



THIERRY DE MONTBRIAL

President and founder of the WPC

I want to introduce Ali Babacan. You have all read about his extraordinary career. Let me just say that he is indeed an extraordinary person. Ali, we have known each other for something like 10 years now. You have been one of the pillars of the government since its inception. You have just a few more years. You have very wide experience as Minister of Finance, of Foreign Affairs, as the chief negotiator with the European Union and you are also a very remarkable diplomat in the strongest sense of the word.

Thank you very much for being with us, especially as it was not easy because you are in the middle of a very difficult budget debate in the Grand Assembly in Ankara, so thank you very much. It is now my pleasure to give you the floor.