

Roundtable Discussion with The Hon. Mr. Nicolas Forissier,
French Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness
on
‘Energy Transition, Financial Sector & Impact of the Gulf Crisis’

Wednesday, 8 July 2026 | Ringgit Room 1, The St Regis Kuala Lumpur



The Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) hosted a closed-door roundtable discussion on Wednesday, 8 July 2026 at The St. Regis Kuala Lumpur featuring French Minister Delegate for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness, The Hon. Mr. Nicolas Forissier.

The session titled ‘Energy Transition, Financial Sector and Impact of the Gulf Crisis’ opened with welcoming remarks and introduction of The Hon. Minister Delegate by KLBC Director YBhg. Dato’ Dr. Zaha Rina Zahari followed by a speech by The Hon. Mr. Nicolas Forissier.

The Hon. Minister Delegate who was on his first official visit to Malaysia, shared his views on France-Malaysia bilateral trade and investment, the Malaysia–EU Free Trade Agreement (MEUFTA) and expressed hope for conclusion by 2027, and identified sectors for deeper collaboration, citing aerospace, semiconductors, AI, quantum computing, industrial recycling and biotech as complementary strengths between the two countries. He highlighted the partnership in the rare earth/critical mineral sector as an example of genuine long-term technology transfer.

Founder and Director YBhg. Dato' Dr. (h.c.) Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood and YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zaha Rina Zahari then facilitated an engaging discussion including on how Malaysia and ASEAN should position themselves vis-à-vis geopolitical and economic shifts reshaping global trade, the potential for greater travel cooperation between France and Malaysia/ASEAN and realistic achievables on nuclear energy for Malaysia over a 10 to 15-year horizon.

Other areas discussed were palm oil and the EU's deforestation regulation (EUDR) with The Hon. Minister Delegate noting that Malaysia's palm oil situation has stabilised and on what the French administration could do to help Malaysian investors deploy capital into France. The Hon. Minister Delegate concluded the discussion by proposing industrial recycling, the setting up of a Franco-Malaysian business council, noting that France runs similar councils with about 20 other countries.

KLBC Founder and Director YBhg. Dato' Dr. (h.c.) Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood delivered the closing remarks, the event was kept intimate and was attended by 15 KLBC members and guests, and 8 from the French delegation.

The KLBC Board was represented by Founder and Director YBhg. Dato' Dr. (h.c.) Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood, Deputy President YBhg. Dato' Fad'l Mohamed and Directors YBhg. Dato' Dr. Zaha Rina Zahari, YBhg. Dato' Charon Wardini Mokhzani, YBhg. Datuk Chua Sai Men and Puan Nurul A'in Abdul Latif.