



DEBATE

Thomas GOMART

Well, the situation is the following. I was asked to finish on time and we have seven minutes for the questions and answers, so I would suggest the following: I will gather questions to enable each speaker to have one or two minutes—one or two minutes—not more please, to pick up the question that we had. I will start with Renaud and Jean-Claude after that.

Renaud GIRARD

Renaud Girard, je suis le chroniqueur international du *Figaro*. Juste une question à Monsieur Nicolet : après la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, la France et même d'autres pays européens ont été capables de suivre les Américains dans l'industrie moderne de l'époque qui était l'aéronautique – on avait des avions égaux à ceux des Américains. Là visiblement, est-ce qu'on abandonne ? On est trop en retard, les autres investissent trop par rapport à nous, ont trop de capacité. Est-ce que nous, Français ou Européens, on a vraiment perdu cette bataille ? Ou on va arriver à faire comme on a fait, des Mirage III ou des Airbus et revenir dans la course, ou c'est fini ?

Jean-Claude GRUFFAT

Yes, just going back to Meir and the comment he made about the Snowden story: in the United States we believe that we have the right to have our communication to be protected from governments and the debate at the occasion of the Snowden story was whether we can listen to anybody, or the government can listen to anybody, can listen to American citizens, which creates even more problems, and if you listen to citizens at least, and particularly for an American citizen, you should have a judge reviewing the process and a warrant to be established.

Thomas GOMART

Joseph, et ensuite au premier rang, Madame.

Joseph MAÏLA

Thank you, Thomas. My question immediately goes to Jean-Louis Gergorin. Jean-Louis, I would like to ask you as regards your presentation, you said that we are witnessing, we are going through a new kind of war and the more digitalized you are the more vulnerable. My question is very concise and brief, and I am following John Sawers, the intervention of John Sawers in the previous panel: what are the means and the tools for a democracy in order to prevent cyber-attack beyond and without infringing on the state of law? Thank you very much.

Thomas GOMART

Shall we go for the last question? Madam?

Marie-Roger BILOA

That was really my question, too, because when we started speaking about cyber-attacks and all that, and you hear about ransom, you hear about all kinds of things, but when it goes to the core of democracy, and I was really terrified when I was watching Robert Marlow's audition when he was saying, 'Right now we are under a threat of the next elections', the next election being attacked after what happened in 2016, and they felt so powerless, so I ask you exactly the same question: is there a way to prevent it? My question is to Mr. Meir Sheetrit, because they seem to have a specific solution to that, and to Jean-Louis Gergorin. Thank you.

Thomas GOMART

So, I return to the panelists. Meir, would you like to go first for a couple of minutes?

Meir SHEETRIT

Sure. To the lady, I think that in order to prevent what you were suggesting the country has to be very aware of the situation and protect its own people. That is what we are doing in Israel, not only for the government, we also do it for private companies. We do it for private companies. For example, if we want to prevent attacks against our banks we have the ability really to prevent it because we prepare ourselves in advance not to allow the possibility of attacks on banks in Israel, so we have to be prepared to prepare. When one has elections, in the United States of course you can manipulate it very easily today, and that is what they did in the last election according to the press. The United States has to prepare its own system to not be open to attacks. It could be in your car, in airplanes, everywhere and ruin everything from far away distance, unless you prepare protections. The protection is the other side of the cyber-attacks. You have to be protected very strongly.

Thomas GOMART

Thank you. Patrick?

Patrick NICOLET

Yes, very briefly. I think some battles are lost, yes. The public cloud, one, is gone. There is too much money in it and we do not have the market. This is gone. However, technology is evolving, so there are new battlegrounds, and I will be brief. I think the first one is data. We are not paying enough attention to how we want to manage data. We have a response, which we heard this morning, protect the citizen. Yes, there is the source of value. It is not value in itself. This is a source of value. We should have a better plan because if we do not have it then there is a second aspect where we can invest and win market share. It is software and in particular artificial intelligence, but without trusted data it is very difficult just to have the engine. You must have something to extract value from.

Then on the infrastructure part we alluded to rapidly this morning, there is the emergence of edge computing. Edge computing is linked to the deployment of sensors everywhere, meaning there will be a distribution of intelligence there, and with the new wireless technology called 5G, which brings two things: first, the virtualization layer and then the ability to seamlessly manage all your networks. I think here we have the opportunities to regain some position. However, the thing we have been discussing, it has gone. I just leave with it.

Thomas GOMART

Thank you. Jean-Louis?

Jean-Louis GERGORIN

I think that the worst is ahead and I am not convinced at all that artificial intelligence and these new tools will help the defense more than the aggression. I think that the aggressors will benefit more from artificial intelligence, especially to disguise themselves. Concerning your questions, Renaud and Joseph, we need to do far more. For the time being if we look at the products in cyber security, both for industry and for governments, they are not French. We are in a situation where the French Air Force would be entirely made with foreign airplanes. The main tools are either Israeli or American, so this is a general challenge for Europe, and we have to build an ecosystem between start-ups and large companies, but we have failed to do so until now.

Second, we need to do far better in having what I call reactive defense, which means when we are attacked, when our companies, our private companies are attacked by state actors – there is an imbalance you know – and we need to have better protection from the state, better interaction with the state, or several states. For the time being the Europeans should work together because if we do not know who attacks us, if we have no evidence of who attacks us,



in fact we have already lost. Pure protection is not enough. We need reactive defense at the French level, but also at the European level.

Thomas GOMART

Meir, just one word?

Meir SHEETRIT

You see, so we are speaking about a different thing, artificial intelligence, which is the future of computing. There are very famous people, like Bill Gates and Stephen Hawking, who say they look at artificial intelligence as a danger to the existence of the human being.

Thomas GOMART

Je crois que tout le monde aura apprécié la tonalité optimiste de cette session. C'est donc le moment de remercier nos panélistes.