

# 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



Founding Partner



## MAY 16

2:00 PM –  
3:10 PM

## WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE SOVEREIGNTY?

INVITE-ONLY  
CONCLAVE

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

Europe stands at a crossroads in its venture capital journey. With increasing deal values but fewer overall investments, the continent faces both opportunities and challenges in fostering innovation. Regulatory complexities and a fragmented market have historically hindered startups from scaling across borders. As global competitors advance, can Europe implement the necessary reforms and investments to empower its VC ecosystem, ensuring it remains a fertile ground for the next generation of groundbreaking enterprises?

## 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

A new round of tariffs has placed transatlantic trade back in the spotlight, testing Europe's ability to adapt in an evolving global economy. Amid shifting alliances and rising protectionism, the continent faces a chance to reassert its role as a stable and strategic trading power. Can Europe turn today's trade challenges into an opportunity to strengthen its economic resilience and leadership?

## 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.



# MAY 17

**8:00 AM – NETWORKING BREAKFAST**  
**9:00 AM**



**9:00 AM – WELCOME REMARKS**  
**9:05 AM**

**SPEAKER:**

- Richard Attias, Chairman of the Executive Committee, FII Institute; Chairman & Founder, 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**  
**10:05 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
- Samir Mane, President, BALFIN Group
- Bernard Mensah, President of International, Bank of America
- *Additional speaker to be announced*

**MODERATOR:** Thorold Barker, Journalist, Speaker & Strategic Advisor

MAY 17

## 10:05 AM – 10:20 AM 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

## 10:20 AM – 10:35 AM PRIME MINISTERIAL ADDRESS

#### SPEAKER:

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

## 10:35 AM – 10:55 AM SPECIAL ADDRESS

#### SPEAKER:

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

MAY 17

## 10:55 AM – 11:25 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



## 11:25 AM – 11:40 AM **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

# MAY 17

## 11:40 AM – 12:00 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



## 12:00 PM – 12:30 PM **BIG DATA, BIG POWER: WHO HOLDS THE GLOBAL REINS?**

### 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
- 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:** *To be announced*



## 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM **NETWORKING LUNCH**

# MAY 17

## 1:45 PM – 1:50 PM **SPOTLIGHT ON THE FII INSTITUTE & PRIORITY PROGRAMS**

### SPEAKER:

- Penny Richards, CEO, FII Institute



## 1:50 PM – 2:20 PM **WILL THE ENERGY REVOLUTION KEEP THE LIGHTS ON?**

### 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:

- Marco Arcelli, CEO, ACWA Power

### PART II:

- Musaab M. Almula, Vice President – Energy & Economic Insights, Aramco
- Stefano Buono, Founder & CEO, newcleo
- Carlos Robles-Gil, Partner, Mexico Infrastructure Partners

**MODERATOR:** H.E. Sam Gyimah, Founder, SG& Capital Partners; Board Director, Goldman Sachs Int.; Former UK Government Minister and Member of Parliament for East Surrey



# MAY 17

2:20 PM –  
2:50 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
- Dr. Tomislav Mihaljevic, MD, CEO & President, Cleveland Clinic
- Youssef Sebban, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Ecuity Capital

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



2:50 PM –  
3:20 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:

- Mark Davis, Managing Director, Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEMED), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
- 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



MAY 17

3:20 PM –  
3:50 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

3:50 PM –  
4:05 PM**CAN TRADITION BE THE ULTIMATE FORM OF INNOVATION?**

Europe's legacy of traditional craftsmanship and cultural refinement has long defined the essence of global luxury. According to Straits Research, the global luxury goods market is projected to reach \$349.15 billion in 2025, with a compound annual growth rate of 6.6% through 2033. However, in an era of constant reinvention, is honoring tradition enough to stay ahead of the curve?

**IN CONVERSATION:**

- Michelle Adepoju, Founder, Kilentar
- *Additional speaker to be announced*

MAY 17

**4:05 PM – 4:35 PM** **IS EUROPEAN INNOVATION REIGNING?****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:**

- Peje Emilsson, Founder, Kunskapsskolan Education; Founder, Kream
- Nina Mohanty, Founder & CEO, Bloom Money
- Ida Tin, Director, Femtech Assembly
- Dan Vahdat, Founder & CEO, Huma

**MODERATOR:** Thorold Barker, Journalist, Speaker & Strategic Advisor

**4:35 PM – 4:50 PM** **VIEWS FROM A LEADER: WILL EUROPE RISE TO THE MOMENT?**

Europe stands at a crossroads, challenged by global power shifts, internal fragmentation, and an urgent need to redefine its political and economic relevance. As of November 2024, 69% of Europeans agree that the EU has sufficient power and tools to defend the economic interests of Europe in the global economy, and similarly, 69% view the EU as a place of stability in a troubled world. How can European leaders forge a compelling vision for the continent that restores public trust and repositions Europe as a global force?

**SPEAKER:**

- H.E. Matteo Renzi, Senator of the Italian Republic, Former Prime Minister of Italy

**MODERATOR:** *To be announced*

# MAY 17

4:50 PM –  
5:30 PM

## OLD EUROPE, YOUNG VOICES: HOW IS THE NEXT GENERATION REDEFINING LEGACY, LEADERSHIP & THE FUTURE?

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
- 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; Chairman & Founder, 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

