

SPECIAL EDITION

FII Priority

powered by FII Institute

EUROPE

May 16–17, 2025 | Tirana, Albania

National Theater of Opera and Ballet

INVEST IN A CONNECTED EUROPE

PROGRAM

Powered by

FII INSTITUTE
Future Investment Initiative Institute

Impact
on Humanity

Founding Partner



PIF

FII PRIORITY EUROPE: INVEST IN A CONNECTED EUROPE

As the European continent stands at a pivotal juncture, facing economic transformation and evolving capital flows amidst global geoeconomic shifts, FII PRIORITY Europe launches with an urgent call to action — and its official theme — **“Invest in a Connected Europe.”**

Fragility, unpredictability, and fragmentation are steering the trajectory of our global economic landscape. According to the 2025 OECD Economic Outlook Report, global GDP growth is projected to slow from 3.2% in 2024 to 3.1% in 2025 and further to 3.0% in 2026, reflecting downward revisions driven by shifting trade alliances, geoeconomic tensions, and persistent inflationary pressures. Despite these challenges, **Europe is uniquely positioned to redefine its role on the global stage and to champion renewal and connectivity.**

By leveraging its unified regulatory framework and prioritizing innovation-driven investments, Europe could transform trade tensions into opportunities, emerging as a **beacon of economic cohesion in an increasingly divided world.** With a vision rooted in economic transformation, technological progress, and sustainable growth, FII PRIORITY Europe embodies the ambition of a stronger, more competitive, and more forward-thinking Europe.

ABOUT FII PRIORITY SUMMITS

Building on the legacy of the FII Institute’s renowned annual conference in Riyadh, the **FII PRIORITY Summits** are designed as engines of actionable change. Held in influential cities—global hubs for innovation and economic leadership—the Summits emphasize the Global South and other emerging markets to tackle critical global challenges. Far from merely reflecting on the current state of affairs, FII PRIORITY Summits **pioneer solutions that transcend industries and geographies.** By convening thought leaders, investors, and policymakers, the Summits transform today’s challenges into tomorrow’s breakthroughs, setting the stage for sustainable growth and unparalleled value creation.

PAST & CURRENT PRIORITY SUMMITS:



PROGRAM MAY 16

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE SOVEREIGNTY?

INVITE-ONLY
CONCLAVE

♀ Tirana Marriott Hotel

Europe stands at a pivotal moment as it redefines its defense posture amid rising geopolitical tensions and evolving security threats. The European Union has announced over €800 billion in new defense and dual-use technology investments, yet questions remain around industrial capacity, interoperability, and long-term autonomy. As traditional alliances evolve and technological disruption accelerates, can Europe build a truly sovereign defense architecture?

CO-CHAIRS:

- H.E. Pirro Vengu, Defense Minister, Republic of Albania
- Ambassador Stefano Pontecorvo, Chairman, Leonardo SpA

2:00 PM – 3:10 PM IS EUROPE READY TO IGNITE THE NEXT SILICON VALLEY?

INVITE-ONLY
CONCLAVE

♀ Tirana Marriott Hotel

Europe's venture capital landscape is at a turning point. In just a decade, the number of unicorns on the continent has soared from under 20 to around 350—marking a dramatic shift in Europe's tech ambitions. This surge reflects deeper funding pools, better policies, and growing talent. But regulatory roadblocks and market fragmentation still stifle growth. As global innovation hubs race ahead, can Europe unlock the reforms and capital needed to build the next Silicon Valley?

CO-CHAIRS:

- François Barrault, Chairman, Digiworld Institute
- Eiso Kant, Co-Founder & CTO, poolside

3:15 PM – 4:25 PM CAN EUROPE WITHSTAND THE NEXT GREAT TRADE SHOCK?

INVITE-ONLY
CONCLAVE

♀ Tirana Marriott Hotel

Europe's economy runs on trade. In 2024, imports alone accounted for 46.3% of the EU's GDP, reflecting the continent's deep reliance on global supply chains. As the world enters a new era of fragmented alliances and shifting trade corridors, Europe faces a pressing question: Can it build the resilience to weather future shocks—and reassert itself as a strategic force in global commerce?

CO-CHAIRS:

- H.E. Matteo Renzi, Senator of the Italian Republic, Former Prime Minister of Italy
- Jared Cohen, President of Global Affairs & Co-Head, Goldman Sachs Global Institute
- Sir Noel Quinn, Chairman-elect, Julius Baer Group; Former CEO, HSBC

6:00 PM WELCOME RECEPTION

♀ XHEKO HOTEL ROOFTOP

An informal gathering for early arrivals to connect and network.

PROGRAM MAY 17

7:30 AM – NETWORKING BREAKFAST 9:00 AM



9:00 AM – WELCOME REMARKS 9:05 AM

SPEAKER:

- Richard Attias, Chairman of the Executive Committee, FII Institute, Founder & Chairman, RA&A



9:05 AM – OPENING CONVERSATION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY 9:20 AM YASIR AL-RUMAYYAN

SPEAKER:

- H.E. Yasir Al-Rumayyan, Governor, PIF; Chairman, Saudi Aramco; Chairman, FII Institute

MODERATOR:

- Sir Noel Quinn, Chairman-elect, Julius Baer Group; Former CEO, HSBC



9:20 AM – BOARD OF CHANGEMAKERS: CAN CAPITAL CONNECT A 10:15 AM FRACTURED WORLD?

FINANCE & INVESTMENT

The global economy is facing a complex mix of persistent inflation, high debt levels, and geoeconomic fragmentation that threaten long-term, sustainable growth. According to the IIF, global debt passed \$320 trillion in 2024, with advanced economies struggling to balance fiscal stimulus and inflation control. How will policymakers and financial leaders unify to navigate these challenges, and what tools remain effective in ensuring economic stability?

SPEAKERS:

- H.E. Matteo Renzi, Senator of the Italian Republic, Former Prime Minister of Italy
- Mohamed Alabbar, Founder, Emaar Properties; Founder, Noon.com
- Prof. Adah Almutairi, Professor & Co-Director, Center of Excellence in Nanomedicine & Engineering, University of California San Diego
- Samir Mane, President, BALFIN Group
- Bernard Mensah, President of International, Bank of America
- Henri Poupart-Lafarge, CEO & Director, Alstom

MODERATOR: Thorold Barker, Journalist, Speaker & Strategic Advisor

PROGRAM MAY 17

10:15 AM – 10:45 AM **SAUDI & MENA INSIGHTS: WHAT DRIVES INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHIES IN EMERGING MARKETS?**

FINANCE & INVESTMENT

The global trade and investment landscape is undergoing a strategic realignment, with Saudi Arabia and the European Union deepening economic ties across energy, technology, infrastructure, capital markets, and asset management. As Vision 2030 accelerates the Kingdom's diversification agenda, Europe is emerging as a critical partner for both capital and innovation exchange. With global asset managers expanding their presence in the Kingdom, and European firms seeking access to emerging opportunities in Saudi Arabia, how will this cross-regional momentum reshape regulatory cooperation, capital flows, and sustainable investment frameworks.

SPEAKERS:

- Fadi AlSaid, Senior Director & Head of Investment Management Department, PIF
- Francesco Daglio, Head, Southern and Eastern Europe, Middle East & Africa, MSCI
- Bassel Khatoun, Senior Managing Director, Franklin Templeton Emerging Markets Equity
- Simon Williams, Head of Central & Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa, HSBC

MODERATOR: Eithne Treanor, Managing Director, E. Treanor Media



11:00 AM – 11:05 AM **SPOTLIGHT ON THE FII INSTITUTE & PRIORITY PROGRAMS**

SPEAKER:

- Penny Richards, CEO, FII Institute



11:40 AM – 12:00 PM **PRIME MINISTERIAL ADDRESS**

SPEAKER:

- H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania



12:00 PM – 12:20 PM **SPECIAL ADDRESS**

SPEAKER:

- H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic

12:20 PM –
12:35 PM

THE GLOBAL RACE FOR AI SOVEREIGNTY: WHAT ARE THE GEOPOLITICS OF THE AI VALUE CHAIN?

AI

Artificial intelligence is reshaping the geopolitical landscape as both a strategic asset and a point of vulnerability. Over 90% of the world's advanced AI chips are manufactured in just one region, creating critical chokepoints that expose national security risks. As nations race to achieve AI sovereignty and embed intelligent systems into defense tech, how can government stakeholders collaborate with the private sector to secure the infrastructure and talent needed to maintain control in an increasingly contested domain?

SPEAKERS:

- Jared Cohen, President of Global Affairs & Co-Head, Goldman Sachs Global Institute

MODERATOR: Thorold Barker, Journalist, Speaker & Strategic Advisor



12:35 PM –
12:50 PM

RETHINKING POWER: WHO LEADS, HOW, AND WHY IN EUROPE TODAY?

Across Europe, the definition of public leadership is being rewritten—less about authority, more about influence; less about legacy, more about impact. Today, over 70% of Europeans say they want leaders who prioritize long-term societal progress over short-term political gains. From boardrooms to parliaments, and from philanthropic platforms to global forums, new actors—including a rising generation of women leaders—are stepping into roles that blur the lines between policy, economics, and social change. With institutions adapting to rising public expectations and shifting global dynamics, what does effective leadership look like now—and what will it take to shape the future?

IN CONVERSATION:

- Cécilia Attias, Founder & President, Cecilia Attias Foundation for Women; Former First Lady of France
- Linda Rama, Co-Founder & Researcher; Human Rights Advocate; Wife of the Albanian Prime Minister

PROGRAM MAY 17

12:50 PM – BIG DATA, BIG POWER: WHO HOLDS THE GLOBAL REINS?

1:20 PM

AI

The intelligence revolution—powered by AI, quantum computing, and blockchain—is reshaping industries and economies at unprecedented speed, with AI alone projected to contribute \$19.9 trillion to global GDP by 2030. Yet this surge raises urgent questions: quantum's \$1 trillion economic promise clashes with ethical dilemmas, security vulnerabilities, and sustainability risks (IDC). As corporations and nations vie for control of these technologies, who will govern their use to ensure power balances innovation with equity?

SPEAKERS:

- François Barrault, Chairman, Digiworld Institute
- Prof. Dr. Tony Chan, Former President, KAUST & HKUST; Venture Partner, Beta Lab
- Eiso Kant, Co-Founder & CTO, poolside
- Faraidon Saheb-Zadha, Managing Partner, Oros Capital Partners
- Alexander Sukharevsky, Senior Partner & Managing Partner, QuantumBlack, AI by McKinsey

MODERATOR: Bedy Yang, Managing Director, 500 Global



1:20 PM – NETWORKING LUNCH

2:00 PM



2:15 PM – WILL THE ENERGY REVOLUTION KEEP THE LIGHTS ON?

2:45 PM

ENERGY

Europe faces a defining opportunity to secure its energy future, balancing the need for energy security with ambitious climate goals, and demands for more affordable energy prices. Ensuring stable sources of conventional energy while pursuing Europe's lower-carbon aspirations will be essential for an affordable transition. This year, the European Commission has unveiled the Clean Industrial Deal to mobilize EUR100bn to support clean manufacturing on the continent. Can Europe continue its strategic investments in renewable energy, hydrogen, grid modernization, and energy security to reshape its economic resilience while securing affordable energy sources to meet immediate needs, and maintaining its leadership in the global green transition?

PART I:

- Musaab M. Almula, VP, Market Analysis & Sustainability, Aramco
- Stefano Buono, Founder & CEO, newcleo
- Carlos Robles-Gil, Partner, Mexico Infrastructure Partners

PART II:

- Marco Arcelli, CEO, ACWA Power

MODERATOR: H.E. Sam Gyimah, Founder, SG& Capital Partners; Host, The Geopolitics of Business Podcast

PROGRAM MAY 17

2:45 PM – 3:15 PM FROM PREVENTION TO PRECISION: IS BIOTECH THE ANSWER?

HEALTHCARE

European healthcare and biotechnology sectors are experiencing significant growth, driven by substantial investments and technological advancements. According to Virtue Market Research, the European biotechnology market is projected to reach approximately €480.2 billion in 2025, with expectations to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 13.2% over five years, potentially reaching €1.14 trillion by 2030. How will this robust financial commitment and rapid expansion influence patient outcomes and Europe's position in the global health arena?

SPEAKERS:

- Prof. Adah Almutairi, Professor & Co-Director, Center of Excellence in Nanomedicine & Engineering, University of California San Diego
- Nicolas Bouzou, Founder & Director, Asterés
- Dr. Viswa Colluru, Founder & CEO, Enveda
- Youssef Sebban, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Eckuity Capital

MODERATOR: Dr. François Sarkozy, Founder & President, FSNB Health & Care



3:15 PM – 3:35 PM INDUSTRIAL SOVEREIGNTY: CAN EUROPE WIN THE TRADE GAME?

INDUSTRY

Europe is doubling down on strategic industries to strengthen its economic and security resilience in an era of rising geopolitical tensions and shifting trade alliances. Earlier this year, the EU announced a new €800 billion spending package dubbed ReArm Europe, capital investments aiming to reduce reliance on foreign suppliers and boost industrial sovereignty. How will Europe's bold investment in advanced manufacturing forge new trade deals and reshape the industrial competitiveness of the continent in the coming decade?

SPEAKERS:

- Sahit Muja, CEO, Albanian Minerals
- Gordan Pešić, CEO, DOK-ING Security and Defence
- Ambassador Stefano Pontecorvo, Chairman, Leonardo SpA

MODERATOR: Andrew Sollinger, CEO & Publisher, Foreign Policy

PROGRAM MAY 17

3:35 PM – 4:05 PM CAN EMERGING DESTINATIONS REDRAW THE TOURISM MAP?

TOURISM

From the Balkans to the Middle East, new tourism hubs are capturing the world's attention with double-digit growth and record visitor numbers. In 2025, the Balkan region alone is projected to surpass 12 million international arrivals, while the Middle East's tourism sector is set to contribute over \$367 billion to the regional economy. As travelers seek fresh destinations and authentic experiences, how can these emerging markets sustain their momentum and redefine the future of global tourism?

SPEAKERS:

- Tony Douglas, CEO, Riyadh Air
- Manfredi Lefebvre d'Ovidio, Executive Chairman, Heritage Group; Chairman, Abercrombie & Kent
- Sir Rocco Forte, Founder & Executive Chairman, Rocco Forte Hotels
- Jerry Inzerillo, Group CEO, Diriyah
- Jean-Jacques Morin, Deputy CEO, Accor

MODERATOR: Eithne Treanor, Managing Director, E. Treanor Media



4:05 PM – 4:20 PM HOW FAR CAN INVESTMENT GO IN UNITING ALBANIA, EMERGING MARKETS, AND BEYOND?

FINANCE & INVESTMENT

As geopolitical shifts redefine alliances, new opportunities are emerging for investment to serve as a bridge between established and dynamic up-and-coming markets. The Balkans have seen record levels of foreign direct investment in recent years, with Albania attracting €1.58 billion in foreign direct investment in 2024 and sectors like tourism, infrastructure, renewable energy, and technology piquing global attention. Meanwhile, international investors are increasingly looking beyond traditional destinations to unlock growth and build lasting economic ties. How can visionary investors identify and scale opportunities that generate returns and deepen economic connectivity across Albania, the region, and the wider global landscape?

SPEAKERS:

- Jared Kushner, Founder & CEO, Affinity Partners

MODERATOR: Richard Attias, Chairman of the Executive Committee, FII Institute; Chairman & Founder, RA&A

PROGRAM MAY 17

4:20 PM – IS EUROPEAN INNOVATION REIGNITING?

4:45 PM

INNOVATION

European entrepreneurship is undergoing a dynamic transformation, with startups increasingly focusing on sustainability and technological innovation. In 2025, the European Innovation Council is set to invest €1.4 billion in deep tech and high-potential startups across the continent. As this substantial investment fuels growth, how can Europe balance the need for innovation with the challenges of regulatory complexity to ensure its startups remain globally competitive?

SPEAKERS:

- Michelle Adepoju, Founder, Kilentar
- Peje Emilsson, Founder, Kunskapsskolan Education; Founder, Kream
- Ida Tin, Director, Femtech Assembly
- Dan Vahdat, Founder & CEO, Huma

MODERATOR: Thorold Barker, Journalist, Speaker & Strategic Advisor

4:45 PM – OLD EUROPE, YOUNG VOICES: HOW IS THE NEXT GENERATION REDEFINING LEGACY, LEADERSHIP & THE FUTURE?

5:15 PM

Young people across Europe are navigating a rapidly changing landscape, voicing both hope and concern for the continent's future. In 2025, youth unemployment stands at 14.5%, while electoral participation among those under 25 has climbed to 42%, signaling a generation eager to shape what comes next. How can Europe ensure that the priorities and perspectives of its youth are truly reflected in decisions that will define the continent's path forward?

SPEAKERS:

- Azzi Agnelli, General Partner, Lifecycles, TMV, Italy
- Elsa Hyland, Angel Investor, Sweden
- Arthur Kenigsberg, Founding Chairman, Euro Créative, France
- Jared Madfes, Founder & General Partner, Bombadil, United States
- Cemil Türk, Official Member, European Youth Parliament (EYP) & Student, Kabataş Boys' High School, Türkiye

MODERATOR: Richard Attias, Chairman of the Executive Committee, FII Institute; Founder & Chairman, RA&A

7:00 PM FAREWELL RECEPTION

♀ TRIPLE D ROOFTOP

A formal closing dinner to conclude the event.

FII Institute Partners

Powered by



Founding Partner



Vision Partners



Strategic Partners

