

THIERRY DE MONTBRIAL

President and founder of the World Policy Conference

I think we'll continue with dinner after this presentation. I had told you that Christophe de Margerie was an exceptional personality. I would like to thank him because I believe that if we think about governance issues, we should not be satisfied with fine words and sentiments. We have to look at issues with a certain degree of objectivity and realism. Something I did not mention just now is that when we discussed tonight's presentation a few weeks ago, we ended our meeting with the following title. Now that the presentation is over, I'll tell you the title: "governance and hypocrisy". We may, of course, disagree about many aspects of this. And that is why dialogue is essential, as Christophe said. But I believe it's worse to always speak in a conventional, politically correct manner – which is what often happens at these international conferences.

So I would like to sincerely thank Christophe, who shook us up a bit or at least some of us. But he's right to do so because we'll never solve these global governance problems if we don't remember that behind these fine words and good intentions often lie extraordinarily concrete interests, which give rise to the art of diplomacy and what we call governance. We need to find a compromise between often-legitimate interests, which are what they are, and the overriding interest of the world as a whole – a world that must remain stable and ensure a certain level of stability. If this stability fails, we will simply end up off the road. That's the great risk we face in today's world.

Thank you, Christophe de Margerie. I now suggest that we quietly finish our meal, especially since we're beginning early tomorrow morning, at 8:30 am to be exact. Welcome again and thanks to all of you. Enjoy the rest of your meal. Think about the comments you just heard and discuss them at your table. I'm greatly looking forward to seeing you after dinner and tomorrow morning.