



# ENTENTE CORDIALE DAY ALUMNI MEETING

**Under the Patronage of His Majesty King Charles III  
and President Emmanuel Macron**

Olympics and Paralympics London 2012 and Paris 2024:  
History, Vision, and Legacy

*House of Lords  
17th July 2025*

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# WHO WE ARE

Launched in 2024 at the Château de Breteuil, the Entente Cordiale Day Association aims to crystallise the spirit of Entente Cordiale between the United Kingdom and France. Every year, we bring together the greatest minds from the two nations' top academic institutions to produce, discuss, and provide solution-focused research on today's most pressing global issues.

Entente Cordiale Day is a unique student and alumni-led initiative shaped around three annual events:

- The **Entente Cordiale Day Challenge** gathers diverse and interdisciplinary teams of students from the two countries to develop innovative solutions that respond to the year's chosen theme.
- The **Entente Cordiale Day Summit** welcomes shortlisted finalists in a two-day series of presentations, debates, and commemorations held alternately in France and the United Kingdom. This once-in-a-lifetime experience culminates at the iconic Hatfield House or Château de Breteuil, alongside a distinguished panel of international decision-makers. The final day of the Summit celebrates the winners of the **Entente Cordiale Day Prizes**, named after some of the leaders that have shaped the Entente Cordiale over the past 120 years such as Queen Elizabeth II and President Chirac.
- The **Entente Cordiale Day Alumni Meeting** reunites all Entente Cordiale Day Alumni annually at the House of Lords or the French Senate to foster networking, collaboration and Franco-British partnerships by creating long-lasting bonds.

**HONOURING THE HISTORY OF ENTENTE CORDIALE TO  
SHAPE THE FUTURE BY ADDRESSING GLOBAL  
CHALLENGES**

The Entente Cordiale Day is truly grateful and honoured by the  
Patronage of His Majesty The King and the French President



# THE ENTENTE CORDIALE DAY ALUMNI MEETING

**Venue:** The Peers' Dining Room, House of Lords

**Date:** 17th July 2025, 7.30 – 10.30 PM

**Theme:** Olympics and Paralympics in London and Paris

This annual gathering serves as a unique forum for dialogue among EC Day alumni from diverse fields. Held alternately between the UK and France, this year we have the pleasure to gather in the House of Lords under the aegis of Lord Soames of Fletching. The event will centre around the long-lasting impact of the Olympics and Paralympics Games of London 2012 and Paris 2024 and will explore how both cities have influenced the world through arts, finance, architecture, fashion, sustainability, mobility, education, and, of course, sport.



## SCHEDULE OF THE ALUMNI MEETING

7.30 PM	Guest Arrival
7.45 PM	Reception Service
8.00 PM	Welcome Speeches
8.10 PM	Q&A with BOA and CNOSF
9.30 PM	Desserts Service & Networking
10.30 PM	Guest Departure

*Our special thanks to our host sponsor, Lord Soames of Fletching, the British Olympic Association, Team GB and the French National Olympic and Sports Committee for their support.*

*We would also like to thank Etude Lion d'Or Avocats for sponsoring this year's Alumni Meeting.*





# THE HOUSE OF LORDS & THE HOST SPONSOR

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## THE PEER'S DINING ROOM

The Peers' Dining Room is a symbol of continuity and heritage. Located in the House of Lords, it serves members of the Lords and their guests. It was established during the rebuilding of the palace of Westminster after the devastating fire of 1834. Over the decades, it has served as place for informal political negotiation and social exchange and was recently open to the public for a few days per year.



## THE HOST SPONSOR: LORD SOAMES OF FLETCHING

Lord Soames of Fletching was born in 1948 and was educated at Eton College and Mons Officer Cadet School. He is the son of The Late Lord Soames and grandson of Sir Winston Churchill, KG. After leaving school, Lord Soames was commissioned into the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own), serving in Germany and the United Kingdom. Lord Soames was subsequently Equerry to the then Prince of Wales, KG KT.

Lord Soames was a Conservative Member of Parliament from 1983 to 2019. During his long and distinguished career in Parliament, he held a number of senior roles, including serving as a Minister for Defence and as a Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He is President of Brighton College, a Trustee of The Normandy Memorial Trust, and a longstanding Trustee of the Amber Foundation. Lord Soames was appointed a Life Peer in October 2022. He is also a member of the International Relations and Defence Committee of the House of Lords, where he leverages his expertise in the fields of Anglo-American defence matters and security in the Middle East, Europe, international affairs, trade and industry and aviation.



# THE GAMES IN LONDON AND PARIS

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## SPOTLIGHT ON FRANCO-BRITISH SPORTING LEGACY

Historically, leaders from both the United Kingdom and France have recognised sport as a platform for inclusivity, dignity, and social progress, values deeply aligned with the spirit of Entente Cordiale Day. In fact, the Olympics have long been connected to figures whose positive impact on Franco-British relations is celebrated by the Entente Cordiale Day and commemorated by its Entente Cordiale Day Prizes, awarded to the top-performing teams of the Entente Cordiale Day Challenge and named after such figures.

Each year, the second-place and third-place teams on the British side are awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Prize and the Sir Winston Churchill Prize, respectively. Queen Elizabeth II is well-known for her lifelong connection to sport, from horse racing and presenting the 1966 World Cup trophy to her iconic appearance at the London 2012 opening ceremony. Less well-known, however, is Winston Churchill's own personal and political engagement with sports. Although you might think that Churchill did not like sports due to an often misattributed "first of all: no sports!" quote, in a recently resurfaced 1924 speech, Churchill championed Olympic participation for all and understood sport as a unifying, character-building force for good. Churchill's commitment to Olympic values is transmitted through the generous support of his grandson, Lord Soames of Fletching, in organising this event.

Similarly, the second-place and third-place teams on the French side are recognised with the Prix Président Jacques Chirac and the Prix Général Charles de Gaulle. Both Jacques Chirac and Charles de Gaulle saw sport as a tool for national cohesion and pride. In fact, after poor Olympic performances in the 1960s, it was de Gaulle's effort to invest heavily in inclusive sports infrastructure that allowed for France's later success, and it is that legacy which shaped Paris 2024's vision.

## "INSPIRE A GENERATION" - LONDON 2012 AND PARIS 2024

"Inspire a Generation" was the slogan of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, with both events creating lasting impacts beyond sports and in the city itself. Not only was London 2012 the first to feature an integrated environmental plan, but the Games also revitalised East London through the creation of new housing, green spaces, sports venues, and rail links. Paris 2024 carried forward this legacy: as in London, the Games stimulated the modernisation of Parisian transport infrastructure and developments within the fields of digital security, accessibility, and sustainable merchandising. With 95% of venues already existing, and events making use of iconic locations like the Seine and the Eiffel Tower, Paris 2024 succeeded in embedding the Olympic spirit into daily urban life.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS OF THE 2025 ALUMNI MEETING

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The Alumni Meeting will feature keynote speeches and a Q&A session with organisers and participants of the both Games to allow attendees to reflect on the Olympics' lasting legacy.

## **LORD MOYNIHAN**

Lord Moynihan is a prominent British sports administrator, former Olympic athlete, and passionate advocate for fair play and youth development in sport. A silver medallist in rowing at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, he was Chairman of the British Olympic Association from 2005 to 2012 and played a pivotal role in preparing Team GB for the London 2012 Games. Lord Moynihan has championed clean competition, athlete welfare, and greater investment in grassroots participation throughout his public life



## **DAME KATHERINE GRAINGER**

Dame Katherine Grainger is a decorated Scottish rower and Olympic gold medallist. She has earned one gold and four silver medals across five Olympic Games and is a six-time World Champion. During London 2012, she won gold in the double sculls with Anna Watkins. Following her leadership at UK Sport, Grainger became the first female chair of the British Olympic Association.



## **LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND MBE**

An active member of the House of Lords, and Britain's most successful Paralympic swimmer, Lord Holmes of Richmond has won a total of nine gold, five silver, and one bronze medal at the Paralympic Games. Lord Holmes was Director of Paralympic Integration for London 2012 and was elevated to the House of Lords in August 2013.



## **AMÉLIE OUDÉA-CASTÉRA [TBC]**

Amélie Oudéa-Castéra is a French politician, business executive, and former professional tennis player. She served as Minister of Sports and Olympic and Paralympic Games from May 2022 to September 2024 under Prime Ministers Élisabeth Borne and Gabriel Attal. She is the forthcoming President of the French National Olympic and Sports Committee.





# THE 2025-2026 ENTENTE CORDIALE DAY TEAM

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With the Patronage of His Majesty King Charles III and the President of France,  
Emmanuel Macron

**UK Honorary Co-Chair:** The Marquess of Salisbury KG KCVO PC DL

**French Honorary Co-Chair:** The Marquis de Breteuil

**Founder:** Maître Yves Djimi

**French Co-President:** Harmonie-Toscane St-Pierre-Delhayé

**UK Co-President:** Matilde Fulfaro

**Vice President of Academics:** Marta Koch

**Vice President of Communications:** Lisa Lefebvre-Risso

**Vice President of Logistics:** Jaden Zhu

**Vice President of Partnerships:** Ingrid Chan

**Vice President of Sponsorships:** Benjamin Chambers

**Division Members:** Saki Ikeda, Lumei-Serena Feng, Audrey Lin, Lili-Rose Dupin,  
Will Rowlands, Noah Schrewe, Clara Chevalier, Kenza Fraïgui, Kunwoo Kim

**Supervisory Board Members:** Camille Foley, Franck Debane, Linus Köhl, Max  
Buechner, Marie-Helene Blattmann-Lenoir, Adel Baba-Aissa



*“Inspired by Davos World Economic Forum’s mission, the Entente Cordiale Day aims to become a forum where students and future leaders meet annually in April to present to today’s leaders their ideas, recommendations and innovative solutions to tackle the most pressing global challenges”*

**– Maître Yves Justice Djimi, Founder of  
Entente Cordiale Day Association**



# SPONSORS

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## ENTENE CORDIALE DAY SUMMIT HOSTS & SPONSORS

### Host Partners

House of Commons  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
Royal Hospital Chelsea  
London School of Economics  
Hatfield House

### Official Sponsors

Maison Hermès (since 1837)  
Maison LIP (since 1867)  
Maison Pol Roger (since 1849)  
TotalEnergies (since 1924)  
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Château Beauchene (since 1794)  
Eurostar (since 1994)

### Gift Partners

Windsor Castle  
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Chartwell House  
La Boisserie  
Château de Breteuil  
France Galop  
Maison Drappier  
The Onoto Pen Company  
Conway Stewart  
Prince Albert II of Monaco  
Foundation

## ENTENTE CORDIALE DAY ALUMNI MEETING SPONSOR

### Etude Lion d'Or Avocats

Founded in October 1995 in Lausanne, the firm has evolved and expanded over the years to become one of the most prestigious law firms in Switzerland.

The skills and experience acquired, as well as the developed network, allow the Firm to offer an optimal solution, whatever the field concerned. The firm maintains a human scale, which allows it to ensure availability and defence as closely as possible. Working with Swiss and international clients, the firm brings together multidisciplinary skills, developed by experienced and specialised lawyers.

For further information, please visit: [www.etudeliondor.ch](http://www.etudeliondor.ch).





# WITH SUPPORT FROM

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## **British Olympic Association & Team GB**

Team GB is the national Olympic team of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the face of the British Olympic Association (BOA). The role of the BOA is to prepare and lead Team GB athletes at all Olympic events and to develop, promote and protect the Olympic Movement and Olympic values within the UK. Their vision is to unite and inspire the nation through the power of Olympic sport, bringing the country together behind a team that everyone can believe in.

Since winning their bid to host the London 2012 Olympic Games in 2005, Team GB has consistently finished in the top five on the medal table at the summer Olympic Games, taking home 67, 64 and 65 medals from Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 respectively. Team GB is the only nation to have won a gold medal at every summer Games since the first modern Olympics in 1896.

The BOA is independent, privately funded and receives no annual funding from the lottery or government. The success of Team GB is wholly dependent on support from commercial partners, patrons and income generated from fundraising events. For further information, please visit [www.TeamGB.com](http://www.TeamGB.com).

## **French National Olympic and Sports Committee**

The French National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSF) represents France in the Olympics games behind the “French Olympic Team”. Created in 1894 before the first modern Olympic games in Athens, the committee is responsible for selecting and supporting the nation’s top athletes across all 32 summer and 8 winter Olympic sports to compete. As an association under French law, the CNOSF is primarily privately funded, through the support of commercial partners, and receives ad hoc contributions from the government, most recently to support the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Following their successful bid to host the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, France has seen a renewed focus on performance and youth engagement in sport. The French Team has steadily climbed the medal rankings, earning 42 medals in Rio 2016, 33 in Tokyo 2020, and a record of 64 medals in Paris 2024, with 16 gold medals. The 2024 Olympic team was the largest French delegation since the 1900 Olympic games, with 573 athletes competing. France has competed in nearly every modern Olympic Games since 1896 and is one of the few nations to have hosted the Olympics three times, with Paris being the first city to host the Summer Games three times. France is also set to host the 2030 Winter Olympics in the Alps, 38 years after its creation in the same place.





# THE WINNERS OF THE 2025 ENTENTE CORDIALE DAY CHALLENGE

The 2025 theme was:

## CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY, AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD

This year's competition brought together over 300 students from 12 world-class universities to tackle climate-focused solutions. Projects ranged from biodiversity finance to solar energy deployment in the Sahara. The winners impressed our grand jury with their innovative thinking, and global vision.

## PRIZE-WINNING RESEARCH

Students spent months elaborating evidence-based policy projects, and finalists presented topics such as:

- Fields on Fire: Policy Recommendations to Combat Stubble Burning in India
- Agroforestry: the green guardian, Cameroon & India
- From Tradition to Table: Community Gardening and the Cultivation of Neglected and Underutilised Species for Climate Change Adaptation in Vietnam
- Breaking the Stalemate: An Ambitious, Priority-Aligned Proposal for Multilateral Biodiversity Finance
- The Desert Light Project: How Solar Parks in the Sahara Could Revolutionise Renewable Energy
- GroundTruth: A global reporting system to solve biodiversity and climate challenges



King Edward VII Prize

**FIELDS ON FIRE: Policy Recommendations to Combat Stubble Burning in India**  
Nachiket Midha, Yoonki Lee, Theo Kaiser  
University of Oxford

**ABSTRACT:**  
Despite bans, incentives, and the visible environmental impacts of agricultural stubble burning, it continues to remain a central issue contributing to the deadly smog that blankets the Northern part of India during the winter months. This report attempts to unravel why the existing measures fail and why this issue requires urgent attention. The report consists of two main sections and proceeds as follows: The first provides a comprehensive background, detailing the causes of stubble burning, its consequences, the existing policies and the ways in which stubble could be repurposed. The second presents concrete policy solutions, proposing a two-pronged approach to create a self-sustaining system that tackles stubble burning through both community and individual-level interventions. The first proposal focuses on reforming cooperative societies to improve farmer's access to machinery for effective stubble management. The second proposal advocates bringing the manual management of agricultural stubble under the existing employment guarantee framework for rural areas, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA).

**KEYWORDS:**  
Stubble Burning, Air Pollution, Crop Residue Management, Sustainability, Ecosystem, Agriculture, Cooperative Societies

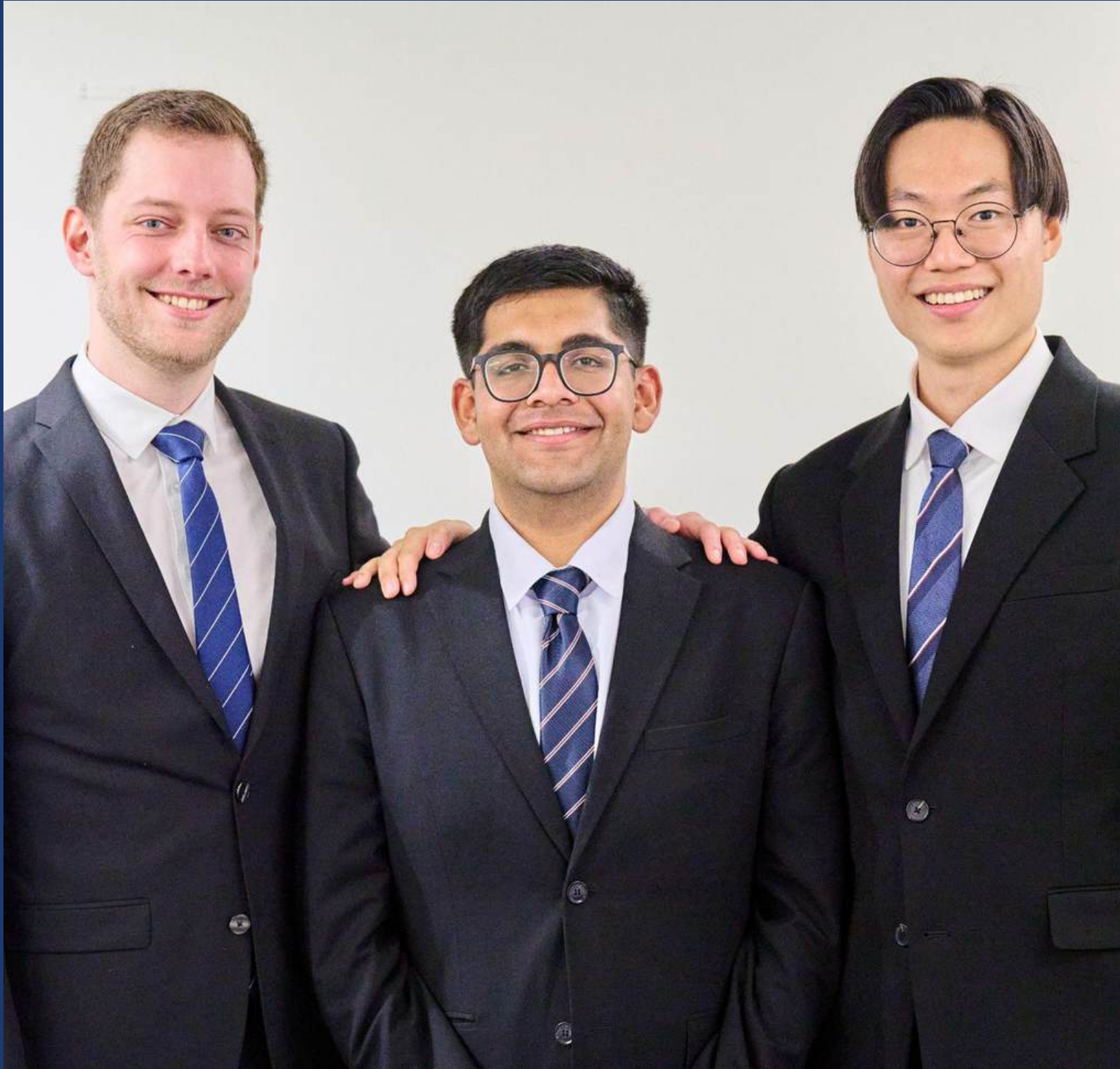
1. Background  
a. Reasons for the Practice of Stubble Burning  
Stubbles are the cut stalks which remain on the farmland after grains of cereal plants have been harvested. Stubble burning refers to the intentional and economically motivated incineration of these stubbles, which usually takes place directly on the field. The geography of the Indo-Gangetic Plain incentivises this practice because the region is especially suitable for a farming system based on the seasonal rotation of wheat and rice, which in turn provides the impetus for the practice of stubble burning.

The Indo-Gangetic Plain in South Asia extends across India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh and



# THE WINNERS OF THE 2025 ENTENTE CORDIALE DAY CHALLENGE

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## *“Fields on Fire: Policy Recommendations to Combat Stubble Burning in India”*

🇬🇧 **King Edward VII Prize – University of Oxford**  
Nachiket Midha, Yoonki Lee, and Theo Kaiser

We are from St Antony’s College, Oxford University, and we study at the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR). Nachiket (India) is reading for an MSc in Politics while Yoonki (South Korea) and Theo (Germany) are pursuing an MPhil in International Relations. Our research focuses on tackling the problem of stubble burning in India. Stubble burning is the practice of burning crop residue on the field after harvest. It contributes to the deadly smog that plagues major Indian cities and affects millions. Our solutions aim at increasing the farmers’ access to machinery that is necessary to remove the stubble.

## *“Agroforestry: the green guardian, Cameroon & India”*

🇫🇷 **Prix Président Loubet – EDHEC Business School**  
Lesly Kana, Cypris Remond, and Khushi Tivary

Our team – Lesly, Cypris, and Khushi – was formed through a shared passion for sustainability and innovation. All of us are driven by a deep interest in environmental, social, and economic sustainability, especially through nature-based, community-led initiatives. When we discovered the challenge topics, agroforestry emerged as an evident solution: achievable, local, and shaped by a ground-up approach. We chose to focus on Cameroon and India, two developing countries battling against a storm of climate extremes. Our interviews with agroforestry farmers and experts enabled us to develop out-of-the-box solutions to mitigate pressing environmental challenges.





# THE 2026 ENTENTE CORDIALE DAY CHALLENGE

This year, the competition will focus on the critical theme of ‘Conflicts, Technologies, and World Security’. The global landscape is increasingly defined by geopolitical tensions, rapid technological advancements, and pressing questions surrounding lasting peace. In this context, the need for rigorous analysis, interdisciplinary dialogue, and forward-thinking solutions has never been more apparent. Engaging in international conversations on how to tackle these issues is vital for students of today who will become the tomorrow’s leaders and peacemakers.

## ‘Conflicts, Technologies, and World Security’

### WORLD SECURITY

*Including:*

- International Security
- Reduction in Violence
- Safety for Vulnerable Groups
- Environmental Security
- Social and Economic stability
- Cybersecurity
- Public Safety
- Public Health and Biosecurity
- Food, Water and Resource Security
- Nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament

### CONFLICTS

*Including:*

- Superpower Rivalries
- Territorial Disputes
- Social Injustice
- Gender-Based Violence and Discriminations

### TECHNOLOGIES

*Including:*

- Artificial Intelligence
- Automation
- Cybersecurity
- Biotechnology
- Sustainable Tech
- Online Platforms

Now more than ever, we need young changemakers who are able to think critically and broadly about these questions. Which of the many conflicts, tensions, and clashes that saturate our understanding of the present world have most profoundly impacted its security? Which conflicts, or types of conflicts, have we customarily overlooked? How might technologies act as both a source of conflict and a tool for resolution? What exactly does a safer world look like?



# ENTENTE CORDIALE DAY

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 Entente Cordiale Day Challenge

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