

Declaration between France and Sweden on cooperation in European affairs and updating the French-Swedish partnership for innovation and green solutions

Europe is at a crucial point in time. Multilateralism and the European security order are being tested, basic European values questioned and our planet is facing major threats of climate change. At the same time, European cooperation has never been more needed and support for the European Union is increasing in Europe. The governments of France and Sweden are firm believers in the European Union and agree that many of today's challenges and opportunities are best faced together.

Sweden and France have today taken a new step to further increase our bilateral cooperation, at national level, within the European Union and globally.

In November 2017, France and Sweden entered into a bilateral partnership to spur innovation and green solutions. Today, significant steps are being taken to deepen and advance our bilateral cooperation with an updated partnership. It aims to develop closer ties on sustainable city development, green mobility solutions, world-leading research infrastructures, sustainable digital transformation and artificial intelligence, green financing and space innovation. The partnership will also foster cooperation on life science and health care and encourage innovative solutions through small- and medium-sized companies.

Sweden and France consider social dialogue to be a key driver for inclusive competitiveness and innovation, where initiatives such as the Global Deal and the Paris Peace Forum are important examples. We will always stand up for democratic and open societies and we will fight all types of discrimination. We remain deeply concerned about the rise of antisemitism in Europe and beyond, which we consider a threat to our democratic societies. France and Sweden are committed to working together in the preparation of the Malmö International Forum on Remembrance of the Holocaust and Combating Antisemitism.

With a view to the next Strategic Agenda for the European Union, France and Sweden are committed to delivering on our citizens' needs and expectations. We will strive for a Union that defends democracy and the rule of law. A Europe that shows solidarity in times of need, decisiveness in times of challenge, optimism in times of change and above all, a clear vision for the future of the EU. We want the EU to be a leader in climate transition, to foster a competitive Europe for growth and more and better jobs, to deliver a common asylum system, a reformed Schengen system and effective tools to combat terrorism.

We share a commitment to make the EU a strong foreign policy actor, in line with the EU Global Strategy, to defend our interests, values and principles, and protect our citizens and thereby contribute to strengthening Europe. The EU has a prime responsibility to promote a rules-based international order and support an effective multilateral system fit for the 21st

century. As a global stakeholder, the EU should engage with a wide range of partners and foster regional and international cooperation founded on respect for democracy, human rights, fundamental freedoms, gender equality and the rule of law. This includes reinforcing the EU's diplomatic influence, increasing efforts to reach common positions on key topics, joining forces with partners and allies, and taking a more assertive stance vis-à-vis competitors and rivals.

To pursue this progressive European agenda for the coming years, and in view of our joint Trio EU Presidency Programme to be delivered in 2021, we will set up informal working groups on mutually agreed topics to enhance our cooperation further, with a view to holding an inclusive Conference on Europe by the end of the year.

This declaration lays out our joint bilateral and European priorities in each of these fields.

Upgrading of the French-Swedish partnership for innovation and green solutions

Based on the successful first phase of the partnership, France and Sweden will deepen and develop their strategic collaboration. Roadmaps for each of the following areas in the next two-year period will be determined by designated responsible government bodies in co-creation with flagship initiatives and other stakeholders.

1) Smart Sustainable Cities: joint mission to have inclusive climate-neutral cities by 2030

We will further develop cooperation through innovation and research with a global approach to smart accessibility, sustainable urban mobility and transportation, technical solutions for resilient systems, innovation for social inclusion and citizen participation. All fields contributing to a circular economic model and a sharing economy will be fostered. We will actively contribute to an ambitious Urban Agenda for the EU and a mission on climate-neutral and smart cities within Horizon Europe. Our partnership will strongly encourage city-to-city, local and regional collaboration to achieve our mission. *Responsible actors: the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Swedish Ministry of Finance and the Swedish Ministry of Infrastructure.*

2) Developing green mobility solutions

- **Taking the lead in the battery revolution:** Europe needs to reinforce innovation and research in battery technologies by building a sustainable battery value chain as well as strengthening European competitiveness. We will develop cooperation in areas relevant to sustainable next generation batteries and support work within the European Battery Alliance and the European initiative Battery 2030+, in which France and Sweden have leading roles. *Responsible actors: the French Ministry of Economy and Finance, the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, and the Swedish Ministry of Infrastructure.*
- **Paving the way for the implementation of electric roads:** We have engaged in trilateral cooperation with Germany on innovative solutions for the future of mobility through Electric Road Systems (ERS). This includes research and development of ERS, testbeds, possible business models and development of ERS standards, as well as a wider spread of this technology in Europe, fostering cross-border operability. *Responsible actors: the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition and the Swedish Transport Administration.*

3) Enhancing the global impact of world-leading research facilities

As host countries of international research infrastructures, such as the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) and the European Spallation Sources (ESS), we will work together to maximise the role these facilities play in driving new knowledge and innovative solutions for climate transition. We will collaborate on how to mobilise research excellence, specialised competencies and industry innovation in the process of successful facility construction and operation. *Responsible actors: the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the Swedish Research Council, with the support of the Swedish Innovation Agency Vinnova.*

4) Promoting sustainable digital transformation and artificial intelligence

We will strive for a sustainable digital transition that balances innovation, privacy, ethics and digital security. The development of artificial intelligence will gain from collaboration between our new national initiatives. We will also foster the deployment of 5G in order to secure European high connectivity systems and other relevant digital technologies, particularly in the areas of life science and smart mobility. We will also take joint initiatives to foster a gender balance in the tech sector to help close the gender gap in science and, in particular in computer science. *Responsible actors: the French State Secretariat for the Digital Sector, the French National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation (INRIA), the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, and the Swedish Ministry of Infrastructure.*

5) Boosting green finance for a climate-resilient economy

As the co-leaders for the preparations of the UNSG Climate Summit in September 2019, we will push to raise the level of ambition of the international financing community. We are committed to cooperating closely to develop tools to finance the transition towards low-carbon and climate-resilient economies. We will continue to join forces through the ongoing work for new legal EU frameworks, in which an important task is to promote the implementation of best practices for companies' disclosure concerning climate-related risks and opportunities. We will also build on our fast-developing bilateral cooperation between regulators and financial actors, where promoting the green bond market is important. *Responsible actors: the French Ministry of Economy and Finance, the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition and the Swedish Ministry of Finance.*

6) Promoting space as an enabler of innovation and sustainable development

Based on longstanding cooperation between the two national space agencies, CNES and SNSA, as well as the Swedish Space Corporation, we will deepen the collaborations between the French Guiana Space Centre (CSG) and the Swedish Esrange Space Centre (ESC): CSG for launches into orbit and ESC for sounding rockets, stratospheric balloons and testbed activities for new space technology with a focus on landers and reusable launchers. Earth observation is a domain where we share an interest in further development to enable better opportunities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

7) Achieving optimal health outcomes

- We will continue to help foster collaboration between French and Swedish actors for the development of digital solutions to enhance the quality of **health and patient-centred health care systems**. This will include big data, eHealth solutions, infrastructure for electronic patient records, personalised medicine and 'care at a distance' in remote areas. *Responsible actors: the French Ministry for Solidarity and Health, the French Digital Health Agency (ASIP santé), the French Health Data Hub, the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, and the Swedish eHealth Agency.*
- Based on both countries' leading positions in multilateral research and innovation collaborations, we will continue to collaborate closely in the area of **antimicrobial resistance and environmental health focusing on endocrine disruptors** to support academia and industry in the development of new knowledge and innovative solutions aimed at achieving optimal health outcomes while recognising the interconnection

between people, animals, plants and their shared environment. This work should be aligned with relevant European or international cooperation. *Responsible actors: the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, the French Ministry for Solidarity and Health, the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, the Swedish Ministry of Research and Higher Education, the Swedish Ministry of the Environment and the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.*

8) Advancing innovative solutions through small and medium-sized companies

Swedish and French small and medium-sized companies will be offered opportunities by the Swedish Innovation Agency Vinnova and French Bpifrance partnership to apply for joint R&D projects focusing on developing innovative products and services in a broad range of technological and application areas, supporting the partnership focus areas. This collaboration will include developing favourable conditions for industrial start-ups and scale-up companies.

In addition, we will explore the following new areas for cooperation and exchange of best practices between key Swedish and French stakeholders, based on existing synergies:

9) Fields contributing to sustainable mobility and energy

- We will continue to exchange on the comparative advantages of sustainable high-speed lines and connected, cooperative and automated mobility in order to share regulations, results and experiences.
- Research in **clean technologies** will also be explored on the basis of mutual interests and benefits. Possible areas include cost-efficient bio-energy technologies, wind power and hydrogen-based innovative processes for CO₂ reduction, as well as innovative manufacturing processes and lightweight materials that reduce energy needs.

10) Collaborative decision-making processes at all levels of governance

- At the **international level**:
 - We will exchange experiences of the connections between effective social dialogue and the creation of a favourable environment for innovation and inclusive growth through the Global Deal initiative at the OECD. We will also strive for the implementation of the SDGs in the private sector, where the Global Compact can play an important role. European and international platforms for innovative and sustainable governance, such as the Paris Peace Forum, will also be actively supported.
 - Within development cooperation, the intensified collaboration on guarantee instruments between our development agencies, Sida and AFD, will also contribute to a conducive environment for inclusive growth in third countries, helping the development of a green economy and inclusive businesses, with a special focus on women entrepreneurs.

- We will also exchange best practices on our policy-making models and processes at **national level**, fostering innovation through civic tech and digital social innovation to bring the citizen to the heart of government.
- Exchange of best practices on decentralisation policies and experimentation will also be fostered at **local level** on key issues, such as access to public services in remote areas and citizen participation in decision-making processes.

11) Inclusive and social economy innovation

- We will exchange best practices on the **financing of social innovation**, as social enterprises quickly developing in France and Sweden play a key role in re-balancing economic, social and environmental goals.
- We will also help to promote best practices in **corporate governance** through corporate social responsibility and innovative business models.

*Joint declaration on EU Cooperation and Security
by the Republic of France and the Kingdom of Sweden*

Cooperation in the EU based on the fundamental values of freedom, democracy and equality.

Democracy, human rights and the rule of law

Upholding the rule of law is a fundamental obligation for all Member States. A breach of fundamental rights must never be overlooked or accepted. There should be consequences for Member States who do not live up to the EU's fundamental values, as set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

While considering that the Article 7 procedure and actions before the ECJ remain the privileged instruments in this regard, France and Sweden:

- Support the setting up of an effective periodic review mechanism on the rule of law.
- Believe that respect for the rule of law is a prerequisite for mutual trust between the Member States and the Union and should therefore be a condition for EU funding in the future multiannual financial framework.
- Will promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law globally, and work to ensure gender equality and women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights. Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights for all will be at the heart of this.

In order to protect our democratic freedom and electoral processes, France and Sweden:

- Will promote a collective response mechanism based on a common reserve of cyber experts to protect election processes against cyberattacks and manipulation.

Leader in the climate transition

Global efforts to tackle climate change must increase in the light of the latest available science, especially the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. To this end, France and Sweden:

- Work together with partners to make sure the EU submits an ambitious long-term strategy to the UNFCCC in early 2020. The strategy should include the objective of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 at the latest, in line with the 1.5 degree objective of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, by 2020, the EU should enhance its commitment to reducing greenhouse gases by 2030.
- Encourage the Commission to identify, including in its relations with third countries, initiatives and measures that contribute to achieving the climate goals in a cost-effective way and to conduct a comprehensive analysis with a view to ensuring that existing legislation and financial frameworks enable the EU to reach climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest.
- Consider that, in order to mobilise significant financial resources on a perennial basis for the transition to a climate-neutral society, new measures to promote sustainable finance should be developed, such as: transforming the EIB in order to make green financing its priority and promote investment in energy and climate transition; and enhancing the transparency of climate-related risk activities through the tracking of climate-related investments and greenhouse gas and carbon accounting.

- Agree that the EU should strengthen and promote the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Regarding the preservation of biodiversity, France and Sweden:

- Promote the adoption, at COP15, of the Convention on Biological Diversity, of a comprehensive multilateral agreement on biodiversity equivalent to the Paris Agreement on climate to serve as an overarching biodiversity framework across the UN and for all stakeholders.

In the field of the circular economy, France and Sweden:

- Will join efforts to establish a ‘European plastic pact’ in order to incite companies, especially in the agro-food sector, to make commitments regarding plastic recycling and reduction of the use of plastics in their goods production chain in order to reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions.

A competitive Europe for growth and more and better jobs

The principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights should be implemented in the Member States with due regard to respective competences. To this end, France and Sweden:

- Propose that a new ambitious Strategy for fair jobs and inclusive growth for the EU, underpinned by these principles, be adopted in 2020. A special focus should be on transitions into and on the labour market, on the digitalisation of the world of work and on meeting shortages of skilled workers through measures such as better matching and lifelong learning.
- Consider that the fight against abuses and dumping practices in the Union should be reinforced, in particular with the support of the forthcoming European Labour Authority.

France and Sweden will advance the gender equality agenda; bilaterally, regionally, in the EU and globally. This is especially urgent given the current global setbacks for women’s and girls’ rights. France and Sweden will:

- Promote the full participation of women and girls in all spheres of society.
- Work together to strengthen the global normative framework for gender equality. For example, women human rights actors will be gathered at a Global Forum on Gender Equality in Paris in 2020, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action;
- Require that gender equality is mainstreamed in all relevant EU policies in line with its treaty-bound commitment on gender equality. A stand-alone strategy on gender equality is a key instrument. EU policies, tools and platforms in external action must be better coordinated in order for the EU to be an effective actor for global gender equality.
- Support the project to improve national legislations on gender equality by drawing inspiration from the most progressive laws in the world.

The EU should adopt a holistic and forward-looking approach towards a digital, sustainable and inclusive European economy while ensuring that Europe remains globally competitive in key technologies, in particular artificial intelligence, in the data economy and strategic value chains. Furthermore, the transition towards carbon neutrality offers significant opportunities and

potential for new jobs and technological development, and for strengthening European competitiveness. To this end, looking forward to the March 2020 European Council discussion on strengthening the economic base of the EU, which should lead to a more ambitious industrial and competition policy, France and Sweden:

- Call for a better regulatory environment of major platforms to ensure free competition and a level playing field for the different actors.
- Share the view that the EU should aim to be a leader in innovation, enabling companies to research, innovate, develop, grow and attract scientific and entrepreneurial talents. The EU should especially strive to become a leader in breakthrough innovation with the support of the European Innovation Council, including financial support, and in artificial intelligence. Furthermore, Member States should strengthen their industrial cooperation to finance research and innovation in key sectors, such as disruptive technologies and artificial intelligence.
- Encourage Member States to foster the cross-border trade in services and development of the service economy based on the real needs of users; remaining unjustified barriers need to be removed, especially those to digital services, which form an integral part of the Single Market.
- Call for efficient implementation and enforcement of the EU Single Market at all levels. Coherent and effective application of the *acquis* needs to be ensured by a strong commitment at all political levels.
- Underline the importance of the EU continuing to pursue an ambitious and robust trade policy, ensuring fair competition, reciprocity and mutual benefits, and defending an open rules-based multilateral trading system with a modernised WTO at its core, and resisting all forms of protectionism and distortions.
- See the need for EU policies to be updated and in line with technological developments, and to support the transition to a greener economy. EU rules on state aid should be reformed so that they contribute to and do not counteract a fossil-free society and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This includes equipping Member States with better tools to combat climate change, including improving the public financing tools at a level necessary for enabling the transition of fossil fuels-based industry to more climate-friendly technologies. In line with this, the framework must also contain a phasing out of aid that is harmful to the climate. In addition, the future MFF must be more oriented in this direction.
- Encourage work to strengthen the fight against transnational food fraud across the EU, with the aim of improving consumer protection and trust.

Migration and the future of Schengen

The EU needs to swiftly agree on a common asylum system in which applications for asylum are examined with legal certainty, humanely and individually, with all Member States sharing responsibility and showing solidarity. To this end, France and Sweden:

- Deem that the principle of free movement of persons in the Union requires the Schengen area to be reformed: benefiting from free movement without border controls calls for responsibility, meaning better control of the common external border, and solidarity, with each Member State contributing to the common asylum system. Furthermore, responsibility for migration should be taken into account in the future MFF.

- Call for strengthened control of the external borders, while safeguarding the right to apply for asylum.
- Consider that well-functioning, legally certain and humane returns must be available for people without the right to stay.
- Regard as necessary the further development of partnerships with countries outside the EU on legal mobility, capacity building of partners in the fight against trafficking in human beings, protection of migrants and asylum seekers, returns, readmission and reintegration, and tackling the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.

Internal security

Responding to the threats from terrorism, IT crime and other cross-border criminal activity requires preventive action based on close and effective cooperation. To this end, France and Sweden:

- Work together to make sure that law enforcement agencies' access to information and possibilities to exchange information match up to what is essential for effective and legally certain cooperation to combat threats, including those from terrorism.
- Call for strengthened EU cooperation in the area of cybersecurity within the framework of the Network and Information Security Directive and the Framework for a Joint EU Diplomatic Response to Malicious Cyber Activities.
- Support a common EU approach to cybersecurity for 5G networks.
- Call for the rapid approval of legislation on the removal of terrorist content, respecting member states' constitutional frameworks.
- Welcome the ambitious and prompt implementation of the European Public Prosecutor's Office by 2020.

Common foreign and security policy

France and Sweden support the EU's ambition to take greater responsibility for its own security. The EU must adapt to the new security environment. Enhancing our military capability and our own ability to act across the broad spectrum of crisis management is necessary for our security. The deepening of the EU's security and defence cooperation should go hand in hand with enhanced partnerships. France and Sweden call for Europeans to strengthen their capacity to act autonomously when necessary, and together with partners whenever possible. The EU should continue to develop its cooperation with NATO and the UN. The transatlantic partnership remains central to European security and we must preserve and nurture it.

- France and Sweden call for EU initiatives to deliver concrete results. Europeans must have stronger capacity to enable Europe to take increased responsibility for its own security, supported by the development of a coherent full-spectrum force package and by a strong, coherent and innovative European defence industrial and technological base, through the creation of a European Defence Fund, the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and in accordance with the commitments made under Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

- France and Sweden call for an ambitious PESCO that, in terms of its commitments and projects, allows a qualitative leap forward for European defence cooperation. France and Sweden are committed to working as closely as possible in their common PESCO project EU Test and Evaluation Centres and to furthering their cooperation on other projects.
- Initiatives such as the European Intervention Initiative, the Joint Expeditionary Force and NORDEFECO, are important contributions to the overall European efforts in security and defence.
- The EU is a security community and its cohesion must be preserved, its solidarity enhanced and its mutual assistance ensured, notably through Article 42(7) of the TEU. In a new era of great power competition, we can only exercise influence globally if we act in concert and speak with one voice.
- The EU's strength is its unique ability to address security challenges comprehensively. France and Sweden therefore call for the continued development of the Union's crisis management capabilities, in particular by strengthening its structures for planning and conducting military operations and by fully implementing the pact for civilian CSDP.
- We will work together to establish, in the coming months, an EUAM Ukraine field office in Mariupol with outreach to Berdyansk, and a civilian CSDP mission in the Central African Republic. We would also welcome CSDP support for the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement in Yemen, should the UN request assistance.
- The Union must also increase the effectiveness and flexibility of operational actions under the CSDP. We therefore call for the proposed EPF to be an effective instrument with regards to strengthening military crisis management, including the financing of its partners' military capabilities and support operations.
- France and Sweden call for the European Union to respond to the rise of new threats, in particular hybrid or cyber threats, which are part of a continuum between the internal and external security challenges facing the EU.
- France and Sweden reaffirm their commitment to use all available instruments to deal with crises that are simultaneous, complex and geographically spread out, and that affect our common security interests.
- The security situation in the Baltic Sea region is a shared concern with importance for the security of Europe. The challenges we are facing can only be met through cooperation and joint efforts. France and Sweden are committed to addressing these challenges and reaffirm their regional commitment and involvement.
- The EU and Africa should continue to strengthen their cooperation for mutual benefit, in the framework of a renewed partnership in the fields of economic cooperation, peace and security, multilateralism and global issues, such as climate change and international trade. The prosperity and stability of the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa is essential to Europe, and France and Sweden will continue their cooperation to promote positive developments in both regions.
- Efforts by the Sahel States to take over security in the region must continue to be supported, with Operation Barkhane fighting terrorism and assisting the build-up of local forces, including the G5 Sahel Joint Force. These challenges require robust European involvement, aimed in particular at supporting local forces' efforts and more generally at enhancing state capabilities through an integrated approach.

- France and Sweden will continue to develop their close cooperation in the Sahel region. Effective and efficient United Nations engagement and the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali (MINUSMA) are key, complemented by civilian and military EU crisis management engagement, development cooperation and humanitarian support. France and Sweden also commit to continuing to contribute to restoring the rule of law and respect for human rights in Mali and the Sahel region.
- A rules-based regulation of strategic competition remains in the interest of Europeans. Converging threats against Europe require Europeans to commit more heavily. France and Sweden therefore call on Europeans to take up more responsibilities in the field of non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament in order to reduce strategic risks and enhance stability and predictability. In particular, Europeans should now work collectively to identify the key feature of the new security environment and its impact on current arms control regimes, and to reflect on possible ways to relaunch verifiable arms control processes.