

THIERRY DE MONTBRIAL

President and Founder of the World Policy Conference

Introduction

The time has come for the short debate, which I think is very important one. Global governance is also about reconciliation. We have inherited, particularly in this part of the world, but there are so many parts of the world which are in similar situations from conflicts, hatred of all kinds. Therefore, the theme of reconciliation is absolutely fundamental. As it was recalled several times, the European Union is first and foremost the history of reconciliation between Germany and France. This is why, whether we like it or not, the so-called German-French couple continues to be essential. Thank you Joschka for being here.

In the last two or three years, something very significant has been happening between Russia and Poland. The heads of state and the government of the countries have appointed a commission which is called Commission on Difficult Matters Inherited from History. We have with us the co-chairmen of this commission.

On the Russian side, we have Anatoly Torkunov whom you all know now, at least since the beginning of this lunch. On the Polish side we have Adam Rotfeld. He is also a great guy. Adam and I have known each other for a long time. He was the head of the Polish Institute of International Affairs and he became Minister of Foreign Affairs for Poland. I am very happy that he is with us. We like and admire him a lot.

Anatoly and Adam worked very hard over the last two or three years with extremely significant results. I am going to ask each of them to say a few words and to tell us about their exceptional and extraordinary work. It is both an experience and experiment, if I may say so.

Afterwards, we will try to have at least two or three questions. We do not have time for a full debate, but we should listen carefully to this because perhaps we are searching for role models, and what they have achieved could serve as a model for other parts of the world, so please join me on the stage.