

# Opening session



## **Olivier Appert, Chair, Conseil Français de l'Énergie**

As Chair of the French Energy Council it is my pleasure to welcome you to Paris for this 5<sup>th</sup> European Energy Forum. This is a timely day for our meeting: 9 May being Europe Day. The previous European Energy Forums have been a great success, and I am sure that that will be the case again this year, thanks to your active participation.

The theme of this Forum is very topical, with R&D and innovation being high on the agendas of all stakeholders. Technical innovation has always played a key role in the energy sector, and that is likely to continue in the future. We will not be discussing R&D in scientific terms but will deal with R&D and innovation – so-called RDI. An innovation is an invention that has found its own market. We will therefore not deal with the lower levels of technology readiness (TRL). We will consider energy technologies that are able to solve the challenges of climate change. However only a few references were in fact made to R&D and technological innovation in the COP21 Paris Agreement. Clearly, the environmental dimension has to be taken into account in the energy transition. However, during this Forum, we also need to take into account the other dimensions of sustainable development – the economic and social pillars of the Trilemma. We need to ensure that new technologies will contribute to the world's economic and social development. In that sense, R&D policies should have a clear link to the corporate strategies and industrial policies.

Technological landscapes are changing rapidly. In particular, big data and bio-technology are two real game changers in the energy sector and beyond. These technologies are already creating huge opportunities for the energy sector, and they are also already changing the business models of many stakeholders.

I will now leave the floor to Jean Eudes Moncomble who will present the agenda for our meeting. He has played a key role in setting up this Forum, and I would like to thank him on your behalf.

## **Jean Eudes Moncomble, Secretary General, Conseil Français de l'Énergie**



The Forum will be composed as follows.

- ▶ 4 sessions that will cover all aspects of RDI from the laboratory to the market, leading to an understanding of how best to transform research into value added products and services. 3 speakers will participate in each session, the first providing a general overview, followed by two presentations of more concrete processes.
- ▶ 2 Technological Focus sessions, with specialists presenting the state of the art of specific technologies.
- ▶ 2 Roundtables will close each day's meeting.
- ▶ 2 keynote speakers: Hasan Murat Mercan, who will present the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Energy Congress in Istanbul, and Louis Schweitzer, France's General Commissioner for Investment.

I wish you all two very pleasant and interesting days in Paris and in this room.