

PRESS RELEASE

26TH RENCONTRES ÉCONOMIQUES D'AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Navigating a World of Uncertainty

Paris, 21 May 2026 – The programme for the 26th Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence, which will take place from 2 to 4 July 2026, was unveiled today by its President, Jean-Hervé Lorenzi. Under the theme “Navigating a World of Uncertainty”, this year’s forum will bring together leading international voices to discuss how societies, economies and democracies can respond to a rapidly changing world.

For three days, Aix-en-Provence will become a global meeting point for debate and dialogue, welcoming more than 410 speakers from nearly 55 countries. Participants include **António Costa** (European Council), **Christine Lagarde** (European Central Bank), **Jens-Frederik Nielsen** (Prime Minister of Greenland), **Rodolphe Saadé** (CMA CGM), **Patrick Pouyanné** (TotalEnergies), **Alexandre Bompard** (Carrefour), **Jean Castex** (SNCF), **André Corrêa do Lago** (COP30), **Khaled El-Enany** (UNESCO), followed by **Andrew Bailey** (Bank of England), **Philippe Baptiste** (Minister of Higher Education, Research and Space, France), **Jean-Noël Barrot** (Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France), **Yaël Braun-Pivet** (French National Assembly), **Gabriel Attal** (Renaissance), **Philippe Aghion** (Nobel Prize 2025), **Marjut Falkstedt** (European Investment Fund), **Nadia Fettah Alaoui** (Minister of Finance and Economy of Morocco), **Paolo Gentiloni** (Former Prime Minister of Italy), **Emmanuel Grégoire** (Mayor of Paris), **François Hollande** (Former President of the French Republic), **Roland Lescure** (Minister of Finance, France), **Joaquim Miranda Sarmiento** (Minister of Finance, Portugal), **Joachim Nagel** (Deutsche Bundesbank), **Ludovic Ngatsé** (Minister of the Economy, Republic of Congo), **Ignacy Niemczycki** (Secretary of State, Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Poland), **Édouard Philippe** (Mayor of Le Havre), **Odile Renaud-Basso** (President EBRD), **Pierre Schill** (French Army), **Stéphane Séjourné** (European Commission), **Alyona Shkrum** (Deputy Minister for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine) and **Boris Vujčić** (Croatian National Bank).

The 2025 edition attracted nearly 8,700 participants and 380 speakers from 51 countries at Parc Jourdan, generating nearly 5.4 million views online.

« Navigating a World of Uncertainty » : Rethinking Global Priorities

« The world is going through a period of profound instability: geopolitical tensions are rising, economic models are being challenged, climate pressures are intensifying and societies are becoming increasingly fragmented. In this context, ReAix aims to provide a space for open, thoughtful and constructive dialogue.

This year's theme, 'Navigating a World of Uncertainty', is an invitation to rethink our collective future by strengthening dialogue between the Global North and South, restoring confidence in progress, and giving younger generations the role they deserve in shaping tomorrow's world.», declares **Jean-Hervé Lorenzi, President of the Les Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence**.

A major public forum, free and open to all, this year's edition will focus on three key themes, united by one central idea: the future cannot be built without listening to voices that have too often been ignored.

- **North-South Parity**, addressing global inequalities and exploring the foundations for a fairer international dialogue;
- **Youth**, giving a platform to a generation facing unprecedented uncertainty and involving young people directly in conversations about the future;
- **Belief in Progress**, examining how innovation, cooperation and collective ambition can help build a more optimistic future despite today's crises.

« For the fourth year in a row, Région Sud is proud to partner with Les Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence. At a time marked by uncertainty and global crises, this forum is more important than ever as a place for debate and reflection. It places Région Sud at the heart of the major economic, social and geopolitical conversations shaping the future of Europe and the Mediterranean », declared **Renaud Muselier, President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, Delegate President of Régions de France**.

Putting young people at the centre of the debate

Young people will once again play a central role in this year's edition. Led by Philippe Aghion, 2025 Nobel Prize winner, **the Jeunesse(s) programme will bring together 150 young participants** through six dedicated "Agora" sessions based on a major survey conducted by Elabe among 5,000 people aged 15 to 29.

These agoras will create direct exchanges young participants, policymakers, experts and institutional leaders, supported by a scientific committee including Béatrice Angrand, Étienne Klein, Françoise Benhamou, Jean Viard, Michel Wieviorka, Patrice Geoffron and Patrick Weil.

A stronger international dimension : the growing influence of the *Global Economic Dialogue*

The 2026 edition will further strengthen the Forum's global reach with the return of the Global Economic Dialogue. **More than 50 think tanks from across five continents** – including the Brookings Institution, Club de Madrid, Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Centre for Policy Research – will come together to debate competing visions of the world's major transformations.

Six special sessions will focus on the issues reshaping global power dynamics, including artificial intelligence and jobs, international security, strategic resources, and the growing role of middle powers in global affairs.

The OFF programme : bringing economic debate beyond the forum

Because economics affect everyone, the Forum will extend beyond Parc Jourdan from 27 June to 4 July 2026 with a city-wide cultural and educational programme across Aix-en-Provence. Events will include exhibitions in the city centre, themed walking tours, film discussions, open-air talks and performances, as well as interactive economics workshops and games for school groups.

For more information about the OFF: <https://www.lesrencontreseconomiques.fr/off/>

Full programme available [here](#)

Press accreditation: register online [here](#)

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About les Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence

Founded in 2001 by the Cercle des économistes, the Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence has become one of Europe's leading forums for economic debate. Every year, it brings together academics, political leaders, business executives, international organisations, civil society representatives and young people from around the world to discuss the major issues shaping the future.

The Forum also provides a dedicated space for younger generations, who play an active role in the discussions throughout the event.

About le Cercle des économistes

Founded in 1992 by Jean-Hervé Lorenzi, the Cercle des économistes was created to encourage informed public debate on economic issues. Bringing together economists from a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives, the organisation promotes accessible, independent and forward-looking discussion on the major challenges facing society today.

Through conferences, public debates, media contributions and the organisation of the Rencontres Économiques d'Aix-en-Provence, the Cercle des économistes continues to foster open dialogue and international exchange at a time of growing global uncertainty.