

# French strategic posture since the last *Livre Blanc* (2008)

*How did French nuclear deterrence  
take into account the evolution of the  
strategic environment?*

## Highlights of the French *Livre Blanc* *about new strategic context*

- A world less predictable : necessity to be ready for strategic surprises.
- Nuclear proliferation brought some changes in the dissuasive balance of the Cold war.
- “ *The breaking off of the nuclear taboo is not unlikely any more* ”. *Livre Blanc* 2008, p. 39

# Nuclear deterrence: the French doctrine

- The ultimate guarantee of security and national independence.
- Nuclear Deterrence and “vital interests”.
- The “final nuclear warning”.

# Modernization of strategic air and oceanic forces

- Complementarity of the oceanic and the airborne nuclear forces.
- Oceanic nuclear forces: new M-51 missile, SSBNs class "*Le Triomphant*".
- Airborne nuclear forces: ASMP-A missile, Mirage 2000-NK3 and *Rafale* fighter-bombers.
- TNO and TNA warheads

# French nuclear policy

- “Strict sufficiency”
- Transparency about number of warheads
- Ability to maintain the nuclear capacities

# Conclusion

## Specificity of French strategic posture

- Maintain nuclear know-how / Modernization of its deterrence capabilities
- Supporting arms control, refusal to participate in an arms race and commitments of its diplomacy (NPT, CTBT, NFZs...)
- Strategic orientation based on information, intelligence, and prevention.

**Thank you for your attention!**