

Press Release: For immediate release

Franco-British Business Conference strengthens cross-Channel collaboration on defence, energy, and technology

London, 18 September 2025 – The French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain today hosted the **Franco-British Business Conference** at Société Générale’s headquarters in London, bringing together senior leaders from government, business, and academia to chart the future of Franco-British cooperation.

The conference welcomed **170 participants** from **96 companies and organisations**, representing key sectors including defence, energy, technology, finance, and advanced manufacturing. Discussions focused on how cross-Channel partnerships can build on the momentum of the UK-France Summit to support competitiveness, accelerate the transition to net zero, and strengthen Europe’s role in global innovation.

Key themes from the panels

- **Defence & Economic Security:** Panellists explored how cooperation can reinforce supply chains, drive industrial innovation, and deliver greater resilience amid geopolitical instability.
- **Energy & Climate Transition:** The debate underlined the urgency of coupling efficiency with decarbonisation, highlighting cooperation on renewables, and grid modernisation as pathways to sustainable growth.
- **Technology, AI & Digital Collaboration:** Speakers stressed the need for regulatory alignment, joint infrastructure investment, and talent mobility to position the UK and France as leaders in the responsible development of AI.

“What stood out today is that Franco-British cooperation, and promoting business and trade opportunities between our two countries, is a necessity for growth. By joining forces on clean energy, advanced defence, and breakthrough technologies, we can turn shared challenges into an industrial and strategic advantage for decades to come.”

– Thierry D’Argent, CEO, Société Générale London Branch and Chief Country Officer, UK and Ireland

Looking ahead

The French Chamber confirmed that the **next Franco-British Business Conference** will take place in **London on 10 June 2026**, continuing the dialogue on shared priorities for growth, competitiveness, and sustainability.

Businesses and stakeholders interested in engaging with the Chamber's work on Franco-British collaboration are invited to **reach out directly to the French Chamber of Great Britain**.

About the French Chamber of Great Britain

The French Chamber of Great Britain is the UK's leading Franco-British business network, representing over 350 member companies from start-ups to multinationals across all sectors. Independent and member-driven, the Chamber provides a trusted platform for networking, influence, and collaboration. Its advocacy work ensures members' priorities are heard by policymakers on both sides of the Channel, while its services and expertise support companies at every stage of their UK journey.

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