

## **François Lafond**

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François Lafond is a French expert on the Western Balkans, currently serving as a member of the Working Group on Enlargement and Neighbourhood at the Institute of European Affairs in Brussels and the ECFR Western Balkans Strategy Group in Sofia. With deep regional experience, he was a French adviser at Serbia's Ministry of Public Administration and Local Authorities (2021–2023), and Special Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs in North Macedonia (2017–2021).

He previously held leadership roles at major European think tanks, including Director-General of EuropaNova (2013–2016) and Director of the Paris office of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMFUS) until 2011. He is a permanent contributor and editorial board member of *France Forum* and participates in strategic policy networks such as the Agenda Working Group of the Halifax International Security Forum.

Mr. Lafond is an Officer of the Order of the Star of Italy (*Ordine della Stella d'Italia*), recognizing his contributions to European cooperation and diplomacy.