is not limited to protecting ships or coastlines, but it is about adapting to a world where geopolitics, technology and economics are all tangled together. The common thread of the speakers was that they spoke with a sense of urgency and a belief that old approaches will likely not work in the present context. Countries need to find new ways to engage with each other through unilateral or regional groupings and find ways to collaborate on technology to keep the oceans safe and resilient for everyone who depends on them.



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