

Motion for a resolution

tabled by the parliamentary groups of the CDU/CSU, SPD, FDP and Alliance 90/The Greens

on the agreed debate

“For a new Elysée Treaty – reinforcing the role of the Parliaments in Franco-German cooperation”

Joint resolution of the German Bundestag and the Assemblée Nationale on the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the Elysée Treaty on 22 January 2018

The Bundestag is requested to adopt the following resolution:

Franco-German friendship is a precious legacy bequeathed by history. It has not only contributed to lasting peace but has also made us partners in Europe. On the occasion of the 55th anniversary of the Franco-German treaty of cooperation known as the Elysée Treaty, the German Bundestag and the Assemblée Nationale proclaim their attachment to this friendship in the service of Europe. Through this joint resolution, they wish to express their commitment to the reaffirmation and intensification of that treaty of friendship. They undertake, moreover, to further develop the fruitful cooperation between the two Assemblies. The Parliaments are also committed to strengthening bilateral cooperation through the early implementation of specific projects, some details of which are set out in this joint resolution.

They also recall that Franco-German friendship is a foundation stone of European integration as well as being inextricably linked with that process.

I. A new Elysée Treaty

The Elysée Treaty of 1963 was the first treaty of friendship ever to be concluded between Germany and France. Only 18 years after the end of the Second World War and after a century of enmity and armed conflicts, the Treaty became a major milestone on the path of reconciliation between our two countries. It played a key role in safeguarding a lasting peace in post-war Europe and in fostering the development of the European Union.

Today, the political and social ties between Germany and France are among the closest that exist between any countries. The Elysée Treaty is both a guarantee and a symbol of this ever-closer friendship. In order to cement this friendship, the German Bundestag and the Assemblée Nationale call on their governments to renew the Elysée Treaty. This new treaty should serve to further develop the original Treaty and so to deepen our partnership.

In order to reinforce the role of the Parliaments in Franco-German cooperation, the German Bundestag and the Assemblée Nationale will draw up an interparliamentary agreement. The purpose of this agreement will be to intensify cooperation and consultation between the two assemblies. It should serve to implement the renewed Elysée Treaty through closer interparliamentary cooperation. At the same time, the Parliaments reaffirm their declaration of intent to deepen their cooperation in numerous fields, a declaration with which they marked the 50th anniversary of the Elysée Treaty on 22 January 2013.

The German Bundestag,

having regard to the Elysée Treaty of 22 January 1963, which remains in force,

considering that united Europe and Franco-German friendship must be more perceptible to all people in their everyday lives, particularly in border areas, where Franco-German partnership must provide real benefits,

considering that cross-border cooperation must be further intensified,

considering that Germany and France seek full and rapid integration of their markets and that both countries share a commitment to a fully integrated European internal market,

considering that linguistic, cultural, occupational, academic and training exchanges across national borders must be even more vigorously promoted,

considering that Franco-German exchanges must be dynamised, that young people must be given the opportunity to obtain qualifications and that action must be taken to combat youth unemployment,

noting that mastery of the language of the neighbouring country is the key to mutual understanding,

considering that fresh impetus should be injected, particularly through the use of digital media, into the 2,200 twinning arrangements which now exist between cities, towns

and municipalities and form an indispensable component of Franco-German friendship,

considering that Germany and France should continue to press for reinforcement of the common foreign and security policy with a view to closer coordination in the realms of foreign, security, defence and development policy,

noting that Germany and France initiated a re-launch of the concept of a European defence structure by presenting a proposal in the summer of 2016 for a European Security Pact,

having regard to the creation of the instrument of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) on 11 December 2017 and to the agreement reached on the establishment of a European Defence Fund,

considering that Germany and France both face major challenges with regard to the integration of refugees and that it is in their mutual interest to eliminate systematically the causes of mass migration,

considering that Germany and France are committed to advancing European integration and to injecting fresh impetus into that process with the aid of joint initiatives that are open to their European partners,

considering that both countries intend to reach agreement on a strategy for the completion of the single European digital market with a view to ensuring better access to digital products and services, creating suitable basic conditions for digital services and platforms, making innovative and strategic areas of activity accessible and pressing the case for robust protection of copyright in the digital sphere and the enforceability of related rights,

considering that the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) constitutes a first step in this direction,

considering that strengthening the common European currency is of particular importance to Germany and France and that Franco-German initiatives must make economic and monetary union more resistant to crises and make its future more secure,

considering that competitiveness, sound public finances, sustainable growth, high employment and an effective system of social security must be the benchmark for joint efforts in quest of closer economic and monetary union,

considering that people must be able to live and work without hindrance in Germany

and France and must be able to exercise a minimum set of social rights in both countries,

considering that the aim of public-consultation mechanisms is to conduct an open European debate on the challenges facing Europe and to find solutions that match people's expectations,

considering that these public consultations promote democratic cross-border discussion and involve civil society in shaping European policies,

considering that the German Bundestag and the Assemblée Nationale will discuss the findings of these public consultations, held in cooperation with town-twinning organisations, and will develop joint initiatives on the basis of these discussions,

1. calls on the German and the French Government to draft, in the course of 2018, a new Elysée Treaty in which consideration should be given to the following points:

Intensification of cross-border cooperation

2. takes the view that common solutions must be promoted in territories straddling national borders; this applies to matters such as mutual recognition of educational and training qualifications from schools, vocational colleges and academic institutions, vocational training, learning the language of the neighbouring country, staff exchanges in day nurseries and schools, employment services, defence of common social standards, medical services in the neighbouring country and internal security – especially through an enhanced data exchange and through cooperation between the Bundespolizei and the Police aux Frontières (PAF) – as well as transport, infrastructure and the accessibility of mobile-telephone networks;

3. seeks the continuing convergence of the cross-border transport infrastructure between Germany and France; this infrastructure includes not only long-distance routes but also cross-border rail links and byways such as cycle paths;

4. calls for closer involvement of representatives of the border regions, especially those of the Eurodistricts, in the work of the Franco-German ministerial councils and for participation of cross-border catchment areas in the preparation of general assemblies of the Committee of the Regions in Brussels so that they can pursue their common interests in that forum;

More powers for the Eurodistricts

5. calls on the Governments to devolve autonomous powers to the Eurodistricts and to introduce exempting and experimental clauses in their respective national legal codes;

for this reason, it wishes the essential powers vested in the *Länder* or *régions* to be extended, *mutatis mutandis*, to the Eurodistricts; this will enable the Eurodistricts to assume responsibility for cross-border establishments such as day nurseries and healthcare facilities and to operate local public transport services;

Franco-German economic area and European internal market

6. advocates the creation of a Franco-German economic area with uniform rules, particularly in the sphere of company and bankruptcy law; a major step in this direction would be to harmonise the assessment basis for corporation tax and to intensify the convergence drive; both countries are pursuing joint efforts to bring about the necessary harmonisation of rules with a view to completion of the European internal market;

7. calls on the Governments to implement jointly the rules of the European internal market in the borderlands and, to this end, to eliminate administrative and linguistic obstacles; compliance with minimum wages, health and safety requirements and, in more general terms, all workers' rights is essential;

Youth, education, language, culture and twinning arrangements

8. emphatically supports the work of the Franco-German Youth Office and the Franco-German University in their capacity as reference institutions as well as the mobility of students, trainees and young employed persons between Germany and France; it also supports the Franco-German television channel Arte;

9. calls on the Governments to introduce systematically the status of a Franco-German practical trainee, to whom the customary protective legal provisions would apply, and to create Franco-German vocational training centres as well as to broaden the existing opportunities in the realm of training, including trainee exchanges, and to simplify Franco-German cooperation in higher education by harmonising the status of university teaching staff, thereby facilitating mobility between the institutions of both countries; both countries are committed to developing European university projects in the next three years; in Germany, the Federal Government seeks to coordinate its actions closely with the *Länder*, which are mainly responsible for education;

10. calls on the Governments to develop bilingual school classes and classes taught in two foreign languages as well as schools in which both the French *Baccalauréat* and the German *Abitur* are obtainable with a view to increasing the number of pupils in all parts of the education system who learn the language of the partner country; it notes with interest the undertaking made by the Franco-German Ministerial Council on 13 July 2017 to draw up an annual balance sheet at the end of each school year and to set specific objectives for the following school year;

11. calls on the Governments to implement rapidly their initiative for the creation, with the aid of the Institut français and Goethe-Institut establishments, of ten joint cultural

centres in the coming years and to present proposals for the location of these centres by next summer;

12. advocates the initiation of new twinning arrangements and action to encourage local authorities in Germany and France to form economic partnerships with each other;

Close partnership in the fields of foreign, defence and development policy

13. takes the view that intensified and permanent exchanges must take place between the parliamentary committees, the competent government ministers and state secretaries of the two countries on all major issues relating to security, the development of a European defence structure and action in the field of foreign affairs and that the existing capacity for such exchanges must be expanded;

14. calls on the Governments to intensify Franco-German coordination in the framework of the newly created instrument of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and to continue developing a culture of joint strategic planning; to this end, the respective systems for the training of senior command staff should also be more closely dovetailed;

15. calls for the development of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) to be made a priority;

The importance of Franco-German impetus in the effort to combat climate change

16. calls on the German and French Governments to continue their close cooperation in implementing the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 and in meeting their obligations arising from the One Planet Summit of 2017, to propose joint initiatives, particularly on carbon pricing, and to intensify their cooperation in the realm of research and development;

Social rights in Germany and France

17. calls on the German and French Governments to press for the realisation of a set of European social rights with a view to ensuring, in Europe, a minimum level of equality of opportunity, access to the job market, fair working conditions, social protection, social inclusion and gender equality; it must be possible for French and German nationals to work in each other's countries without any hindrances; there is therefore a need for common standards which ensure a minimum set of social rights for those working in the other country and therefore guarantee their proper protection;

Joint adoption of bilateral projects

18. in addition to the foregoing points concerning a renewal of the Elysée Treaty, calls on both Governments to implement swiftly the following bilateral projects:

The German Bundestag

Single energy market, energy efficiency and electromobility

19. seeks to ensure that Germany and France develop their energy networks across their mutual border and expedite the establishment of more rigorous common energy-efficiency standards; it also seeks to ensure that a cross-border Franco-German infrastructure for electric vehicles and other forms of alternative propulsion technology is created;

Drive for a digital Union

20. calls on Germany and France to continue pursuing their commitment to respect for fundamental rights in the digital society and calls for the creation of a contemporary regulatory framework governing personal data and for the definition of new categories of non-personal data and a uniform level of protection designed to ensure maximum IT and cyber security;

21. calls on Germany and France to press the case in European and global forums for fair taxation of companies in the digital economy;

22. calls on Germany and France to make the European Union a global leader in the realm of innovation;

Common paths to closer economic and monetary union

23. seeks to ensure the appointment of a high-level working group with a remit to develop joint proposals for the continuing development and stabilisation of economic and monetary union by spring 2018;

Joint action in matters of migration and integration

24. calls on each Government to emulate the other's good practices for the integration of refugees through regular exchanges between the competent authorities in both countries and to step up the joint efforts to combat the causes of mass migration and to coordinate measures of migration policy;

Joint projects for the future

25. takes the view that, on the basis of a Franco-German initiative, a European innovation agency should be created to frame joint strategies for the challenges of tomorrow, such as artificial intelligence; projects in the fields of research, higher education, innovation, industry and infrastructure could be invigorated and financially supported through the establishment of a joint investment fund, comprising public and private resources; among the funding priorities should be business start-ups and joint programmes for the promotion of digitisation and strategic technologies;

Public consultations on the future of Europe

26. supports the initiative for the organisation in 2018 of public consultations on the future of Europe and calls on the German and French Government to promote this endeavour;

II. Franco-German interparliamentary agreement on closer interparliamentary cooperation

A Franco-German task force is to be appointed, comprising Members of both Parliaments, to draft a proposal for a Franco-German interparliamentary agreement. The task force will meet regularly throughout 2018 and conclude its work in good time for the 56th anniversary of the Elysée Treaty on 22 January 2019. It will comprise nine Members from each of the Parliaments. Other Members of Parliament as well as Members of the European Parliament may be invited to its meetings in an advisory capacity. The task force to be established by the two Parliaments should be involved in the intergovernmental negotiations on the updating of the Elysée Treaty.

The agreement should cover the following points:

1. convergence of legislative procedures in Germany and France for the transposition of EU directives into national law; uniform transposition should be the aim;
2. joint parliamentary sittings at regular intervals, but at least once every four years; these should include joint plenary debates in cases where sittings are devoted to European matters – prior to a European summit, for example;
3. provision for the President of each Parliament to chair sittings of the other Parliament at regular intervals; these may, for example, be sittings devoted to European matters;
4. appointment of a permanent Franco-German steering committee, comprising Members who monitor and further develop the agenda and verify its implementation;
5. discussions between the Franco-German Parliamentary Friendship Groups of both Assemblies on all matters relating to Franco-German friendship and on cross-border issues;
6. regular conferences of the chairs of the specialised committees of both Parliaments, to be held alternately in Berlin and Paris and chaired by the Presidents of

- both Parliaments, for the purpose of discussing shared priorities in EU matters;
7. designation of Members of each Parliament as entitled participants, thereby authorising them to attend meetings of the EU Affairs Committee of the other Parliament and to speak at those meetings;
 8. extension to other specialised committees of the regular joint sittings that are already held regularly by some committees of the two Parliaments with a view to coordinating current legislative projects;
 9. increased use of joint sittings of the presidia of both parliaments as a forum for supporting and developing Franco-German cooperation;
 10. annual briefing of the Parliaments by the Governments in the form of a report on the objectives and implementation of the decisions adopted by the Franco-German Ministerial Council;
 11. development of procedures enabling the Parliaments to adopt common positions on European issues;
 12. regular reviews by parliamentary groups and committees to establish whether identical motions on European or bilateral matters can be placed on the agenda of both Parliaments;
 13. joint preparatory meetings prior to global or European and interparliamentary assemblies and conferences, such as the Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the European Union (SECG), the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union and the European Parliament (COSAC), the Council of Europe and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, for the purpose of coordination and the formulation of joint initiatives;
 14. enhanced cooperation in overseeing compliance with the subsidiarity and proportionality principles in the EU framework; the objective is to create a reference framework for subsidiarity checks that will increase the uniformity, transparency and comparability of Member States' checks;
 15. involvement of both Parliaments in the coordination of foreign, security and development policies through regular joint committee meetings and a joint work programme;
 16. development of proposals by the joint working group for the parliamentary monitoring of Permanent Structured Cooperation on security and defence (PESCO) in the European framework;
 17. joint implementation of the International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS) programme; this programme is currently enabling 120 young university graduates from 42 nations to follow the course of proceedings in the Bundestag over a five-month period;
 18. exchanges for Members and for staff working for the Parliaments, the parliamentary groups and Members.

Berlin, 16 January 2018

Volker Kauder, Alexander Dobrindt and parliamentary group
Andrea Nahles and parliamentary group

Christian Lindner and parliamentary group

Katrin Göring-Eckardt, Dr Anton Hofreiter and parliamentary group