



Assises nationales de la recherche stratégique

Panel international :

« La stratégie de la France et de l'Europe vue de ... »

Chine avec le professeur Xu:

« I really appreciate to have this opportunity to make this short briefing here and I should apologize because don't speak French and my English is so poor so I put everything on these slides. Although I am a professor in Beijing I fell a little bit nervous. Today I feel like a student. Actually I ask more questions than answers. I have three points. First the slowdown of European integration has aroused straight uncertainties, secondly the unrest adjacent areas as prominent outside problems, thirdly, Global security cooperation and relations with outside powers. Let me go to the first one, I think that the process of European integration has deescalated, as a result of an enlargement it is more difficult for EU to reach consensus on security affairs and to make strategic decisions. Now you have a unify currency but the financial policies are denationalized. Global financial crisis leads to sovereign debt crisis so there is a question as outsider, we don't know what this would go forward. Having said that I would say there is no way to go reserve. All the difficulties and problems in the journey of European integration and they should be resolved in the advance of integration. A pause may be needed sometimes but regress will never be closer to success. So it is important to find out a workable and updated roadmap to

push forward the process of integration. So I wonder during the course maybe France can play a leading role and like any other great causes there must be some zigzags during the process of the European integration. Difficulties and problems are normal and natural. We could say "a straight way is usually artificial and unrealistic so the significance of European integration goes far beyond Europe. As Asian we are looking carefully for Europe progress and we want to learn from you.

Now let me go to the second point, after the end of the cold war European security environment got more complicated in terms of solves of security threats and challenges. It shifted from the East to diversified directions. The differences between outside and internal security problems got blurred. And as a traditional security (TS) threat fading away in Europe NTS problems, not traditional security problems are growing in Europe. A recent example is the cucumber issue. My personal observations: there is in an "Arc of security troubles" emerging from Caucasus to Maghreb. In Caucasus around Georgia there was a painful "security ulcer" emerged. I say "security ulcer" because I don't want to say death cancer. And a fail to gain an EU membership the frustrated Turkey turned back to embrace the Islamic world. Maybe in the future we will see a Muslim power in the EU, and Yemen is torn up by civil war within the Europe, maybe you know more than I do. Last but not least Maghreb in chaos: It needs some time for the dust aroused by the domino effect of the "Jasmine Revolution" to fall down, and who will be the final winner is yet to clear. A Libyan conflict is in stalemate. Where is the way out? Maybe it's time for a political leader, for de-escalation. Operation Odyssey Dawn is the first French muscle show after its full return to NATO alliance. Personally I take the protraction of the war may not served French strategic interests in this region. So as a big power France is bound to play strategic role within and outside Europe. However, does the Elysée palace get a clear mind about her role? Maybe you know more, but as an outsider I'm not clear about that. Maybe a new European leader in NATO, I'm not quite sure. And finally global security cooperation and relations with outside power, economic globalization calls for global security cooperation. They think with multi-polar security threats and challenges France and Europe at large as their security interest beyond Europe. Will all these this security problems be resolved unilaterally or just within the framework of EU or NATO. Here we see overlapping security interests of different nations, I think that make international cooperation for security possible and urgent.

For France and EU at large it is important to manage few pairs of strategic relations. First one is transatlantic relations. I think no one in today's world can afford to not cooperate with America. But over cooperative relations also sometimes make troubles. So I would say to cooperate with the United States and also to regulate with them. We can have a better America and then a better world. And how

to strike a balance that is the challenge in front of France and Europe and also to China and also relations with Moscow. What strategic position whether to accommodating Moscow or to squeeze Moscow or something in between, I am not quite sure. And also I found there is still some Cold War legacy especially between Russia and those new members of the EU so maybe France can take a lead to open a new chapter by cleaning those negative Cold War legacies. I wonder maybe you can do something. So here is another good balance not just between Europe and Moscow but also with America is very important in this relation. And finally relations with new emerging developing powers, including China. In economic mutually compensatory we have no security interest conflicts but I found there is still a huge gap of mutual understanding and ideological differences lead to trust deficit, so dialogues and changes are needed. That's why I really appreciate your efforts to get me here. Actually today I learn so much. I really appreciate that. I would say Merci. Finally there is a vast area for international cooperation in promoting Africa economic and social development in which France and Europe may play a leading role. That must be a multi-polar cooperation among European powers, and America, developing powers and concerning Africa governments. Sovereignty of African nations should be fully respected. Without their cooperation the outsider efforts may go in vain. More understanding and sometimes we need to be more patient. Ok that's all for my presentation. Thank you."