

Discours de Madame Valérie Pécresse

Présidente de la Région Île-de-France

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Déjeuner annuel place financière de Paris

Thème « *Europe in a disruptive world* »

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Seul le prononcé fait foi.

Dear Minister [cher Bruno],

Dear Chairmen [cher Gérard, cher Augustin]

Ladies and gentlemen,

It's a great pleasure to be with you today, I'm happy to welcome you in our region and I'm grateful to Paris Europlace for hosting us. **First, I want to congratulate Gérard for all the work he has done as Chairman of Paris Europlace, we will miss you Gérard.** I'm now looking forward to visiting the archeological site you've recently been mandated to promote by the Crown Prince in Saudi Arabia. **From the hustle and bustle of Paris Region financial center, to the silence of the desert, you have more than one string to your bow!** My best wishes for this new challenge dear Gérard. **Of course, I'm looking forward to working with Augustin, I know he'll do an incredible job too.**

I'm proud to be with all of you today, it's thanks to you that the Paris Region financial services hub is a powerful engine, an engine that fuels the real economy in France, all over Europe and even beyond.

A lot has changed in your industry in just 2 years, since June 2016, when our British friends decided to pursue their own path outside the European Union. We all wish it wasn't happening. But as we say in French "C'est la vie", and with the recent politic development in the UK, it seems it's not over yet.

My job, as Paris Region President, is to protect the interests of the 12 millions of "Franciliens", it's what I've been elected for. Part of the mission is to help businesses to grow, to increase our 660 billions euros GDP, to create and to safeguard jobs, to promote our expertise, to demonstrate our ability to innovate, to develop further Paris financial center, the number one in continental Europe, and generally to go against the "clichés" France is sometimes saddled with. I'm doing this with our economic development agency Paris Region Entreprises, which hosts our one-stop-shop, Choose Paris Region, that we have created altogether to help companies to relocate with the Prime Minister, the City of Paris, Business France, MGP and CCIP in June 2016.

I must say that we've put a lot of energy to reach these goals. Since the referendum on Brexit, we went to London with Paris Europlace in February 2017, another time in November 2017 and again in March 2018, to launch the European Banking Authority relocation workshop, since the agency will move to Paris in March 2019. I've met quite a lot of CEOs of banks, Fintechs, insurers, funds. I've listened to them, I've tried to understand their needs.

What they told me, and it has been echoed by the Chairman of the European Banking Authority, is that one of the main issues in France is international education. So I came back to France, and I've discussed this matter with the Minister of Education [Mr Blanquer] and with the Prime Minister [Mr Philippe]. We worked together and we decided to create 1000 positions for children in international education and to apply for the creation of a European School, open to all the "franciliens" of course, and perfectly suitable for the EBA employees children needs. **I can tell you today that the European School is due to open in September 2019, if the**

European Schools board agrees. It would be a strong symbol, an opening to the world and to Europe for these children from different countries and culture. As Robert Schuman rightly said about Europeans “beyond their differences and geographical boundaries there lies a common interest”. **It could be the motto of this European School.**

Paris Region is the coordinator of this European School and will welcome children in its high-school Lucie-Aubrac in Courbevoie, while the Conseil Departemental des Hauts-de-Seine will handle secondary school and the Mairie de Courbevoie elementary school and nursery.

The main driver for a banker to relocate is the quality of the education system, not only the tax rate. The European School will be an important symbol for the private sector. A better offer for education is key, and that’s why Paris Region decided to create 3 new international high-schools by 2022, part of a 5 billion euros investment for high school in Paris Region and to double the number of International Sections in Paris Region. We also offer the most comprehensive and

user-friendly online tool to find international schools in Paris region in any languages for your children, regardless of their age (<https://internationaleducation.parisregion.eu>).

However, for bankers, it's also important to get a lower and more predictable tax rate, labor flexibility, good impatriate regime. That's why I've welcomed these reforms launched by the government.

To conclude, I want to share with you a longer term vision that I promote for Paris region

- **First, I want to keep working on our strengths:** our young and cosmopolitan talent pool, our R&D skills [40 % of the French R&D is in Paris Region], our infrastructures, our culture and history, our diversity, the dynamism of our companies. It will be key, especially with the Olympic Games coming in 2024 in Paris region.
- **Second, we'll improve foreign languages skills in Paris Region.** Paris Region is launching a multilingual online learning tool by October. A digital tool, user-friendly and

totally free that will allow all “franciliens” to improve their skills in foreign languages.

- **Third, I want to go further and to reinvent Paris Region future, to build a “Smart region”, to develop smart mobility (with a 100 million euros program for autonomous vehicles) and a “Smart industrie” (300 millions euros will be invested until 2021 in 3D printing, AI, and robotics) to revitalize the French industry in Paris Region. This is a crucial point, especially now that we’ve heard large companies like Airbus say they might have to rethink their investment plan in the UK due to uncertainty. I’ve just launched a review of the aerospace industry in Paris Region, and the challenges of Brexit. Large industries are more than welcome in Paris Region.**
- **Lastly, the future of the region in my mind passes through social inclusion, and we invest a lot to give more opportunities for entrepreneurs in our “banlieue” [suburbs area] - source of new energies and creativeness -, to improve women empowerment, to foster impact**

