Annex of DFMR / CMFA Declaration on 17. July 2026

Nr.	Title
1	IRIS2: A Pivotal Component in the European Space Infrastructure and economic Landscape
2	Preliminary Joint Analysis of the Commission’s Proposal on MSS 2 GHz
3	Spectrum management is essential to preserve the Union’s ability to play a global role in space affairs
4	Statement on support for ITU's regulatory framework for frequency management
5	Joint Declaration of Intent on Cooperation in the Field of Fusion Energy Research
6	Roadmap on Franco-German Cooperation in the Field of Breakthrough Innovation
7	Joint Action Plan on Franco-German Research Cooperation
8	Joint Position Paper on the European Quantum Act
9	Joint Statement on critical raw materials cooperation

IRIS²: A Pivotal Component in the European Space Infrastructure and economic Landscape

Germany and France acknowledge that IRIS² will play a crucial role in improving connectivity and communication services for European governmental and commercial applications. At the same time, it is an important step towards a resilient and robust European space infrastructure -a first step towards a European system-of-systems, with IRIS² as its data backbone.

The following are the key points that underscore its significance and outline its requirements:

1. User-Oriented
   a. Timeliness: It is essential that IRIS² focuses on the timely provision of services to ensure that users have access to communications when they need them. An incremental approach is to be considered to close capability gaps and achieve early and meaningful worldwide services, with the objective of achieving adequate service availability and coverage by 2030.
   b. Quality: Meeting user requirements for guaranteed bandwidth, latency, security, and Quality of Service.
   c. Radio spectrum: Securing for IRIS² an adequate portion of the 2 GHz MSS radio spectrum in Europe for device-to-device (D2D) services is essential and should be made clear in the proposed regulation. This spectrum allocation enables robust and secure communication, supports the diverse needs of users and ensures the availability of sovereign D2D applications in the future. We are currently reviewing the legal provisions of the draft regulation and will assess their implications for the allocation and use of the 2 GHz MSS spectrum for D2D services.
   d. Commercial approach to stimulate private investments and competition in order to control costs and to incentivize innovative solutions
   e. Use cases: Distinct user groups with diverse and varying demands must be identified and addressed.
   f. Public-Private-Partnership: The core of the programme must remain as a strong public–private partnership model in order to leverage the financial capacity and innovation for the public sector and at the same time keeping markets open for commercial actors. This should also accelerate service delivery and maximize cost-efficiency.
2. Industrial footprint
   A balanced involvement of EU industry is crucial for IRIS². By leveraging the full innovation and manufacturing potential of the entire European space industry, IRIS² must drive technological progress and economic growth based on deep expertise and resources. Committed to ensure acceptance in public, government and parliament, we need to promote a proper involvement, based on recognized competencies and expertise, of all the European industrial landscape in the upstream and downstream of the project, based on competition.

3. **Integration into an open architecture**
   IRIS² must be an integral part of an open architecture approach, based on open standards, IRIS² being the backbone of interoperable systems, maximizing the benefits of existing and future space capabilities. By implementing an open architecture in an incremental development approach, IRIS² can gradually adapt to evolving technological landscapes and new user needs.

4. **Opening the GovSatCom HUB to existing commercial services**
   The GovSatCom HUB can serve as an interim solution to IRIS², relying on the use of existing services – including commercial ones – that meet the user requirements outlined above and help enhancing current capabilities.

In summary, IRIS² is not merely a standalone system but one key trailblazer on the path toward a European space infrastructure, as the future backbone to a broader system of interoperable systems. A user-centered design, industry involvement, open architecture, and the integration of existing services are key cornerstones that must be taken into account in a goal-oriented manner. This way, IRIS² and GovSatCom become a cornerstone for advanced communication solutions.

German/French Preliminary Joint Analysis of the Commission's Proposal on MSS 2 GHz

On the selection procedure

1. **We welcome the Commission's approach for selection process for future users of the MSS 2 GHz band.** The admissibility and selection criteria appropriately account for sovereignty and security considerations while aiming to strengthen the European space industrial base in particular with focus on New Space startups including satellite operators, satellite manufacturer, rocket launching capabilies etc.
2. We believe the proposal should **clarify the scenario in which no applicant meets the admissibility or selection requirements** and clarifies the way forward including potential effects on the spectrum management.
3. Given the strategic importance of the MSS 2 GHz band for both Member States and the Commission, **all implementing acts—particularly those under Article 5.2—should be subject to the scrutiny procedure**.
4. The legal framework of the proposal requires thorough discussion; we see no urgency in advancing these negotiations.
5. Germany and France are of the view that this proposal shall not pre-empt the ongoing DNA negotiations and creates no de facto precedents for the satellite chapter of the DNA. The MSS 2 GHz proposal and the DNA must be negotiated separately.
6. We stress that the selection criteria for commercial MSS systems (Articles 11–12) must remain technology-neutral, transparent, and proportionate, to ensure a level playing field and avoid foreclosing innovative solutions, including new entrants.

On competition issues

1. We support the provision in Article 15.1(g), which ensures that providers of commercial services in the MSS 2 GHz band must offer w**holesale access under objectively justified, non-discriminatory, proportionate, and transparent conditions**. We seek for clarification regarding the **differing wording between Article 15.1(g) and Article 12.1(f)**, as their respective formulations appear to raise distinct implications.
2. We also consider that **Article 15.1(h) requires further clarification**, as its scope of application remains unclear.
3. We believe a reasonable combination of commercially attractive blocks of spectrum will support the development of new space business models on a European basis.

On spectrum management

1. We do not concur with a centralized Union authorisation for the provision of satellite networks, including satellite ground stations and, where applicable, complementary ground and airborne components and of satellite communications services as set out

in Art. 15.1. Replacing national satellite spectrum authorisations with an EU-level regime risks undermining subsidiarity, national sovereignty, and Member States' ability to manage security, defence, and spectrum-related priorities.

2. We note that the proposal incorporates certain provisions derived from the DNA proposal. In this regard, **we reiterate our strong opposition to establishing a European legal framework for lawful interception and data retention**, particularly as Article 13.5(d) provides for the adoption of such measures through a delegated act;
3. **We further observe that the obligation to conform to the radio regulation in the proposed regulation (point 1 of the annex) seems less effective** than in the DNA proposal (Article 39.4(b));
4. **Regarding fees, we emphasize that spectrum is a public asset owned by Member States**, and proceeds from spectrum fees should accordingly be allocated to them.

On the transitory period

1. **We appreciate that license extensions are limited to ensuring the continuity of existing services.** Nevertheless, it would be beneficial to establish a clear enforcement mechanism to ensure compliance with this condition by current spectrum users and current spectrum licensees.
2. **We nevertheless question the decision to use this regulation to extend the duration of current licenses,** given that the Commission's representatives in the COCOM explicitly stated that such an extension could be achieved through the COCOM. Moreover, the need to extend license durations requires this regulation to be formally published before May 2027. Extending the current licenses via the COCOM could therefore provide additional time for further discussions.

Regarding IRIS²

1. We understand that the **2x10 MHz** band dedicated to the secure MSS/hybrid system is not directly reserved for **IRIS²**.
2. At a minimum, the proposal should explicitly state that, in cases where either:
    - no applicant meets the admissibility and eligibility requirements, or
    - no applicant meeting these requirements demonstrates a convincing level of capability and financing for deploying and operating a secure MSS/hybrid system,
3. the Commission will **reserve the 2 GHz MSS band portion referred to in Article 4(1)(a) for the needs of the Union Secure Connectivity Programme, as established by Regulation 2023/588.**
4. We believe IRIS² must also serve commercial use cases – for individual consumers as well as small and medium-sized enterprises – within the designated 2x10 MHz bands.
5. Commercial applications for IRIS² are essential: they generate broad EU-wide acceptance for IRIS², offer European consumers and small and medium businesses satellite connectivity and contribute to the long-term financial sustainability of IRIS² by securing private investments.

Spectrum management is essential to preserve the Union's ability to play a global role in space affairs

On the short term, the MSS 2GHz frequency band is key to secure European competitive and sovereign connectivity through the deployment of Direct-to-Device satellite services across Europe. The proposed Regulation for the selection procedure and authorisation of the 2GHz MSS frequency band is an important first step. We will support its objectives in order to achieve a balance aimed to strengthen the EU's competitiveness and critical communications capabilities. In the frame of a common analysis, Germany and France will publish a dedicated non-paper in the coming weeks concerning our ambition for that regulation.

The Digital Network Act (DNA) could be an opportunity to reenforce and coordinate spectrum management framework for satellite at the EU level, in the respect of member states competencies. Consequently, we reaffirm our views expressed in the non-paper published with other European member states in June 2026 concerning our ambition for this regulation. Unlike the terrestrial telecommunication market, the satellite telecommunication market is inherently pan-European. Consequently, harmonisation of spectrum management mechanisms is necessary for satellite services. The provision of the DNA as regard to satellite spectrum management should be refocused on a common reaction mechanism in case of the disrespect of a set of minimal conditions defined at EU level, including the respect of the Radio Regulation of the ITU. The RSPG subgroup report on Strategic Spectrum Matters constitutes a sound basis to define this mechanism.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) plays a fundamental role ensuring an efficient and sustainable management of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits. ITU plays a key role as the only global entity responsible for frequency and orbit-spectrum resources management which must be preserved. ITU has successfully accommodated and facilitated the development of satellite systems including mega constellations and a wide range of new-space applications. The Radio Regulations should continue to evolve to adapt to new technological development through the next WRC in 2027. The ITU will continue to implement this framework in a fair, transparent and effective manner. In an evolving geopolitical context, we firmly believe that adherence to the ITU global governance of radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits, rooted in multilateralism, is the only viable way for nations to develop their space policy while avoiding harmful interference between satellite systems. **Germany and France will promote an international declaration to share that vision in the frame of the International Space Summit.**

Statement on support for ITU's regulatory framework for frequency management

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) plays a fundamental role in ensuring an efficient and sustainable management of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits enabling a smooth, interference-free operation of radiocommunication systems worldwide - a crucial issue for space services. This framework is based on the Radio Regulations, a binding international treaty, revised every four years at World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC), which set out rules and procedures governing the registration, coordination and protection of ITU Member States' rights of use, in particular for space assignments.

We support the role of ITU as the primary global entity responsible for frequency and orbit-spectrum resources management. We acknowledge that ITU has successfully accommodated and facilitated the development of satellite systems including mega constellations and a wide range of new-space applications. We are confident that the Radio Regulations will continue to evolve to adapt to new technological development and that the ITU will continue to implement this framework in a fair, transparent and effective manner.

In an evolving geopolitical context, we firmly believe that adherence to the ITU global governance of radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits, rooted in a multilateralism based on international Law and the United Nations Charter, is the essential foundation for nations for the coordination of radiocommunication systems to develop their space policy while avoiding harmful interference between satellite systems.

The frequency registration procedures managed by ITU foster equitable access to spectrum and orbits, with, today, 100 administrations having satellite assignments, including 56 for geostationary orbit. ITU allows many developing countries to develop their own satellite capabilities without being subject to harmful radio interference, in order to meet the connectivity needs of their populations. This equitable access to spectrum and orbit resources supports the broader goal of reducing the digital divide, as pursued through the ITU's development mandate.

We note that studies relating to the framework established in the Radio Regulations for the protection of geostationary networks (GSO) from non-geostationary (NGSO) constellations will be reported to WRC-27. In this context, it will be important to maintain a reliable protection of geostationary networks with clear, measurable and predictable interference environment, particularly in the Ku and Ka bands, while ensuring that NGSO systems are not unduly constrained. WRC-27 may also need to consider the topic of satellite Direct-to-Device communications, taking into account aspects such as supporting innovation and resilient coverage, protecting terrestrial networks, and preserving technology neutrality and spectrum efficiency.

We stress the importance for any satellite system to strictly comply with Radio Regulations rules governing the protection of GSO networks as well as with the coordination procedures applicable to constellations using the same frequency bands. This is essential to ensure the continuity of satellite services that support public space services and governmental satellite

services, while also enabling the efficient deployment and operation of NGSO constellations within a technology neutral framework that fosters innovation and access to spectrum.

We remain firmly committed to taking all necessary actions, in accordance with ITU rules and guidance, to protect our satellite systems from harmful interference.

Joint Declaration of Intent
on Cooperation in the Field of Fusion Energy Research
between
the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space of the French Republic
and
the Ministry of Research, Technology and Space of the Federal Republic of Germany

The Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space of the French Republic (MESRE) and the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) (hereinafter referred to as "Participant(s)"), recognize the crucial role of fusion energy as a safe, sustainable and carbon-neutral solution to meet the future energy needs of Europe and the world. They acknowledge the long-standing and fruitful cooperation between France and Germany in the field of fusion research, notably through joint participation in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), EUROfusion, and bilateral agreements between research institutions such as the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA) and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT).

The Participants refer to (i) the workshop held in Bonn on 3 April 2025, which identified key areas for strengthened cooperation in magnetic confinement fusion (MCF) and inertial confinement fusion (ICF), as well as the need for coordinated access to relevant research infrastructures and training of specialists; (ii) the 8th Franco-German Forum on Research Cooperation held on 16 June 2025 in Berlin, and (iii) the joint roadmap signed on 29 August 2025 in Toulon, which identified nuclear fusion as an area for enhanced collaboration between France and Germany and set out concrete means in an annex of the roadmap.

The Participants consider the national strategies of both countries, including France's current "France 2030" programme and Germany's current "High-Tech Agenda Deutschland", together with the Action Plan "Fusion" and the Research Program "Fusion 2040", which all emphasize the development of fusion technologies, the establishment of a fusion ecosystem, and the construction of pilot fusion facilities. They reaffirm the importance of coordinating expertise, resources, and existing research infrastructures to accelerate the technological readiness level (TRL) of fusion technologies, including neutron-resilient materials, tritium breeding, plasma power exhaust, remote handling, high-energy lasers, and specialized optics.

The Participants wish to establish a framework for enhanced cooperation in research and innovation development in the field of fusion energy, based on the principles of mutual benefit, transparency, and respect for intellectual property.

Therefore, the Participants declare the following intentions:

Section 1 – OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Joint Declaration of Intent (hereinafter referred to as "Declaration") is to strengthen and deepen cooperation between France and Germany in the field of fusion energy research, in order to:

- Enhance the development of fusion technologies towards the construction of pilot fusion plants;
- Support the mobility and training of human resources, including but not limited to researchers, engineers, and students, by, for instance, setting up joint educational programmes;
  Facilitate coordinated and reciprocal access to relevant research infrastructures.

Section 2 – AREAS OF COOPERATION

Unless otherwise formulated in writing, the Participants intend to encourage cooperation activities in the areas listed in the Annex enclosed hereto.

This Annex may be updated by mutual written consent of the Participants.

Section 3 – FORMS OF COOPERATION

The cooperation may include, without being limited to, the following:

- Joint research projects and programmes;
- Exchange of human resources;
- Organisation of events, such as workshops, conferences, and training courses;
- Mutual access to pertinent research infrastructures and testing facilities;
- Development of joint educational and training initiatives.

Section 4 – IMPLEMENTATION

1. The Participants may establish a **Joint Steering Committee** composed of representatives from MESRE, BMFTR, and relevant research institutions involved in the field of fusion energy research [e.g., CEA, KIT, IPP (Max-Planck-Institut für Plasmaphysik), Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf (HZDR)]. If so, the Committee should meet at least once a year to monitor progress, identify new opportunities, propose concrete actions, and address any issues related to the implementation of this Declaration.
2. The Participants intend to encourage institutions and companies, relevant in the field of fusion energy research, and established within their respective national territory, to engage in cooperation activities as foreseen under this Declaration.
3. Such cooperation activities should be set out in writing between the concerned institutions and companies, as needed.

Section 5 – FUNDING

1. Activities under this Declaration will be implemented subject to the national budget availability of each Participant.
2. Unless decided otherwise, each Participant intends to fund its national institutions and companies engaging in cooperation activities under this Declaration.
3. Nothing in this Declaration may be construed as obliging either Participant to provide funds to the other Participant or to any third party involved in cooperation activities under this Declaration.

Section 6 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Participants intend to ensure that intellectual property rights will be managed in a fair and transparent manner, respecting the contributions of all concerned, and in accordance with the applicable and enforceable legal rules, if any.

Section 7 – CONFIDENTIALITY

Each Participant intends to ensure that classified, confidential and otherwise sensitive information that might be exchanged during the implementation of this Declaration will be protected in accordance with the applicable and enforceable legal rules, if any.

Section 8 – SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any disputes arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Declaration should be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Participants.

Section 9 – NON-BINDING NATURE

This Declaration is not intended to create any legal obligations for either Participant or third party.

Section 10 – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this Declaration should be made in writing and decided upon by both Participants.

Section 11 – APPLICABLE LAW – MANDATORY STATUTORY LAW

The law applicable to the present Declaration is that of the Participant in whose territory it is invoked.

Nothing in this Declaration should be deemed to require a Participant or any third party involved in cooperation activities under this Declaration to breach any mandatory statutory law under which such Participant or third party will be operating.

Section 12 – LANGUAGE OF THE DECLARATION

This Declaration as well as its Annex is drawn up in English signed at the end, one original being given to each Participant.

Section 13 –COMING INTO EFFECT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

The implementation of this Declaration is intended to start on the date of its signature by both Participants for a period of **five (5) years** and may be renewed and otherwise amended in accordance with Section 10 above.

Either Participant may terminate the cooperation under this Declaration at any time provided it sends six (6) months' prior written notice to the other Participant.

Termination hereto will not affect ongoing cooperation activities implemented under this Declaration unless deemed necessary.

Signed in Augustusburg Palace, Brühl, Germany on July 17, 2026, in duplicate in the English language

For the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space of the Federal Republic of Germany	For the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space of the French Republic
Dorothee Bär	Philippe Baptiste
Federal Minister of Research, Technology and Space	Minister of Higher Education, Research and Space

Annex: Identified fields of cooperation

1. **Magnetic Confinement Fusion (MCF):**
   - Development of breeding blankets and nuclear codes;
   - Plasma-wall interaction and power exhaust systems;
   - High-temperature superconducting materials;
   - Control systems and gyrotron technologies.
2. **Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF):**
   - High-energy, high-repetition rate lasers;
   - Specialized optics;
   - Laser-plasma interaction and hydrodynamic stability for direct drive configurations.
3. **Cross-cutting topics:**
   - Training and education (e.g. summer schools, joint PhD programmes, professional training);
   - Access to and shared use of research infrastructures.

Roadmap

on Franco-German Cooperation in the Field of Breakthrough Innovation

of the Ministry of Research, Technology and Space of the Federal Republic of Germany

and the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty of the French Republic

Promoting breakthrough innovation is of strategic importance for Europe, as this lays the foundations for technological sovereignty, economic competitiveness, and long-term strategic autonomy.

The French Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty (MEFSIEN) and the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) recognise the strategic importance of fostering breakthrough innovation for the benefit of France, Germany, and the European Union as a whole. To this end, they express their shared intention to deepen their cooperation in this strategic field.

The two ministries affirm their strong commitment to shaping Europe's technological future by jointly advancing breakthrough innovation and deep technologies. Building on the shared vision of their respective Heads of State and Government, they recognise that technological sovereignty is a strategic imperative for Europe in the twenty-first century. They are therefore determined to intensify their bilateral and European efforts in key technological domains where global leadership is essential and where Europe's competitiveness, resilience, and strategic autonomy must be strengthened.

Against this background, the ministries intend to deepen their exchange and cooperation in the field of breakthrough innovation. They want to strengthen the sharing of knowledge, experience, and best practices, while exploring new opportunities for closer and more effective collaboration and for common objectives.

To this end, the ministries will continue their regular dialogue on policies and instruments to support breakthrough innovation. They will build on the successful cooperation established over the past year through the Franco-German Task Force on Breakthrough Innovation, launched as an outcome of the Franco-German Council of Ministers in 2025. In June 2026, the Task Force presented its report to the ministers, who welcomed its findings and endorsed its recommendations for future cooperation.

The ministries also welcome the ongoing efforts to establish a French breakthrough innovation entity, which would create a strong foundation for strengthened Franco-German cooperation in this strategically important field. In this context, close cooperation between the German Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation (SPRIND) and the future French breakthrough innovation entity would be actively pursued from the outset. Concrete forms of cooperation could include joint project funding, coordinated innovation challenges, the exchange of expertise, and other collaborative initiatives aimed at accelerating the development, scaling, and deployment of breakthrough technologies.

A coordinated Franco-German approach will enable the pooling of expertise, resources, and capabilities, thereby creating synergies and significantly increasing the prospects for success. By deepening their cooperation in breakthrough innovation, the French Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty and the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space affirm their shared commitment to strengthening Europe's capacity to generate, develop, and scale transformative technologies, thereby contributing to a more innovative, competitive, resilient, and sovereign Europe.

Signed in Augustusburg Palace, Brühl, Germany on July 17, 2026, in duplicate in the English language

For the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Dorothee Bär

Federal Minister of Research, Technology and Space

For the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty of the French Republic

Roland Lescure

Minister of Economy, Finance, and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty

Joint Action Plan

on Franco-German Research Cooperation

of the Ministry of Research, Technology and Space of the Federal Republic of Germany

and the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space of the French Republic

Advancing Franco-German Research Cooperation for Europe

Conscious of Germany's and France's shared responsibility for the future of Europe, we acknowledge that scientific research and technological innovation are fundamental drivers of economic growth to strengthen European technological sovereignty for the benefit of our societies.

On the occasion of the 8th Forum on Franco-German Research Cooperation on 16 June 2025 in Berlin, the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) and the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space (MESRE) demonstrated the deepness of their partnership based on solid and trustful foundations and provided their close cooperation a new and dynamic momentum.

During the Forum, both Ministries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation between our two countries in research, technology, innovation and space - key components of the new chapter of Franco-German relations envisioned by the President of the Republic of France and the German Federal Chancellor.

Based on the outcomes of the Forum, a Roadmap on Franco-German Research Cooperation was developed and signed during the Franco-German Council of Ministers on 29 August 2025 in Toulon (France) by the Minister of Research, Technology and Space of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Space of the French Republic.

As affirmed in the 2025 Roadmap, a Follow-up Meeting was held on 29 June 2026 between the two Ministries to take stock of the achievements one year after the Forum and the Franco-German Council of Ministers. During this meeting, the achievements in the fields of artificial intelligence, fusion research, batteries and other topics such as cooperation at EU level were showcased.

Based on the findings of the Follow-up Meeting and considering the shared strong interest in advancing the cooperation even more, we have come to the common understanding to further reinforce our cooperation and to focus on the following joint actions in 2026-2027:

Artificial intelligence

The two countries will strengthen the Franco-German research and innovation infrastructures and AI ecosystems by establishing governance that enables strategic scientific foresight,

developing their attractiveness for international talents and launching strategic research and innovation projects. A joint declaration was signed on 16 October 2019 on establishing a French-German AI Research and Innovation (R&I) Network. This has resulted in two joint calls of BMFTR and MESRE published in 2020 and 2022, funding 29 projects with a total amount of approximately 25 million euros. In addition, many grassroots initiatives were initiated and strengthened. In June 2026, a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed between DFKI and INRIA for the creation of a binational AI centre to conduct joint research for safe and trustworthy AI in accordance with European standards. For the ministries, the way forward encompasses the following actions:

- AI ecosystem: France and Germany have decided to further strengthen the French-German AI R&I ecosystem by
    - establishing an ecosystem governance enabling strategic scientific foresight and more regular exchanges and coordination;
    - organising joint events on a regular basis to facilitate exchange between researchers and institutions on scientific results, best practices, current challenges, and future areas of cooperation – with a joint workshop organised as part of the All Hands Meeting 2025 of the German Centres of Excellence for AI Research in Saarbrucken in early November 2025 as a first example;
    - improving the presentation of the French-German cooperation on AI, e.g., via a joint website and a repository of success stories.
- AI Talent: France and Germany are willing to strengthen existing AI talent programmes as well as supporting the establishment of new ones, driven by universities, research institutions, and existing networks;
    - AI Infrastructure: France and Germany want to deepen existing collaborations in supercomputing, especially between the new AI factories, and to identify possibilities for coupling the two exascale supercomputers to a virtual AI gigafactory.
    - AI strategic projects: France and Germany intend to establish a process to jointly identify scientific priority domains with the goal of setting up strategic projects.

Fusion research

In the field of **fusion**, France and Germany have made decisive steps to deepen their collaboration. Based on the outcomes of the Franco-German Council of Ministers in August 2025 in Toulon, France and Germany want to further strengthen their Fusion Energy Research ecosystem through:

- Signing an overarching Joint Declaration of Intent on Fusion Energy Research and on general principles for a strengthened cooperation between MESRE and BMFTR by both Ministers on the occasion of the Franco-German Council of Ministers on 17 July 2026 in Augustusburg Palace in Brühl (Germany);
- First actions to implement the Joint Declaration of Intent:
    - Enabling cooperation based on the already existing collaborations between relevant French and German research institutions on specific research fields,

e.g., breeding blankets and specialised optics, in order to boost the maturation of these technological topics essential for Magnetic Confinement Fusion (MCF) and Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) development;

- Continuing the exchange between MESRE and BMFTR on subjects of interest in both countries which are relevant for nuclear fusion energy research and development (e.g., governance, training and test infrastructures).

Batteries

In the field of **batteries**, Franco-German cooperation on high-power batteries (HIPOBAT) is in full swing. Its relevance for the establishment of European battery cell production has been underlined in the High-Tech Agenda Germany and during several expert meetings with the French Embassy in Berlin and the German Embassy in Paris. Franco-German cooperation in batteries strengthens technological sovereignty in Europe along the battery values chain. We share common goals due to our strong automotive sectors and the optimisation of the European interconnected grid. Building on HIPOBAT and in consultation with the Industry Advisory Board, the BMFTR and the MESRE plan a second phase for this project. It is envisaged in two parts, one entitled “HIPOBAT Research” to deepen cooperation and the other “HIPOBAT Industrialisation” to scale up transferable results to industry through a collaborative project between academic partners and industry. Workshops in autumn 2026 will facilitate the design of the roadmap to strengthen the cooperation; projects are scheduled to begin in 2027.

Hydrogen research

The joint programme on **hydrogen research** launched in 2024 continues to produce highly satisfactory results. Five projects investigate innovations for electrochemical production, transport infrastructure and hydrogen system integration. Building on the joint collaboration on hydrogen technologies, and considering that low-carbon hydrogen can contribute to Europe’s energy sovereignty and industrial independence, France and Germany intend to deepen and expand their cooperation and review options to involve other EU Member States.

Further cooperation fields

Further important cooperation fields are gaining strong momentum and are being brought to the forefront of our collaboration, namely **breakthrough innovations and quantum** computing.

To ensure European sovereignty in the domain of **quantum computing**, France and Germany intend to develop quantum hardware and software stacks to secure technological sovereignty. This implies promoting the development and scaling of the most promising hardware platforms. Another objective is to develop in close collaboration, also on the European level, the necessary software stacks.

Breakthrough innovation is a strategic priority for both France and Germany, driving our shared ambition to strengthen Europe's technological sovereignty. The MESRE and the BMFTR welcome the ongoing discussions and the delivery of the joint Franco-German report on breakthrough innovation, which recommends the establishment of a dedicated entity. This initiative, developed in cooperation with SprinD, underscores our commitment to fostering bold and transformative solutions for the challenges of tomorrow.

Our ministries are following these issues in close consultation with all the ministries concerned.

European research and innovation policy

France and Germany underline the particular relevance of European research and innovation policy and programmes for our and the EU's competitiveness and sovereignty. We will collaborate closely on the design of optimal framework conditions for research and innovation in upcoming EU legislation. Based on the conclusion of the partial general approach for the 10th EU-Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10), we will develop concrete proposals on the implementation of FP10, in particular on the European Innovation Council, on the research and technology infrastructure landscape and on large-scale and researcher-driven collaborative initiatives making full use of the EU's potential for excellence and innovation. In particular, both countries will collaborate closely to

- support a strengthened European Innovation Council under FP10, operating with greater agility, speed and risk tolerance to identify and scale breakthrough technologies. A joint vision paper on the future EIC will be published after the summer in 2026 before the start of the trilogue negotiations on FP10. Additionally, both countries will collaborate to improve the framework conditions for innovators, reduce barriers to market deployment and strengthen the Single Market for innovative companies. The upcoming European Innovation Act will be pivotal in this regard;
- further develop the availability, accessibility and visibility of Research and Technology Infrastructures (RTIs) as an important driver of competitiveness and sovereignty. A strong and coordinated effort is needed for RTIs at the EU level to ensure they can effectively support research centres, industries, especially small and medium-sized enterprises and startups, and other stakeholders, in their pursuit of sustainable growth and technological leadership. France and Germany will identify joint infrastructures that could pave the way towards a fully integrated European research and technology infrastructures landscape;
- support scientific excellence, which has been at the core of EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation over the years. Excellence initiatives, connecting top institutions could foster bottom-up collaborative research addressing contemporary issues. France and Germany will work together on jointly assessing options to integrate such initiatives in the next programming period;
- strive for the fifth freedom within the European Research Area (ERA) by seizing the landmark opportunity of the ERA Act. We see great potential in the ERA Act to truly facilitate collaboration for research and innovation across the EU and to contribute to

Choose Europe for Science at the international level. Building on the Bonn Declaration and the Marseille Declaration, France and Germany will develop a common position towards strengthening the legal protection of freedom of scientific research at EU level before the proposal of the European Commission on the ERA Act is tabled.

Considering our shared vision and ambition within the European Union, we will jointly advance our efforts in the fields of In-Space Operations and Services and Quantum Space Gravimetry, addressing their opportunities and challenges to foster innovation, sovereignty and leadership.

Science communication and participation

Science plays an important role in the democratic resilience of our societies. The topic of science communication and participation is crucial for France and Germany in view of resilience, critical thinking and creation of trust in science. This calls for putting more focus on this topic in both countries. Parallel activities or joint initiatives could be set up to capitalise on the experiences and use synergies to generate greater impact. A working group, in close cooperation with the ERA Action "Trust in Science", will be launched to this end.

The German and French Ministries for Research reaffirm their strong commitment and willingness to continue with intensive joint activities and to follow up further on the Forum on Franco-German Research Cooperation through regular meetings before the next Franco-German Council of Ministers and the next Franco-German Research Forum.

This Joint Action Plan is not intended to and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations under international or domestic law.

This Joint Action Plan will be applied starting from the day of signature. It may be amended at any time by mutual consent; amendments should be done in writing. Each Ministry may end cooperation under this Joint Action Plan in writing.

Signed in Augustusburg Palace, Brühl, Germany on July 17, 2026, in duplicate in the English language

For the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space of the Federal Republic of Germany	For the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space of the French Republic
Dorothee Bär	Philippe Baptiste
Federal Minister of Research, Technology and Space	Minister of Higher Education, Research and Space

France and Germany:

Joint Position Paper on the European Quantum Act

Europe cannot afford to wait – France and Germany share a common strategic conviction: Europe is engaged in a global race for technological leadership in quantum technologies, and the European Quantum Act is the decisive instrument to secure that leadership.

The European Quantum Act must be implemented now with the primary objective of establishing a comprehensive innovation ecosystem and industrial value chain for quantum computing in Europe – with clear priorities, binding financial frameworks, and effective governance structures. Europe has a strong science base and a growing industrial ecosystem. However, without coordinated scaling and a focus on European sovereignty, it risks losing its competitive edge to non-European actors.

The opportunity is real, but only an ambitious, coordinated Quantum Act can translate it into long-term European value creation.

Shared priorities:

1. Public Procurement as an Enabler of Demand-Oriented Industrial Policy

Public procurement must be deployed as an active instrument for demand creation, not merely a purchasing mechanism. Coordinated pre-commercial procurement and public procurement of innovative solutions at European level can ensure the early markets that quantum companies need to scale, attract private co-investment, and consolidate a competitive industrial base without waiting for the organic development of commercial demand. Commercial demand should be nurtured by bringing together potential industrial users and quantum companies. Together, this public policy approach will ensure the creation of a strong leading European quantum industry, and will hence be targeted at European companies. The EU must achieve quantum sovereignty, free from any extraterritorial effects of foreign legislation and regulations, through a significant procurement programme that consolidates domestic industrial leaders in quantum computing and that is coordinated between Member States and the European Commission to avoid budget fragmentation and ensure alignment with existing strategies. The quantum computers procured should be entirely designed and manufactured in Europe by European companies.

2. Financing for Start-ups, Scale-ups and European Exits

The EU Quantum Act must establish a dedicated, blended financing architecture – combining EIC, EIB, and national instruments with structured incentives for private venture and growth capital – that is explicitly designed to keep quantum champions European-headquartered,

European-owned, and European-listed through every stage of their development cycle, during and beyond the venture capital phase.

3. Research, Talent & Innovation

Continued support for quantum research and innovation activities is important to stimulate industry and bring forward future technologies and new quantum companies. However, quantum leadership cannot be sustained on the basis of research excellence alone if the engineers, physicists, and system architects trained in Europe leave for better-resourced environments elsewhere. The Act must mandate coordinated action on quantum curricula, fast-track mobility schemes, and a framework for industry/academia secondments, treating talent as a strategic asset on par with infrastructure and intellectual property.

4. Infrastructure & Pilot Lines

Fragmented national investments in quantum testbeds and pilot lines produce redundancy, not resilience. The Act must establish a coherent European infrastructure map with shared access protocols, interoperability requirements, and joint operational governance so that no Member State has to replicate what already exists and every stakeholder can access world-class facilities without prohibitive barriers.

5. Governance & Coordination

Quantum technologies in the EU are currently being addressed in multiple fora: EuroHPC, Chips JU, JU SNS, the Quantum Flagship and EuroQCI programmes, European defence programmes as well as by the EIC and the EIB on the funding side. Coordination across all measures is essential to ensure fast and efficient action and the current governance is not yet up to this challenge. In particular, Member States need to have oversight and decision-making power over the whole array of quantum activities and be involved in the definition of key guidance and in the making of decisions. Some form of dedicated governance and coordination is thus required to oversee the budget dedicated to quantum activities and align efforts across programmes.

When it comes to the design of programmes, they should be well adapted to the characteristics of the quantum ecosystem.

6. Technological Breadth & Cross-Sectoral Embedding

The Act must cover the full quantum stack, computing and simulation, communication, and sensing. Equally, it must embed quantum as a foundational layer within AI, HPC, cybersecurity, space, and defence policy frameworks, ensuring that sectoral strategies are written with quantum capabilities in mind rather than retrofitted after the fact. Europe must build a quantum software and cryptography ecosystem by integrating research, identifying private-

sector use cases, coordinating with cloud and AI operators, and investing in training, with HPC infrastructure supporting algorithm testing on existing hardware.

7. International Cooperation

Openness to like-minded international partners is a strategic asset, not an obligation. The Act must provide a clear framework for quantum diplomacy – enabling selective, reciprocal cooperation on research, standards, and supply chains – while establishing unambiguous red lines to prevent unwanted technology transfer, foreign ownership of critical quantum infrastructure, and participation in joint programmes that could compromise European strategic sovereignty. In particular, it should exclude cooperation with countries whose laws and regulations could impose restrictions or constraints on technology developed in Europe.

Signed in Augustusburg Palace, Brühl, Germany on July 17, 2026, in duplicate in the English language

For the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space of the Federal Republic of Germany	For the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Space of the French Republic	For the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industrial, Energy and Digital Sovereignty of the French Republic
Dorothee Bär	Philippe Baptiste	Anne Le Hénanff
Federal Minister of Research, Technology and Space	Minister of Higher Education, Research and Space	Minister Delegate in charge of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Affairs

Joint Statement by the Ministry of Economics, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty of France and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany on critical raw materials cooperation

In the context of structural dependencies that undermine European industry and economic sovereignty, France and Germany share the conviction that swift and ambitious action is required to strengthen the resilience of critical raw materials supply chains. This common approach is grounded both in the development of production capacities in France, Germany and, more broadly, across Europe, and in the establishment of strong international partnerships with third countries. It should be guided by a few key principles: a metal-by-metal approach tailored to the specificities of each value chain; a comprehensive whole value chain approach from extraction, through processing, to recycling; the integration of robust ESG standards across supported projects; and close cooperation with downstream industries.

1. Franco-German bilateral cooperation

France and Germany will strengthen their bilateral coordination on security of supply, including through the establishment of structured mechanisms for continuous sharing of market analyses and joint crisis response mechanisms. For this purpose, France and Germany will continue their common efforts on monitoring supply chains for critical raw materials in close coordination with the European Commission. With regards to **strategic stockpiling,** they will prioritize financial support tools enabling user industries to build up and manage short-term stocks directly.

France and Germany will also establish structured mechanisms to jointly promote the emergence of industrial projects both within **their territories and internationally**. They will coordinate the development and assessment of cross-border projects, particularly geothermal lithium initiatives. They reaffirm their commitment to strengthen cooperation between their **public financial institutions,** as well as relevant guarantee and development agencies, in order to mobilise joint financing for these projects. Furthermore, they will engage with industries in order to bundle the demand of both economies and facilitate joint offtakes.

It is proposed that the French and German economic ministers bring together the industrial sectors and professional federations of the two countries, in order to identify priority needs and build a common vision of the actions to be carried out. They will work jointly to encourage industries to diversify their supply sources, supported by coordinated measures. Furthermore, they will jointly lead their industries to partner countries in order to collectively further develop mutual beneficial partnerships.

BRGM and BGR, will deepen their collaboration and coordinate their agendas more closely on critical minerals, including on research and innovation of technologies for the recycling and substitution of critical raw materials.

This approach is in line with the commitments made at the **G7 Summit in Evian** and will contribute to **the deliverables of the Critical Minerals Resilience and Production Alliance.**

2. Cooperation at European and international level

France and Germany share a common ambition for a sovereign and competitive Europe in critical raw materials. To this end, they reaffirm their joint support for the swift establishment of an EU Critical Raw Materials Center (EU-CRMC) with robust operational means (coordinated procurement, project support, mineral intelligence and coordination of strategic stockpiles) and governance closely involving Member States. France and Germany will also support **the acceleration of procedures for the recognition of Strategic Projects** under the Critical Raw Materials Act and the **simplification of the related administrative processes.**

France and Germany will jointly advocate for the reorientation of existing European financial instruments towards projects across the critical metals value chain. In particular, they propose to lift the sectoral restrictions that currently limit the EIB's intervention in the mining sector, in order to accelerate the financing of strategic projects both within Europe and internationally.

France and Germany will support the development of a **Mineral Intelligence Platform (MIP)** within the future **EU-CRMC**. This platform would monitor supplies, carry out stress tests on strategic raw materials and develop a common knowledge of the risks to European value chains.

Building on this common intelligence effort, France and Germany support a more operational European approach to market structuring for critical raw materials. Beyond project support, the Union should examine targeted instruments capable of creating predictable demand for diversified supply, improving the long-term economic viability of alternative capacities and protecting the internal market against distortive practices and unfair competition. In this regard and in line with the leaders declaration on critical minerals at the **G7 Summit in Evian**, a combination of instruments, among which diversification requirements, coordinated procurement, tariff rated quotas, price floors, long-term offtake facilitation mechanisms shall be considered, while reflecting the objective balance market development and protection with economic cost. Those instruments to be considered need to be phased in gradually, be based on realistic industrial ramp-up trajectories, include workable traceability requirements and allow for narrowly framed exemptions where no reasonable alternative supply exists or where costs would be disproportionate at short term. France and Germany call for rapid engagement between the European Commission and Member States on these options and will closely coordinate their positions in related international discussions, in order to ensure consistency with Europe’s industrial and economic security objectives.

3. Continuity

To ensure continuity in this work, France and Germany will establish a **permanent consultation mechanism on critical raw materials, with a designated lead in each country**.

Ministry of Economics, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty of France

Sébastien Martin

Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany

Stefan Rouenhoff