

PRESS RELEASE

Closing of the 25th Rencontres Économiques in Aix-en-Provence

The Rencontres Économiques Outline Pathways to Global Calm

Aix-en-Provence, July 5, 2025 – Over 8,700 participants, 380 speakers from 51 countries, and 80 sessions shaped the 25th edition of the Rencontres Économiques d’Aix-en-Provence, centered around the theme “Confronting the Shock of Reality.” In a context of rising geopolitical tensions and increasing global fragmentation, the Cercle des économistes presents five proposals to help restore a more cooperative and peaceful international climate.

“We are living through confusing times, marked by an unprecedented accumulation of shocks—geopolitical, demographic, technological, climatic, financial, and social—which are progressively eroding the carefully built post-World War II global balance. The Rencontres Économiques aimed to bring rationality, intellectual rigor, honesty, and creativity back into public debate. It is in times of profound disruption that human reasoning proves most valuable and productive,” says Jean-Hervé Lorenzi, President of the Rencontres Économiques d’Aix-en-Provence.

5 Pathways for the Future

Discussions among members of the Cercle des économistes, exchanges with 33 international think tanks, and the outcomes of the 80 sessions helped identify fault lines and possible trajectories for the global economy. Amid the risks of widespread conflict, an arms race, and economic fragmentation, what directions can be considered for the future?

The Cercle des économistes proposes **five potential pathways to global calm**:

- 1. Promote reasonable rearmament and protectionism** to prioritize a path of de-escalation. France should champion the idea of responsible rearmament. Moreover, France should advocate for an agreement to cap tariffs at 10%, while standing firm against U.S. pressure during trade negotiations.
- 2. Reinvent cooperation formats.** The fragmentation of the Western bloc should prompt Europeans to engage with the Global South. A broad climate cooperation agreement between China and the EU should be placed on the agenda.
- 3. Invest in youth, on whom the future depends.** A strong intergenerational solidarity effort is needed, potentially through a dedicated fund financed by savings and directed toward youth housing.
- 4. Confront public distrust.** Why not imagine, on a national level, a mechanism inspired by the European Citizens' Initiative? A vibrant democracy should not fear being challenged.

- 5. Innovate in dialogue.** It is essential to strengthen and institutionalize long-term dialogue with international think tanks. The Rencontres Économiques aim to expand this format, with the goal of doubling the number of participating think tanks next year.

This exceptional edition of the Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence brought together policymakers, business leaders, economists, and think tanks to collectively address—despite their differences—the global rise in violence.

You can find the full conclusive report attached and available [online](#).

All sessions are now available for replay on the [Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence website](#).

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About the Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence

The Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence were created in 2001 by the Cercle des économistes. For 3 days, this major economic event brings together academics, political, economic leaders, representatives of international institutions, civil society figures, and activists from around the world to discuss a central theme. It is also a space for dialogue and reflection for younger generations, who are an integral part of the debates.

About the Cercle des économistes

The Cercle des économistes was founded in 1992 by Jean-Hervé Lorenzi with the ambitious goal of contributing to a more informed public economic debate. Drawing on the diverse perspectives of its members, all academics who currently hold or have held public or private sector positions, and on a wide range of initiatives developed over the years, the Cercle has become a driving force behind inclusive, thoughtful, and committed economic dialogue in an increasingly uncertain world.

Through the organisation of major public debates in France and abroad, its participation in major economic events, regular media contributions, and the organisation of the Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence, the Cercle des économistes pursues its mission of providing a broad platform for the exchange and confrontation of economic ideas.