



PRESS RELEASE - JANUARY 23, 2024

## Michel Combes (Class X1981) is appointed Chairman of the Friends of École Polytechnique

**The Board of the Friends of École Polytechnique, sister organization of École Polytechnique Foundation in the United States, has unanimously appointed Michel Combes (Class X1981) Chairman of the Friends of École Polytechnique (FEP). He succeeds Éric Setton (Class X1998) who held this position since April 2018.**

Through mobilizing support from alumni in the United States, FEP is able to provide financing for the École Polytechnique's innovative research projects, scholarships for international students and programs promoting excellence in science.

*"I'm delighted to take over the chairmanship of FEP today, and I'd like to thank Éric Setton and all the members of the Board for their confidence. At a time when École Polytechnique is implementing ambitious projects, I am committed to working alongside my fellow comrades living in the United States, to help our School achieve its goals",* says Michel Combes.

*"On behalf of École Polytechnique Foundation, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to Éric Setton for his investment and commitment to our School, and I wish Michel Combes every success",* adds Jean-Paul Cottet, Executive Director of École Polytechnique Foundation.

A graduate of École polytechnique (Class X1981) and Télécom Paris, Michel Combes is currently Executive Vice President of Claire Group, a global investment company.

A telecommunications specialist, he was CFO of France Télécom from 2002 to 2006, and headed TDF (2006-2008), Vodafone Group for Europe (2008-2013), Alcatel-Lucent (2013-2015) and Numericable-SFR (2015-2017). In 2018, Michel Combes was appointed CFO of US operator Sprint, where he became CEO. In 2020, he joined Softbank Group International, which he led until 2022.



## MEDIA CONTACTS

Mathilde Ordas	Laëtitia Piriou
+ 33 (0)1 69 33 38 73 / + 33 (0)6 30 30 02 62	+ 33 (0)1 69 33 38 70 / + 33 (0)6 66 53 56 10
<a href="mailto:mathilde.ordas@polytechnique.edu">mathilde.ordas@polytechnique.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:laetitia.piriou@polytechnique.edu">laetitia.piriou@polytechnique.edu</a>



**ABOUT ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FOUNDATION** / Created in 1987 by twenty leading French companies at the request of Bernard Esambert (Class X1954), the Chairman of École Polytechnique Board of Directors at the time, and with the support of the Alumni Association, École Polytechnique Foundation builds bridges between the business world and École Polytechnique, including its students and research professors. The Foundation is a recognized public-benefit organization that works to promote École Polytechnique. This status entitles it to receive gifts and bequests from both individuals and companies. The funds raised are directed to École Polytechnique research, facilities, students and faculty.

**ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE** / The Friends of École Polytechnique is a sister organization of École Polytechnique Foundation. Its aim is to accompany the Foundation in its fundraising efforts in the United States of America. It is managed by a Board of Directors, chaired by Michel Combes (Class X1981). The Friends of École Polytechnique has been approved by the International Revenue Service as a public charity organization.

[www.fondationx.org](http://www.fondationx.org)