

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSATLANTIQUE RELATIONS

***“Europe-United States and External Challenges:
Transatlantic Convergences and Divergences”***

Hôtel du Département - Lyon, May 12–14, 2006

Press Realease

Institut Aspen France organized its third international conference on transatlantic relations on May 12-14 (Hôtel du Département, Conseil Général du Rhône). It was dedicated to the topic :

***« Europe – United-States Relations and External Challenges :
Transatlantic Convergences and divergences »***

This third conference was an opportunity to move beyond traditional discussions by taking a look at relations with countries outside the Atlantic area.

The new front lines of American diplomacy are located in other major regions of the world. Europe was absent from the discussions at the Davos Forum and is progressively being overtaken by the growth and weight of the United States, India and China.

What new alliances will be formed in this recomposition of the world order? Is the current question of energy supplies, which Russia and Iran distinguish themselves by, a bone of contention or a common interest? What links the American challenges of the promotion of democracy with European considerations? Here are the main topics that will be discussed during this event.

This conference brought together some forty American and European leaders, including : **Joachim Bitterlich**, *Former Ambassador, Vice President, International Affairs, Veolia Environnement* ; **Robert Friedman**, *International Editor, Fortune Magazine* ; **Boyden Gray**, *United States Ambassador to the European Union*; **Laurent Cohen-Tanugi**, *Partner, Skadden Arps* ; **Karl Hoffman**, *Deputy Chief of Mission, American Embassy in France*; **Bernard Hourcade**, *Research Manager, Iranian World, CNRS*; **Scott Hubli**, *Director, Governance Programs, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs* ; **Leonid Kadychev**, *First Counsellor, Embassy of the Russian Federation* ; **Bassma Kodmani**, *President, Arab Reform Initiative* ; **Stanley McCormick**, *Vice President, International Affairs, TNK-BP* ; **Guillaume Parmentier**, *Director, French Center on the United States (IFRI)* ; **Michel Pébereau**, *President, BNP-Paribas, President of the Supervisory Board, Institut Aspen France* ; **Alain Richard**, *Former Minister of Defense* ; **Karsten Voigt**, *Coordinator, German-American Cooperation, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs etc...*

Institut Aspen France is an independent, non-partisan international forum for discussion and dialogue, with Michel Pébereau as Chairman of the Supervisory Board (Honorary Chairman: Raymond Barre) and Jérôme Huret as President of the Board of directors. It is affiliated with the Aspen Institute in the United States, Berlin, Rome, Tokyo and New Delhi. Its goal is to organize informal meetings between leaders and players from the fields of economics, politics, academia, trade unions, culture and the media so as to encourage better mutual understanding and to gain a better outlook on the economic and societal changes facing them.