

## VIRGINIE ROBERT

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Hello, everyone. I am Virginie Robert. I work for *Les Échos*, the French business daily, and I am head of the Foreign Desk over there. We are going to talk about what has been probably the underlying theme of the whole conference, which is the new Trump administration coming in. I think that puts lots of questions in the air. We are mainly going to focus on economic policy and foreign policy. To talk about this, we have several panelists with us who are very well acquainted with Washington. Hiroyuki Akita was a foreign correspondent. Actually, you were the White House foreign correspondent for *Nikkei*. Therefore, he knows the drill. Peter Beyer is on the Foreign Affairs Committee for the German Bundestag and he is an expert on transatlantic relations. Jean-Claude Gruffat is a French-American banker. He notably worked for Citigroup, but other banks too, and he is very much involved in American politics. He has been in two presidential campaigns, and in the last one he had a favorite, and that was Nikki Haley. Then we have Jay Truesdale, who is CEO of TD International, a Washington-based company that gives advice on geopolitical strategy and market intelligence to corporations. Last but not least is Fareed Yasseen, whom you probably all know because he has been here many times, who was the ambassador of Iraq in France, in Paris, where we met, and also in Washington, DC, and now he is back to Iraq.