



THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

A Conversation with Honorable Vincent Floreani Consul General of France in Miami



Hon. Vincent Floreani, Consul General of France in Miami

Vincent Floreani took over as Consul general of France in Miami on February 1st, 2022. He arrives in Miami at a very crucial moment: The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the French Elections.

Due to these important events Vincent Floreani, Consul General of France in Miami, sat down for an interview with Christine I. Caly-Sanchez, Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence at FIU, and reflected on the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and all the events organized in Miami.

MFJMCE: What does your job as the Consul General of France entail?

My first goal, with the Consulate general's team, is to strengthen the bridges connecting France and Florida by promoting:

- The French expertise and “savoir-faire” in this great state and supporting local entrepreneurs and investors; to do so I meet companies representatives and local leaders;
- The French culture and French language; I was for instance at the “Congrès de la culture Française” in Orlando recently, which is an incredible contest where hundreds of High School students compete in French!

It also means promoting France at large: its thriving economy and rich cultural environment to attract talents, new businesses and investments in my country. Working in both directions generate more partnerships and diverse cooperation benefiting both sides of the Atlantic with more jobs and more understanding of each other!

To that end, we share best practices and work on common goals such as environment issues or innovation priorities.

For students, we are developing awareness on the opportunities to study and work in France. I encourage your readership to check [Campus France's](#) website regularly.

Our Consulate provides also consular services to all French citizens living in our constituency (Florida, Puerto-Rico and other close islands). We issue passports, IDs, and render social assistance.

In a nutshell, my work day is always different and interesting!

MFJMCE: What are your priorities?

We are currently focusing on organizing our presidential and legislative elections, respectively in April and June 2022. The Consulate's team is very involved to allow French citizens who live in our area to cast their votes. We will open 8 poll stations in 6 different cities! The French President is directly elected by the citizens and the turnout usually exceeds 80%.



► For more information on the Consulate General of France in Miami, [click here](#)

The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union



Of course, the security of French residents and tourists is a constant priority. We cooperate closely with US authorities. The Consulate is an essential point of contact, and it is my duty to make sure that French citizens are well informed about the risks of the region in order to be prepared – for the hurricane season for instance- or well aware about the many changes provoked by the Covid-19 pandemic.

MFJMCE: France has taken the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union this next six months. Could you tell us what are France’s priorities in this leadership?

Indeed!

From January 1st to June 30th, the French government has presented the following priorities:

- A more **sovereign Europe**, with regard to the ecological transition as we must fight global warming together; digital issues, with more regulations to protect our citizens and private companies; economic issues, as a historic recovery has helped Europe overcome the health crisis; and defense, with the European Intervention Initiative; (<https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/en/programme/priorities/>)
- The second key point is **recovery**. We need a new European model for growth: to make Europe a land of production, with job creation, innovation and technological excellence while being aligned with our climate goals. We must also make sure that Europe offers high-quality, high-skilled, and better-paying jobs. (https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/media/qh4cg0qq/en_programme-pfue-v1-2.pdf)
- The 3rd priority is **making Europe more humane**. We need to listen to the concerns expressed by our citizens, to defend the rule of law and uphold to our values; to take pride in our culture(s), trust science and fight discriminations. We also need to think more about the next generations, and welcome youth as an active part of the conversation.
- These past weeks, the invasion of Ukraine is largely making its print. However, we noticed that the 27 countries of the European Union made a common front by agreeing swiftly and unanimously a package of unprecedented sanctions against Russia and that for the first time, a spending defense budget was provided to support Ukraine!

► For more information on The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union, [click here](#)

The French Presidency of the Council of the European Union



At the #OneOceanSummit, more than 100 countries affirm their determination to preserve the ocean by contributing to the Brest commitments

MFJMCE: What does the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union represent to France and its citizens?

We witness an important momentum among French citizens and all citizens of the European Union as we need to stand for our common values: democracy, justice, and the rule of law and the dignity of all human being. The majority of European citizens no longer complains that Europe does too much, but rather that it does too little!

MFJMCE: Could you please share with us what France has already accomplished during the Presidency since January?

Yes, for example the city of Brest recently held the **One Ocean Summit**. It was intended to reassert the place of the Ocean at the core of the new European model of sustainable growth that we are striving to achieve. We also held an informal meeting of Transport Ministers. They set the three major priorities for the future of European Transport which are: decarbonize, regulate, and innovate.

MFJMCE: Are there any special events you plan to organize in Miami?

Of course! On March 2nd, we invited some of our European counterparts as well as representatives of key companies in the maritime sector (CMA-CGM and Royal Caribbean) to discuss the future of transport by sea, and the measures to decarbonize the sector. Two

members of the UE delegation of Washington were part of the discussion. Thanks to this type of events, we are sharing our best practices and are moving forward to set goals and new initiatives aligned with the priorities set by our Presidency.

On March 8th, on the occasion of International Women's Day, we also gathered some inspiring women from the business world, the public sector, and academia to discuss what types of challenges they are facing and the solutions that can be implemented in order for them to thrive in their career without compromising with their personal life.

And of course, we will celebrate May 9th which is Europe Day. I definitely want to share my European enthusiasm with your students and my European colleagues!

MFJMCE: Do you have any last thoughts you would like to share with us?

If any French student or faculty member is among your readers, I invite them to vote or to encourage those whom they know to do so.

I also wish to come to meet your students to discuss directly with them about my passion for diplomacy and the European Union of course.

MFJMCE: "MERCI" Mr. Consul!

*By Christine I. Caly-Sanchez
Associate Director, Miami-Florida Jean Monnet Center of Excellence & EESP, FIU*