



SUOMI-RANSKA-  
YHDISTYSTEN  
LIITTO



Photo: Nadav Kander for Time

*Seminar:*

# FRANCE AS A LEADER IN EUROPE

OODI Helsinki  
Central Library,  
Maijansali

10 June 2025  
from 14:00 to 17:00

Free Admission

# France as a leader in Europe

Why is it important for Finns to be interested in France in 2025?

- 14:00 **RISTO VELTHEIM**  
Chairman of the Fédération des associations franco-finlandaises  
Welcome
- 14:10 **H.E. Ms RAJA RABIA**  
French Ambassador to Helsinki  
Opening remarks, Finland and France as partners
- 14:25 **Mr ALAIN LE ROY**  
Ambassador of France and former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations  
The role of France in international relations
- 15:00 **Dr IRO SÄRKKÄ**  
Senior Research Fellow, Finnish Institute of International Affairs  
France as an allied in Nato and defence cooperation with Finland
- 15:20 **Ms MINNA VUORIO**  
Principal Adviser, Directorate-General of Organisational Development and Services, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union  
EU institutions need more Finns in the future – Why is it important that there is a geographical balance in the staffing of the EU, and how do the selection procedures work?
- 15:40 **Ms MIAPETRA KUMPULA-NATRI**  
Member of Finnish parliament  
EU and new technologies: how to compete with superpowers
- 16:00 **Panel discussion and questions**

# Speakers



**Alain  
Le Roy**

Ambassador of France to Italy and former Secretary General of the European External Action Service and United Nations Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations.

**Iro  
Särkkä**

Senior Research Fellow for Research Programme on Finnish foreign policy, Northern European Security, and NATO at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA). She has recently published on NATO's nuclear policy and role in northern Europe, led a research project on Finland's various defence partnerships as a NATO member, and is currently directing a research project on NATO's frontline states.



**Miapetra  
Kumpula-Natri**

Member of Finnish parliament, former Member of European parliament, Vice President Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe.

**Minna  
Vuorio**

Principal Adviser, Directorate-General of Organisational Development and Services, General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, Former Director of European Personnel Selection Office and the Principal European School of Administration.





## SUOMI-RANSKA-YHDISTYSTEN LIITTO, SRYL FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS FRANCO-FINLANDAISES

- ▶ edistää Ranskan monipuolista tuntemusta maassamme ja lujittaa Suomen ja Ranskan välisiä ystävyysuhteita.
- ▶ on jäsenyhdistystensä valtakunnallinen keskusjärjestö.
- ▶ järjestää tapahtumia jäsenilleen, mm. Ranskaa ja ranskalaista kulttuuria käsitteleviä Club des amis esitelmäiltoja.
- ▶ jakaa nuorille stipendejä Ranskan opintomatkoja varten.
- ▶ julkaisee kaksi kertaa vuodessa Fran-Su-jäsenlehteä, jossa kerrotaan Ranskaan, ranskalaisuuteen ja ranskan kieleen liittyvistä ilmiöistä ja tapahtumista sekä sähköisen tapahtumakoosteisen Uutiskirjeen.
- ▶ järjestää jäsenmatkoja Ranskaan.
- ▶ tekee yhteistyötä Ranskan suurlähetystön ja Ranskan instituutin kanssa.

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