



THIERRY DE MONTBRIAL

Founder and Chairman of the World Policy Conference

Let me just tell you in a nutshell why we are meeting this morning. I think all of us are aware that the Balkans is a very sensitive part of Europe, which has been the source of many troubles in the 19th century, the 20th century. And in the new world, the post-Soviet world, one of the key problems in Eastern Europe is: what about the Balkans? What about their integration in Europe? How can they overcome difficulties which go back two centuries? Serbia and Albania are two key actors in this respect. I wish to thank the two Prime Ministers who are with us this morning, and the first question I would like to ask each of you is to spell out your divergences. What are you fundamentally disagreeing on?

Before they tell us that, the remarkable point is that they talk together, and the fact that they disagree on some major issues, as we will see, does not make it impossible to discuss and cooperate on many other matters, and that in itself is a very positive example of how governance in general in the world should work, so thank you very much.