



## FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATIONS COMPLETE YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM 2008

New York, NY (October 8, 2008) – The French-American Foundation and the French-American Foundation - France are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the 21st Young Leaders Program. From September 24 to 27, the Foundations hosted a group of thirty-two French and American **Young Leaders** for a series of seminars, official visits and receptions in Paris and Strasbourg. This year's Young Leaders Program was organized around the priorities of the French presidency of the EU, specifically sustainable development and energy, immigration and defense. The Young Leaders Program, a flagship program of the French-American Foundations, was created in 1981 to foster a new network of trans-Atlantic leaders.

The program opened on September 24 at the Defense Ministry in Paris with a one-hour colloquium on European defense policy with Michel Miraillet, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. The Young Leaders met later that first day with Jacques Toubon, Chairman of the Advisory Board at the Cité nationale de l'histoire de l'immigration.

The second day of the program began with a visit to the corporate headquarters of AREVA and a meeting with Chairman of the Supervisory Board Frédéric Lemoine and Executive Vice President of the enrichment business unit, François-Xavier Rouxel. The meeting was followed by lunch at the Ministère de l'Ecologie, de l'Energie, du Développement durable et de l'Aménagement du Territoire with secrétaire d'Etat for Ecology Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet and later, a meeting with Jean-Dominique Giuliani, Chairman of the Board of the Robert Schuman Foundation. That night the Young Leaders were toasted alongside Young Leader alumni at a cocktail reception hosted by U.S. Ambassador Craig Stapleton at the U.S. Embassy Residence.

On September 26, the Young Leaders traveled by the high-speed TGV Est train to Strasbourg, where their first appointment was a lunch discussion about the promotion of an EU identity at the French-German television company ARTE with Victor Rocaries, Manager and Administrative Director, and Marie-Claude Savin, Press and Public Relations Director. The topic then shifted to "laïcité" in France and the specific status of the Alsace-Moselle during a meeting at the Hôtel de Ville of Strasbourg with Jean-Michel Cros, associate researcher at the CNRS and special advisor on religion at the Hôtel de Ville, and representatives of the Catholic and Muslim faiths. The meeting was followed by a cocktail with Nawel Rafik-Elmrini, Second Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg in charge of International and European Affairs.

The final day of the program started with a meeting with François-Gilles Le Theule, director of the Center of European Studies, Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), where Young Leaders heard a presentation of the ENA and the center's programs and

discussed the promotion of greater diversity in the ENA's recruitment. The group then met with Catherine Trautmann, European deputy and Vice President of the EU Parliament Commission on Industry, Research and Energy, for a discussion on the evolving mission of the EU Parliament. A guided visit of the Museum of Contemporary and Modern Arts was organized in the afternoon.

The 2009 Young Leaders selection process will open in November 2008.

#### **About The French-American Foundation**

Founded in 1976, the French-American Foundation is committed to advancing the dialogue between France and the United States. The French-American Foundation brings together key policymakers, academics, business leaders and other prominent individuals from both countries so that they may exchange their ideas and create productive bonds likely to have a lasting effect on policies in France and in the United States. To reach these objectives, the French-American Foundation creates multi-year thematic programs, holds conferences, organizes exchanges and produces publications meant to foster and share best practices between the two countries.

#### **About the French-American Foundation - France**

The French-American Foundation - France was founded in 1976, together with its sister organization the French-American Foundation, headquartered in New York. The French-American Foundation - France is committed to strengthening the ties between France and the United States. Through exchange and public policy programs, it provides French and Americans with a better understanding of both societies, enhances the dialogue between both countries and facilitates cultural and professional exchanges. The French-American Foundation - France especially addresses the challenges that both countries have to face: climate policy, diversity, education, research, entrepreneurship, dialogue with Islamic societies, venture philanthropy.