

THIERRY DE MONTBRIAL

Chairman and founder of the WPC

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the last meal that we have together in the framework of the seventh World Policy Conference. Those of you who have been with us several times know that Turkey has always been an important country in the World Policy Conference. In 2011 in Austria, President Güll, who at the time was the President of the Republic of Turkey, was our guest of honour. Last year, we had Mr. Babacan, who was and still is Deputy Prime Minister.

For us, a WPC meeting without Turkey is unthinkable. A few weeks ago, when President Erdogan was visiting Paris, I said to him, 'Mr. President, the WPC without Turkey is unthinkable.' The consequence of that is that Mr. Mehmet Ceylan, Deputy Minister for Development in Turkey, is present. He is a politician and was a Member of Parliament for almost 10 years, so he is also a political figure. He is going to address us on the development policy in Turkey and put it into a wider framework. It is my great pleasure to give you the floor.