

28 November
Paris

ERASMUS
DESCARTES
CONFERENCE
2024



**FAIR
ENERGY
TRANSITION
FOR ALL**

Shaping a competitive,
sustainable and equitable
energy system

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22nd Erasmus-Descartes Conference 28 November 2024

A Fair Energy Transition for All Shaping a competitive, sustainable and equitable energy system

The objectives of the Franco-Dutch conference on energy transition are multifaceted, aiming to create a comprehensive approach to the challenges and opportunities in this critical field.

Firstly, it seeks to assess and promote best practices for ensuring energy resilience, enabling robust energy security in the face of climate and economic crises.

Secondly, the conference will explore technological innovations and economic policies that can foster a competitive and high-performing energy sector on a global scale.

Thirdly, it will highlight and share successful initiatives aimed at reducing carbon footprints and promoting the adoption of renewable energy sources, thereby enhancing sustainability.

Lastly, a key objective is to ensure equity in the energy transition, guaranteeing that its benefits reach all segments of society, particularly vulnerable populations, thus avoiding disparities and promoting social inclusion.

By addressing these objectives, the conference aims to pave the way for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable energy future.



Program 28 November 2024

Moderator: Aniek Moonen Venue: Plantation Paris, 37 Rue des Cheminots, 75018 Paris, France

13:30	Welcome coffee	
14:00 - 14:05	Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aniek Moonen (moderator) Co-chair Board of Trustees WECF International, graduated Master of Transitions
14:05 - 14:15	Welcome speech, by Éric Lejoindre , Maire of the 18th Arrondissement of Paris	
14:15 - 14:20	Opening remarks (in video)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sophie Hermans Dutch Minister of Climate Policy and Green Growth • Agnès Pannier-Runacher (tbc) French Minister of Ecological Transition, Energy, Climate and Risk Prevention
14:20 - 14:40	Presentations by Young Talents 2024 & Award Ceremony	
14:40 - 14:50	Keynote speech – Reflections on COP29 and beyond: Delivering on our Energy Transition Goals together, by Mr. Kevin Magron, French Climate Ambassador, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs	
14:50 - 15:40	Panel 1 – Policy and Strategy	
	Presentation: Transition as window of opportunity – on EU cooperation, resilience, vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechthild Wörsdörfer Dep. Director-General for Energy, European Commission
	Interactive discussion: How to better cooperate for more resilient and competitive energy systems?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinier Koppelaar Dep. Director Energy Market, Dutch Ministry of Climate and Green Growth • Igor Sguario Coordinator of France's Multiannual Energy Plan and Advisor to the Director of Energy, French Ministry for Ecological Transition, Energy, Climate and Risk Prevention • Mechthild Wörsdörfer Dep. Director-General for Energy, European Commission
	Academic reflection on topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pier Stapersma Director (a.i.) of Centre for International Energy Policy (CIEP)
15:40 - 16:00	Challenges of electrical grid management: Example of a success story	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aurélien de Meaux Co-founder and CEO Electra • Robin Berg Founder and CEO We Drive Solar

16:00 - 16:20	Coffee break	
16:20 - 17:10	Panel 2 – Societal aspects: citizen participation	
	Presentation of research results by Embassy Science Fellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goda Perlaviciute Associate professor at the University of Groningen
	Interactive discussion: How to improve social viability/acceptability of clean energy sources?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marieke Abbink CEO at New Energy Coalition • Andreas Rüdinger Coordinator for the energy transition in France at IDDRI • Dirk Postma Programme Director Representation & Trust, Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP) • Bruno Palier CNRS Research Director at Sciences Po • Goda Perlaviciute Associate professor at the University of Groningen
17:10 - 17:25	Presentation French-Dutch cooperation in innovation for energy transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiki Lauwers CEO of Thorizon • Isabelle Morlaes-Tremillon Senior Vice-President at Orano
17:25 - 18:10	Panel 3 – Operational cooperation and joint projects	
	Presentation on the Franco-Dutch Pact for Innovation & Sustainable Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry Talen CEO ENGIE Energy NL, President Working Group Energy NL-FR Innovation Pact
	Interactive discussion: Where lie the prime opportunities for NL-FR synergy on areas such as knowledge, testing or implementation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carine de Boissezon Chief Impact Officer at EDF • Pierre Laboué Head of International Relations, France Hydrogène • Olga Póichtopek Data Lead at Battolyser • Harry Talen CEO ENGIE Energy NL, President Working Group Energy NL-FR Innovation Pact
18:10 - 18:20	Wrap-up and reflections by Aniek Moonen , Co-chair Board of Trustees WECF International, graduated Master of Transitions	
18:20 - 18:30	Closing remarks by Ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Jan Versteeg Dutch Ambassador to France • H.E. François Alabrune French Ambassador to the Netherlands
18.30	Networking reception	

Interactive discussion, Part 1

Policy & Strategy

How to better cooperate for more resilient and competitive energy systems?

After the opening remarks and keynote speeches, this first panel will set the stage for in-depth discussions on “Policy and Strategy: How to Better Cooperate for a More Resilient and Competitive Energy System?”.

Bringing together high-level French and Dutch public sector representatives, the session will delve into critical topics such as enhancing energy security, fostering cross-border collaboration in renewables, nuclear energy, and energy storage, and building a shared vision for a sustainable energy future.

The panel will focus on practical ways to align national policies and streamline regulatory frameworks to support joint infrastructure projects, from offshore wind to hydrogen networks, and the EU policy needed.

Key questions from the moderator will spark discussion on the most pressing challenges:

- How can France and the Netherlands harmonize their strategies to meet both short-term energy security needs and long-term decarbonization goals?
- What joint investments or initiatives could strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of their energy systems ?
- What EU policy and instruments are needed in this regard?

With a dynamic mix of expert insights and forward-looking dialogue, this session will explore actionable steps toward deeper cooperation, ensuring that both nations stay ahead in driving the European energy transition.

Panel structure 14:50 - 15:40



Reinier Koppelaar,
Deputy director Energy Market at the Ministry of Climate and Green Growth of the Netherlands



Igor Sguario,
Coordinator of France’s Multiannual Energy Plan and Advisor to the Director of Energy at the French Ministry for Ecological Transition, Energy, Climate and Risk Prevention



Mechthild Wörsdörfer,
Deputy Director-General for Energy at the European Commission



Pier Stapersma,
Director (ad interim) of the Centre for International Energy Policy (CIEP) in The Hague, The Netherlands (confirmed).

Interactive discussion topic 2

Social aspects & Acceptability

How to let long term collective benefits prevail over short term thinking improve social viability/acceptability of clean energy sources?

Following the presentation of the research results of Embassy Science Fellow Goda Perlaviciute, Associate professor at the University of Groningen, this second panel will shift the focus to the social dimensions of the energy transition. Bringing together representatives from the public sector, universities, and research centers from France and the Netherlands, the session will explore how to foster greater public acceptance of clean energy technologies. This involves among other things awareness, fairness, assessment of costs/risks/benefits, local context, and trust.

Topics for discussion will include strategies to engage communities, address public concerns, and ensure that the deployment of renewable energy is socially viable at both the local and regional levels.

Through discussions on public engagement, community involvement, and the role of education in promoting clean energy, the panel will address key questions such as:

- What are the most effective approaches to improving social acceptance of renewables and what does it depend upon?
- Can government policies and incentives encourage a shift in consumer behavior toward cleaner energy use, and how can this be done equitably?
- How can local governments and researchers work together to design more inclusive energy projects, taking into account desirability, feasibility and conditions for implementation?
- How can international cooperation on clean energy technology development be balanced with local/regional priorities?

The goal is to identify practical solutions that balance technological advancements with the social realities of energy transition, ensuring a more equitable and widely accepted shift toward clean energy sources.

Panel structure 16:20 - 17:10



Bruno Palier,
CNRS Research Director at
Sciences Po Paris



Dirk Postma,
Programme Director
Representation & Trust, re-
sponsible for Climate & Soci-
ety at Netherlands Institute
for Social Research (SCP)



Andreas Rüdinger,
Coordinator for the Energy
Transition in France at the
Institut du Développement
Durable et des Relations
Internationales (IDDRI)



Goda Perlaviciute,
Associate professor Public
acceptability of sustainable
transitions
University of Groningen



Marieke Abbink,
CEO at New Energy Coalition

Interactive discussion topic 3

Operational cooperation and joint projects

Where lie the prime opportunities for NL-FR synergy on areas such as knowledge, testing or implementation?

As France and the Netherlands strengthen their partnership on innovation and sustainable development, this panel will explore key opportunities for operational cooperation between the two countries in the energy transition.

Building on the Pact for Innovation and Sustainable Growth signed in 2023 and its working group dedicated to energy transition, this session will explore how the two nations can enhance their collaboration in areas such as renewable energy, decarbonized hydrogen and nuclear innovation. French and Dutch business leaders will discuss strategies to unlock synergies across their respective sectors.

Key topics will include the sharing of knowledge, joint testing of new technologies and scaling up large projects. The panel will prompt reflection on questions like :

- In the context of the Pact for Innovation and Sustainable Growth and its working group on energy transition, what are the most promising areas for collaboration between France and the Netherlands?
- What are the main challenges and opportunities in Franco-Dutch cooperation on projects in renewable energy, hydrogen and nuclear innovation?
- How can cross-border projects accelerate technology deployment and contribute to European energy security?

This session will highlight ongoing projects and real-world case studies, showing how collaboration in these sector in this sector is already contributing to both nations' sustainable growth and European energy independence.

Panel structure 17:25 - 18:10



Harry Talen,
CEO Engie in the Netherlands
& Chair of the Energy
Transition Working Group,
Pact for Innovation and
Sustainable Growth



Pierre Laboué,
Head of International
Relations, France Hydrogène



Olga Polchlopek,
Data Lead,
Battolyser



Carine de Boissezon,
Chief Impact Officer,
EDF

Biographies Speakers

ERIC LEJOINDRE

Mayor of the 18th Arrondissement of Paris

After completing his schooling abroad, Eric Lejoindre moved to Paris, where he pursued political science studies at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) and earned a postgraduate degree (DEA). In 2005, he joined the National Assembly, becoming an aide to Daniel Vaillant.



A member of the Socialist Party since 2002, he also became secretary of the Chapelle-Goutte d'Or section in 2005, frequented by Daniel Vaillant and Lionel Jospin.

In 2008, he was elected on Daniel Vaillant's list and became First Deputy Mayor, responsible for budgetary matters, relations with neighbouring municipalities, and sports. He also managed specific issues delegated by the mayor and coordinated relations between political groups within the municipal majority.

In 2014, he led a coalition list bringing together the Socialist Party (PS), the Communist Party (PCF), the Radical Party of the Left (PRG), and Europe Ecology-The Greens (EELV) and was elected Mayor of the 18th arrondissement of Paris with 62.43% of the vote. He became the youngest mayor in the history of Paris's arrondissements. He was re-elected in 2020 with 62.06% of the vote.

MECHTHILD WÖRSDÖRFER

Deputy Director-General
Directorate-General Energy (DG ENER)
at the European Commission



- Nationality: German
- Academic qualifications
 - 1989 – 1990: Master of European Economics – Free University of Brussels, Institut des Etudes Européennes, Belgium
 - 1987 – 1989: Maîtrise et Licence en Sciences économiques, Économie monétaire et financière – University of Montpellier, France
 - 1985 – 1987: Economics and French/Spanish “Vordiplom Volkswirtschaftslehre”, “Zwischenprüfung Romanistik” – University of Heidelberg, Germany
- Professional experience in the European Institutions
 - Since 1 October 2021: Deputy Director-General – Directorate-General Energy (DG ENER)
 - 04/2017 – 09/2018: Director “Renewables, Research and Innovation, Energy Efficiency”, ENER.C – DG ENER
 - 01/2014 – 03/2017: Director “Energy policy”, ENER.A – DG ENER
 - 09/2010 – 12/2013: Head of Unit “Energy policy& Monitoring of electricity, gas, coal and oil markets”, ENER.A.1 – DG ENER
 - 07/2005 – 08/2010: Head of Unit “SME policy development, DG Enterprise & Industry”, ENTR.E.4 – DG Enterprise and Industry (DG ENTR)
 - 07/2009 – 03/2010: Acting Director “Promotion of SMEs competitiveness”, ENTR.E – DG ENTR
 - 06/2004 – 06/2005: Deputy Head of Unit, “Entrepreneurship”, ENTR.E1 – DG ENTR
 - 09/1999 – 05/2004: Member of Cabinet, Commissioner Erkki Liikanen, Enterprise Policy and Information Society
 - 05/1996 – 08/1999: Assistant to the Deputy/Acting Director General of Directorate-General Industry, Mr Magnus Lemmel
 - 05/1995 – 04/1996: Administrator in DG Industry, Directorate A, Industrial policy, Unit A
- Professional experience before joining the European Institutions
 - 1991 – 1995: Deputy head of office - Federation of German Industries (BDI), Representation to the EU, Brussels
 - 1989: Research Assistant, Lufthansa Consulting GmbH, Cologne, Germany
- Other professional experience
 - 10/2018 – 09/2021: Director Sustainability, Technology, Outlooks, International Energy Agency (IEA), Paris [Seconded]

PIER STAPERSMA

Director (ad interim)
Centre for International Energy Policy
(CIEP) in The Hague (Netherlands)

Mr Stapersma's prime research interest lies in the electricity sector, renewables, cleantech, and other emerging new value chains such as hydrogen and advanced/sustainable fuels. He has published about the state of affairs in the Northwest European electricity sector, about the emerging solar PV value chain, about the potential development of hydrogen value chains and markets, about the energy and feedstock transition in the Port of Rotterdam industrial sector, and other topics.

Before joining CIEP in 2012 as a researcher, Mr Stapersma worked as a business/strategy analyst for a Dutch integrated electricity company involved in investments in clean power generation technologies.

From 2007 onward he supported the energy division's management and corporate management by performing electricity market analyses, performing business case reviews for power generation investment projects, and assessments of regulatory and public policy changes.

AURELIEN DE MEAUX

Co-founder and CEO
Electra

Aurélien de Meaux is a French entrepreneur, one of the founders and the CEO of Electra.

Electra is a leading European player in EV fast-charging infrastructure with over 360 active locations across Europe. Previously, he co-founded Cheerz, a photo printing startup which was making 50ml revenues when he sold the company to CEWE.

He launched Electra in 2020, which has since raised over €600 million and is aiming to deploy ~15,000 charging points across Europe by 2030. He holds a degree in economics from the University of Exeter and a MSc in management from emlyon business school.



ROBIN BERG

Founder and CEO
We Drive Solar

Robin Berg was born in 1970 in Oss, Netherlands. He developed an early interest in sustainability, which was sparked by his fascination with space exploration and environmental issues. He studied social geography at Utrecht University, intending to pursue environmental science, but did not complete his studies as he chose to focus on entrepreneurship instead.

Berg is the director of We Drive Solar, a company offering electric car-sharing services powered by solar energy. The company's vehicles are capable of returning electricity to the grid, with solar panels on nearby schools and homes providing the energy. In partnership with Renault, We Drive Solar launched the first bidirectional charging stations.

Before founding We Drive Solar, Robin Berg was involved in LomboXnet, a company that provided high-speed internet powered by solar energy. LomboXnet installed solar panels on twenty schools in the local area to supply electricity. The company is still operational, and Berg now focuses on the development of community energy systems.

In 2016, he was awarded the Paul Nouwen Award by Minister Melanie Schulz van Haegen for his significant contributions to the field of mobility, with particular recognition for the potential of vehicle-to-grid technology.



GODA PERLAVICIUTE

Associate professor Public acceptability of sustainable transitions
University of Groningen

Associate professor Goda Perlaviciute is a member of the Environmental Psychology research group in the Faculty of Behavioural and Social Sciences at the University of Groningen.

She is a co-founder of the Public Participation Center and was a Ben Feringa Impact Prize nominee in 2024.

Her key research interests lie in public evaluations and acceptability of energy sources, systems and policies, and which factors influence these evaluations and acceptability judgements. She focuses on theory development and applying theory in addressing acute environmental and energy problems.

Goda Perlaviciute is spending three months in France as Embassy Science Fellow, where she is working together with the Dutch embassy to better understand France's policies on public values in climate and energy.

MARIEKE ABBINK

CEO
New Energy Coalition

As of 2020, Marieke Abbink (MSc) has been managing director of New Energy Coalition, following previous management and executive positions at various profit and non-profit organisations.

As CEO of New Energy Coalition, she focuses mainly on external relations and agenda-setting on relevant topics in the (regional) energy transition. She connects parties, sets things in motion around current developments and keeps stakeholders' eyes on the ball – both internal and external.

In her position, she is member of the Advisory Board of Next Airport (Groningen Airport Eelde), board member of KVGNG, the trade association of the Dutch gas sector and board member of European Research Institute for Gas and Energy Innovation ERIG.



DIRK POSTMA

Programme Director Representation & Trust
Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP)

Dirk Postma studied Philosophical Pedagogy at the University of Groningen. He received his PhD from the Catholic University of Nijmegen and Leuven in 2004.

His doctoral research focused on the ethical and political-philosophical foundations of environmental and nature education. In the years that followed, he worked outside of the university to strengthen the knowledge base of social work and social policy. His research on citizenship spanned various levels:

- At universities of applied sciences in Amsterdam and Utrecht, he primarily researched citizenship at the neighbourhood level;
- As a Professor of Social Welfare at NHL Stenden, he focused on the municipal level;
- At the Frisian Social Planning Bureau, he researched at the regional level;
- At the Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP), his work addressed the national level, while keeping other levels in focus as well.

ANDREAS RÜDINGER

Coordinator for the Energy Transition in France
Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI)

Andreas Rüdinger coordinates IDDRI's activities on the French energy transition since 2022. He first joined the institute as a research fellow for energy and climate policies in 2011. His expertise covers the multiple aspects of energy transition strategies and policies at the local, national and European level. His recent work focuses on the governance of climate policies in France, the transition of the power system at the French and European level, as well as the challenges arising from the energy price crisis and linkage with the low-carbon transition. Since 2020, he also coordinates a national expert platform on energy retrofits in France, in collaboration with the French energy agency Ademe.

Andreas holds a double Master's degree in Political Sciences and International Relations from Sciences Po Bordeaux and the University of Stuttgart. He is a guest lecturer at Sciences Po Paris (PSIA) and ISAE-SupAéro Toulouse, as well as formerly AgroParisTech and HEC Business School.



BRUNO PALIER
CNRS Research Director
Sciences Po



Bruno Palier is CNRS Research Director at Sciences Po, Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics. Trained in social science, he has a PhD in Political science, and is a former student of Ecole Normale Supérieure. He co-directed then directed the LIEPP between October 2014 and July 2020. He works on the comparative political economy of welfare state reforms. He is currently co-leading a project on the world politics of social investment and another one on Growth and Welfare in Global Capitalism.

He was Guest Professor at the University of Stockholm (Spring 2009 and 2010), Visiting Scholar at Northwestern University (Spring quarter 2007), at Center for European Studies from Harvard University in 2001 and Jean Monnet Fellow in the European University Institute in Florence in 1998-1999. He is Member of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) Executive Council.

Between 2007 and 2011, he was the scientific coordinator of European Network of excellence RECWOWE. In Sciences Po, he is the director of a joint programme by Sciences Po and Northwestern University: “Health Policy in Europe”.

He has published numerous articles on welfare reforms in France and in Europe in *Global Social Policy*, *Governance*, *Journal of European Social Policy*, *New Political Economy*; *Politics and Society*; *Socio-Economic Review*; *West European Politics*; *Social Policy and administration*; *Social Politics* and various books.

KIKI LAUWERS
CEO
Thorizon



Kiki Lauwers is the CEO of Thorizon, a Dutch-French scale-up specializing in molten salt reactor technology, a position she has held since May 2023. She combines over 15 years of experience in technology strategy and scale-up management.

Kiki began her career at McKinsey & Company in Amsterdam, focusing on advanced industries, and later led innovation at Bol.com, the leading Dutch e-commerce company.

She holds a Master’s degree in Aerospace Engineering from Delft University of Technology and an MBA from INSEAD. Kiki also serves as a Government Board Member of the Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNETP).

ISABELLE MORLAES-TREMILLON
Senior Vice-President,
Molten Salt Reactor Project Manager
Orano



Isabelle Morlaes works in the Innovation Department of Orano, as the Sr. VP, MSR Project Manager. Her missions include:

- the exploration of new business models and opportunities for Orano in the field of spent nuclear fuel management using MSR “recycling” capabilities, in close cooperation with international MSR developers,
- the coordination of international collaborative projects to accelerate the development of molten salt technology.

Isabelle Morlaes received her engineer’s diploma in physics and chemistry from the French Engineering school ESPCI, and her master’s degree in Electronics & Instrumentation from Paris University. She has more than 30 years of experience in the nuclear industry, in both reactor design & maintenance field, and fuel cycle field. She held several management and strategy director positions in different Business Units of AREVA, Framatome, then Orano.

HARRY TALEN

CEO ENGIE Energy Netherlands

Harry Talen has been working at ENGIE since 2009. At the time, he started as a trainee and gained broad experience within various business units of ENGIE. In 2014 he started as Plant Manager – the youngest ever – of the then brand-new Maxima Centrale in Lelystad.



Under his leadership, this power plant was converted to run on 50% hydrogen fuel. In 2022 he became responsible for all ENGIE power stations in the Netherlands. Since 2024 he has been CEO of ENGIE Energy Netherlands.

Mr Talen also heads the Energy Working Group within the NL-FR Innovation Pact on Sustainable Growth and Innovation.

CARINE DE BOISSEZON

Chief Impact Officer
EDF

Carine de Boissezon is EDF Chief Impact Officer since July 2019. As such, she deploys the Group's corporate social responsibility strategy, translated today into the company's Raison d'être: carbon neutrality, preservation of resources, well-being and development.



Carine de Boissezon started her career at Morgan Stanley where she covered the utilities and renewables sector. She joined EDF in 2010 as Investors & Markets Director and then served as Chief Financial Officer of EDF's International Division from 2015 to 2019.

In addition to her operational functions, Carine de Boissezon is a member of the Supervisory Board and Chairwoman of the Audit Committee of GEODIS (Paris, logistics company) and an expert member of the Climate Committee of BPI France (French public Investment bank). She is co-chair of STOA (French Infrastructure fund) Purpose Committee since September 2022. She has also been serving as Vice-President of the C3D (French association of CSR directors) since July 2023. Additionally, she is a member of The Autorité des normes comptables (French accounting standards setter) to work on sustainability integration issues.

She graduated from ESCP Business School.

OLGA PÓŁCHŁOPEK

Data Lead
Battolyser

Olga is the Data Lead at Battolyser Systems, a clean-tech scale-up that develops and manufactures an electrolyser with battery capacity.



She focuses on techno-economic modelling and optimisation of energy transition assets, as well as developing the data infrastructure to enable their flexible operation in compliance with green hydrogen regulation, integration with the grid and energy markets.

In her work she leverages her research background in Mathematics and Economics (Polish Academy of Sciences), and practical experience in software building, product management and consulting (BCG X, CO2 AI).

REINIER KOPPELAAR

Deputy director Energy Market
Ministry of Climate and Green Growth
of the Netherlands

Mr Koppelaar has been deputy director Energy Market of the Ministry of Climate and Green Growth of the Netherlands since September 2022.



Mr Koppelaar has worked at the Ministry of Climate and Green Growth since 2021, first as deputy director Warmth and Subsurface, then as interim director Energy Strategy. Between 2007-2021, Mr Koppelaar held various functions at the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports, including as manager of various departments, counsellor Health Welfare and Sports in Beijing and political advisor to the Minister for Youth and Family. Mr Koppelaar studied International Economics and Economic Geography at Utrecht University.

IGOR SGUARIO

Coordinator of France's Multiannual Energy Plan and Advisor to the Director of Energy French Ministry for Ecological Transition, Energy, Climate and Risk Prevention



Since March 2023, Mr Sguario is the coordinator of France's Multiannual Energy Plan and Advisor to the Director of Energy at the French Ministry for Ecological Transition, Energy, Climate and Risk Prevention. From 2018-2023, Mr Sguario worked at the French Nuclear Safety Authority, from 2023 onwards as deputy director for Waste, Research Institutions and Combustion Cycle.

Mr Sguario studied engineering at the French Ecole Polytechnique.

KEVIN MAGRON

Climate Ambassador of France

Mr Magron was appointed interim climate ambassador in March 2024 and represented France at COP29 in Baku. Mr Magron is a "career diplomat"; he worked in Ukraine and Iran before joining the office of Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve upon his return to France in 2016. He then headed the task force preparing for the French presidency of the G7 until 2020, before joining the office of the Minister for Ecological Transition for two years. Mr Magron has been at the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs since 2022, where he was the special advisor on climate action and the deputy permanent representative of the OECD.



PIERRE LABOUÉ

Head of International Relations, France Hydrogène



Pierre Laboué is the Head of International Relations at France Hydrogène. Before joining France Hydrogène, he was a researcher at IRIS in the 'Climate, Energy and Security' programme until 2022. Specialising in energy issues, he led the Observatory on the Security of Energy Flows and Materials for the DGRIS of the French Ministry of Defence.

He also has experience working for The Oil & Gas Year (The Energy Year), an economic intelligence company specialising in energy, as Country Editor. He conducted field interviews with oil and gas company executives and edited reports on Russia and Gabon, after contributing to the Qatar edition.

Previously, Pierre Laboué was economic attaché at the French embassy in Uzbekistan. He monitored the country's gas issues and a number of sectors of interest to French companies. He helped to prepare official visits, including that of the French Foreign Minister to Tashkent, and to organise the France-Uzbekistan Joint Commission in Paris, under the aegis of the French Minister for Foreign Trade.

A graduate of the Institut d'Études Politiques de Rennes, he holds a Master's 2 in sustainable development, environment and energy economics, co-managed by a consortium of engineering schools (AgroParisTech, IFP Énergies Nouvelles, Mines ParisTech, Polytechnique, Ponts ParisTech) and EHESS.

H.E. MR FRANÇOIS ALABRUNE

Ambassador of France to the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Born on January 12, 1962, in Halifax (Canada), François Alabrune began his career in 1988 at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he was assigned to the Legal Affairs Department.



In 1992, he joined the Permanent Representation of France to the European Union in Brussels. From 1996 to 2000, he served as Legal Advisor at the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations in New York. He then returned to central administration, where he held the position of Deputy Director of Legal Affairs. In 2004, he was appointed Consul General in Quebec, a role he held until 2009. In 2009, he became Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna.

In 2014, he was appointed Director of Legal Affairs and Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a position he held until 2022. Since 2022, he has also served as an International Gender Champion, promoting gender equality globally. In September 2022, he was appointed Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). François Alabrune was a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) from 2016 to 2024.

He holds a law degree and is a graduate of the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po) and the French National School of Administration (ENA, Michel de Montaigne cohort). In addition to his native French, he speaks fluent English and has a working knowledge of German. During his tenure in the Netherlands, he is learning Dutch.

H.E. MR JAN VERSTEEG

Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in France

Date of Birth: July 18, 1964, in Tilburg

Career overview: Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991. Held roles within the Directorate for Political UN Affairs, the NATO Permanent Representation in Brussels, and the Directorate for European Integration.



Positions Held:

- 2022 – Present: Ambassador, Head of Mission, Paris
- 2019 – 2022: Ambassador, Head of Mission, Madrid
- 2015 – 2019: Grand Master of the Royal Household of His Majesty the King
- 2012 – 2015: Ambassador, Head of Mission, Athens
- 2009 – 2012: Minister Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent Representative to NATO, Brussels
- 2004 – 2009: Senior Advisor, Cabinet of the Prime Minister
- 2001 – 2004: Head of the Economic Section, Embassy in Madrid

Education:

- 1988: Master's Degree in Economic Geography, University of Amsterdam
- 1984: Propaedeutic Certificate in Spanish, University of Amsterdam
- 1983: Propaedeutic Certificate in Social Geography, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- 1982: Pre-University Education (VWO), Christian Scholengemeenschap Walcheren

22nd ERASMUS DESCARTES CONFERENCE 2024

The objectives of the Franco-Dutch conference on energy transition are multifaceted, aiming to create a comprehensive approach to the challenges and opportunities in this critical field.

📍 **Plantation Paris**
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