



ASSIA BENSALAH ALAOUI

Ambassador-at-large of His Majesty the King of Morocco

Thierry de Montbrial

So, we will start with Assia Alaoui, who is Ambassadeur Itinerant de Sa Majesté le Roi du Maroc. Assia, j'espère que tu vas parler français, parce que je voudrais aussi encourager l'emploi de la langue française. Et donc Assia, voilà, tu vois qu'il a des applaudissements qui signifient que de parler un peu français est toujours apprécié ici. Tu as la parole.

Assia Bensalah Alaoui

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, dear Thierry, thank you. Thanks also to Mostapha for this hospitality and the quality of the speakers. Obviously, thanks also for this perilous exercise—first you must be kept alive, as you say—and so in a few minutes, I will be very brief and count on your questions to shed light on the points I will have skimmed over.

It takes two seconds to find humanity in the other's gaze. Especially in that of the most rebellious ones among us, our children, who accuse us of leaving them a deadly legacy. Two minutes for a planetary tweet—this time a thoughtful one, I hope—to act, after 20 years of rising awareness, to repair the damage caused by over 200 years of industrialisation and overconsumption, which is still going on.

Climate change is the biggest challenge facing humanity. The survival of humanity itself is at stake. It is a global, complex, existential and of course urgent challenge that complicates the myriad challenges and risks we must face every day. How can we do it? That is the question.

True, we have promising technology, man's endless ingenuity, science and the immense potential of the seas and oceans for a blue economy, but we must still reconcile the techno-sphere and the biosphere.

To meet the climate and environmental emergency, all the players must take their respective responsibilities very seriously and act:

---Globally for States, to fulfil their obligations to their citizens. It is no longer just their wellbeing but their survival that is at stake,

--- Determined ecological responsibility for business, to revolutionize methods of production and distribution and, beyond those processes, the very nature of the goods and services they offer. I will not get into yesterday's debate between Mr. Pouyanné and Mr. Fabius over who is responsible and who is doing what, but it is absolutely clear that it is what they propose

---Contradictory responsibility of voracious consumers to change lifestyles

We over-consume because of temptation and advertising, and there are products available far beyond our needs.

So faced with all this, obviously I do not want punitive ecology or respect for the environment at all, but we have to realize that if we continue on this path, we will not make it. I think everyone is convinced of that, but do we have the will to do something about it? That is the question.

Can we get rid of these lifestyles that are devastating the planet? Without naivety and with a strong will, I could say - and this will obviously shock many people, because that is the paradox - that here and now



could the Mediterranean, thanks to over 2,000 years of adaptive wisdom, become the world's laboratory?

(this is perhaps the place where all the vulnerabilities and risks come together, where we see the multiplication not only of conflicts but also of threats and water stress, etc. I will not mention them, you all know them. We have overcome them, we have seen them all, but we have also seen the Romans built aqueducts to overcome water stress. We have seen tremendous achievements in the Mediterranean. Are we capable of grasping this adaptive wisdom to meet precisely this challenge and even better, perhaps because this is precisely where the challenges are quite pressing?

At the Two Shores Summit, President Emmanuel Macron called that demanding, rebellious humanity to the rescue to give the Western Mediterranean a fresh impetus—what is commonly known as the 5+5. And of course, beyond this stated objective, I see several inputs.

Firstly, it is a way

—To relaunch multilateralism in a new manner, which has been so abused (by the very people who created it and imposed it on the rest of the world, including ourselves, who are trying to navigate it with all the difficulties we are experiencing) through a new format: partnerships between States, representatives of civil society and donors, in order to do what? Well, to implement concrete projects. (and change a little of this Mediterranean logorrhoea, which unfortunately turns into compensatory discourse.

It is through concrete projects supported by civil society. I am delighted that women and young people lead most of these projects. Thierry, we do not talk much about women at this conference, which I think is a shame. I thank Mr. Tanaka for wanting to give women a leadership role in de-carbonizing the planet. Good luck!

To do what? To give life to this unlikely and highly elusive couple: participatory democracy and efficiency. working together, the citizens of ten countries on the respective shores but also between the two shores, will get to know each other better so that cooperation prevails over confrontation and conviviality over conflict, fostering a better living together at a time when the forces pulling us apart are absolutely terrifying.

So of course, along the way, the Mediterranean could become a laboratory for renewal and new models of development. As you know, in Morocco we are currently working on a new development model that can be socially, ecologically and environmentally satisfactory.

—Creative, better educated, better trained, freely moving youth;

—Energy wisdom (we know how to do it and it has been demonstrated, it is all very complex. You cannot hide behind hyper-complexity, but you need the will to do things)

—Rehabilitation of the past, historic cities and medinas, to project ourselves into the future better and restore the intergenerational link, (to infuse digital technology, which I hope consumes less energy, to recreate this intergenerational link, which is breaking down everywhere and which obviously shadows our collective memory. Also through a circular economy, which is extremely interesting, because we have—obliged by the marriage between Italy and France, yes, I am getting there.)

--- Release of the blue economy and the circular economy's potential with food grown in cities, short circuits and marriage between sea and land. We are fortunate to have 70% coastline for land-based aquaculture, not fed by wild-caught fish, which destroys it, and also culture. Of course that is the hardest. That is where the blockages are the most terrifying.

----Shared culture, sustainable tourism and involved media. Our project to pool publishers, led by Morocco, "married" to that of translation by the Anna Lindh Foundation, to make our many languages vectors of our common tongue in the Mediterranean.



This is a Mediterranean story told not by migrants' coffins but by its talents, to create renewal and this possible common future.

Of course, to do this we must, as Paul Ricœur asks us to do, still fulfil history's forgotten, unkept promises and (We also have to) answer Mohammed Arkoun's call from beyond the grave for a spiritual, intellectual and ethical regrouping of the Mediterranean region.

We can of course console ourselves over the loss of the past, but as Amin Maalouf, another great Mediterranean, says, we will not recover from the disappearance of the future. I therefore thank all those who are working for the survival of humanity and to help our children to become actors of their own future in a Mediterranean region reconciled with itself, not an appendage of anything but full and complete, so that its light can shine around the world.

Thank you.

Thierry de Montbrial

Merci Assia, et je retiens pour ma part le concept de sagesse adaptative – qui naturellement va très très bien avec les femmes.