



26 march, 2026 | MIFJC | Brussels

Enhancing Europe's sovereignty: research universities as drivers of open strategic autonomy

Programme

8.30-9.30 – **Registration and coffee**

9.30 – **Opening remarks**

Nathalie DRACH-TEMAM, President of Udice, President of Sorbonne University

Bruno TOBBACK, MEP, European Parliament

9.45 -10.10 – **Keynote: Guillaume KLOSSA**, President of EuropaNova and Conclave

10.10-11.00 – **Roundtable 1 – Europe of knowledge in motion: research universities as a lever for scientific and technological sovereignty.**

Research-intensive universities are key drivers of European sovereignty, generating knowledge, innovation and solutions to major challenges, whether in clean energy, decarbonisation, digital leadership, health or biotechnology. This round table will show how research excellence has a concrete impact by bringing together researchers, industry and innovators, and how European universities uniquely combine scientific strength, territorial anchoring and industrial ambition to build sustainable and resilient sovereignty grounded in European values.

With: **Alexandr HOBZA**, Cabinet of EVP Stéphane Séjourné, European Commission; **Bruno BONNEL** (online), Secretary General, SGPI; **Tristan MEUNIER**, Co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer, Quobly; **Benoît MIRAMOND**, Co-founder and Scientific Director, DuranceAI (Unica); **Silvia LASALA**, Associate Professor, Université de Lorraine.

11.00-11.30 – **Coffee break**

11.30-12.30 – **Roundtable 2 – Think, Train, Transform: turning talent into Europe's AI advantage**

Research-intensive universities train, attract, and develop the talent Europe needs to advance AI and strengthen its digital sovereignty. This roundtable will show how the education-research-innovation continuum creates skills, value chains, and attractiveness for European industries and the European model.

With: **Axel LEISENBERG**, Policy officer, Directorate-General for Research & Innovation, European Commission; **Frédérique BERROD**, President of Unistra / Udice; **Axel SCHÖLMEIERICH**, (online), President of University of Göttingen / German U15; **Katja SCHENKE LAYLAND**, Vice President Research, Innovation, Transfer of University Tübingen / German U15; **Stefan LEIJNEN**, Lead International, AIC4NL (University of Utrecht).

12.30-12.45 – **Concluding remarks: El Mouhoub MOUHOUD**, President of PSL University / Udice.

12.45-14.00 – **Lunch & networking**