



Monday October 7th, Welcome Addresses Edith Cresson

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, distinguished guests from here and abroad. I am pleased to welcome you all to the Global Forum 2019 in Angers.

Angers has always been a city dear to my heart for a very long time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sylviane Toporkoff & Sébastien Lévy, respectively President & Vice-President of the Global Forum/Shaping the Future for their amazing job and dedication to this crucial think-tank.

It is important for me to be here because I believe that the Global Forum is one of the most internationally recognized and renowned think-tanks on the digital.

This 2 days think-tank is a one of a kind moment to question and disseminate innovative ideas and visions in a convivial environment.

The Global Forum is a challenging event, a true international conference which manages to gather an amazing group of experts from around the world with many interesting profiles from a great diversity of different ICT perspectives. It gives a great occasion to discuss in prospective way different topics than usual. It gives the opportunity to create partnerships, start new projects and boost initiatives. The intellectual stimulus is enriched by great venues.

The main topic this year is “**The Roll-Out of Digital Transformation, Facing Innovation, Simulation & Realities**”. It is easy to see why the internet of Things, artificial intelligence, machine learning, automation and so on are exciting. They have the potential to change the world as we know, but digital transformation should be about people and helping them achieve what they need.

The technologies are simply tools. Technology exists to make our lives easier and more comfortable and enjoyable. But often it does just the opposite.

The digital transformation should be human centric.

That is why I have created “Ecole de la Deuxième Chance” - the 2nd Chance Schools are based on the principles contained in the White Paper Teaching and Learning - Towards the Learning Society, that I presented when I was European Commissioner for Science, Research and Development and former France Prime Minister at the Madrid Summit of Heads of State in December 1995, and adopted by the Ministers of Education of the Member States of the European Union. The project to build 2nd Chance Schools was one of the five transversal objectives identified by the White Paper, "Combating exclusion".

I am sure that all the contributions of the speakers will inspire discussions over the next two days.