



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉCONOMIE,
DES FINANCES
ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ
INDUSTRIELLE ET NUMÉRIQUE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Paris, le 18 juin 2025

N°627

Discours d'Eric Lombard,
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industrielle et numérique

A l'occasion de l'événement Vision Golfe 2025

Mercredi 18 juin

Bercy

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Dear participants,

It is a great pleasure for me to speak before you at the heart of these two highly productive days of exchanges. Once again, "Vision Golfe" is a huge success, gathering economic and political leaders from both France and GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries.

Together, during this third edition, we are paving the way to further strengthening our economic ties by focusing on two essential themes: *Blueprints for 2030 and Innovating for sustainability.*

Our countries face common challenges. GCC countries, at the crossroads between Asia and Europe, are at the intersection of major trade routes.

France is a leading voice within the European Union, and a fervent defender of building bridges between East and West. I do believe that our countries will serve each other as platforms to reach new markets. In this context, marked by ongoing tensions and uncertainties, I attach the strongest importance to consolidating bonds between our nations which remain stable, strong and complementary partners.

Seul le prononcé fait foi

The challenge of climate change is particularly acute and the Gulf is not spared.

As a result, we must work together to promote renewable energies, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and develop innovative technologies for a greener and more sustainable future. This constitutes the first pillar of our collaboration.

Regarding sustainable development, the GCC countries have already made considerable efforts to move towards renewable energies. The success of COP28 in Dubai has placed the energy transition at the heart of the concerns of regional actors. It is also a priority for France, which is devoting half of the 54 billion euros of its France 2030 economic development plan to greening its economy.

The second pillar of collaboration between France and the GCC countries relates to economic diversification.

Gulf countries have already launched remarkable initiatives to move beyond reliance on oil and gas and develop key areas that will shape the future. These include artificial intelligence, healthtech, sustainable agriculture, mobility, clean energy, and knowledge economies. France, with its expertise in these many fields, stands ready to support and actively contribute to these efforts.

By focusing on digital transformation, we can also stimulate the growth of our economies and improve the quality of life of our citizens. I believe, and I had the opportunity to discuss this with some of you, that technological innovation must constitute the third pillar of our partnership. As you know regarding AI, France has many advantages, abundant low-carbon energy mix, highly-skilled personnel, and serves as a gateway to Europe.

France stands out as the European leader in AI, and many investors are starting to make massive investment decisions in France. During the “AI Action Summit” in February 2025, more than 109 billion euros of private investments were announced. I also wish to mention the United Arab Emirates’ recent investment in creating a large-scale campus dedicated to AI in France. This partnership will consolidate France’s lead over the rest of Europe in AI and I am grateful to the Emirates authorities for this initiative.

Just last month, the eight edition of the Summit “Choose France” gathered more than 400 international participants and nearly 41 billion euros in new investments were announced. This edition confirmed France as the top destination for foreign investment in Europe for the sixth year in a row.

My recent visit to the United Arab Emirates early May reaffirmed France’s commitment to maintain and further deepen its strategic partnership with the Gulf region. I intend to return to the region in the near future to continue along

this path and I will of course be meeting with some of you who, being present today, are honouring France.

Beyond economics, our countries are united by a shared commitment to peace and stability on the global stage. We are working together to advance dialogue, act as mediators in times of conflict, and contribute to solutions for the ongoing regional crisis. France counts on its trusted partners in the Gulf to continue working side by side in these efforts. In these turbulent times, cooperation and dialogue are more needed than ever.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, as we start our second day of work, I would like to express my deep gratitude to all participants, including ministers, CEOs, investors, and partners, who have brought energy and insight to these two days of dialogue.

Last but not least, I would like to thank Business France for the organisation of this event, in collaboration with my ministry and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. Your commitment has contributed to making Vision Golfe 2025 a success.

This forum has now established itself as the premier platform for shaping the economic relationship between France and the Gulf countries. This year's

edition is once again demonstrating the vitality and trust that define our partnership.

Thank you, and I wish you all the best for your insightful exchanges on this second day.

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