

Declaration between France and Sweden on a renewed Strategic Innovation Partnership for Sustainable, Digital and Resilient Societies

France and Sweden share historical and longstanding ties of friendship, embodied in particular, today, in their vision for the future of the European Union (EU), their commitment to preserving the security of the North-Atlantic area through the Atlantic Alliance, and their common attachment to the purposes and principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter and effective multilateralism.

France and Sweden also share a common culture of innovation and technology at the service of fair and sustainable development, supported by cutting-edge Research & Development centres, world-class industrial companies, dynamic start-up ecosystems, and a resolute emphasis on the importance of initial and lifelong training.

Signed in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017, and updated on 7 June 2019, the Partnership for Innovation and Green Solutions has embodied this shared desire to succeed together in the environmental and digital transformation of our societies, for the benefit of all.

Now, we are taking a new step forward and, through a renewed bilateral partnership, contributing to the success of the European Union's ambitions and objectives: in the fight against climate change and pollution and the conservation of biodiversity, France and Sweden will strive to increase their efforts to offer future generations a liveable world; in the face of rapid technological change in all areas, particularly digital technology, they will speed up their investments to stay ahead in the global race and continue to master the technologies that are critical to our future. Finally, in response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the rise in geopolitical tensions worldwide, France and Sweden will rise to the challenge of resilience, strengthening their defence capabilities and reducing vulnerabilities and dependence in all strategic sectors, as the Versailles agenda invites them to do.

In light of the above, we will further strengthen our Strategic Innovation Partnership for Sustainable, Digital and Resilient Societies, in order to deepen our existing links as EU partners and future NATO Allies, and provide a strong foundation for an enduring friendship between our countries and peoples.

With a fully operational perspective, the partnership between France and Sweden will be based on concrete cooperation, joint projects, and identified players. It will strengthen the already close relations between the two countries in a considerable number of key sectors: decarbonisation, through the energy sector, particularly the nuclear sector, sustainable transport, and industrial transformation; competitiveness, for the benefit of all European consumers; the defence industry and its resilience; space, to help secure sovereign European access and prepare for the future; forestry, which is set to play a decisive role in the future of Europe's bioeconomy; healthcare, whose quality and resilience they will seek to enhance, and life science; and the environment, with the fight against pollution and waste as major priorities.

Furthermore, France and Sweden will seek to cooperate on industrial services and to identify service barriers, including non-regulatory barriers, in the Single Market. A particular focus should

be put on horizontal and economically significant services with the potential for high growth and added value, especially in light of the green and digital transition.

France and Sweden will increase their exchanges of experiences and best practices, with the support of private and public stakeholders, on the best possible ways to enhance up- and reskilling of workers, in order to provide the industry in both countries, in particular in the key/critical sectors mentioned above, with the human resources it needs to face the challenges of decarbonisation, digitalisation and resilience.

I Sustainable societal transformation

1. France and Sweden will cooperate at the European and bilateral levels to deploy low-carbon energy systems. France and Sweden reiterate their commitment to the European climate objectives and to a technology-neutral approach to achieving this objective. The two countries reiterate their ambition to become the first fossil-free nations in the world. France and Sweden will also promote energy savings as the most obvious lever to lower greenhouse gases emissions.

As members of the European Nuclear Alliance, France and Sweden emphasise the essential role that nuclear energy plays in achieving the EU target of climate neutrality by 2050. France and Sweden will strive to create the conditions necessary for the industry to invest in and build new nuclear reactors and, when feasible, pursue the long-term operation of existing ones. **In this context, and to establish a foundation for long-term cooperation, France and Sweden signed a declaration of intent on 19 December 2023.** This declaration aims to strengthen joint actions with regards to a regulatory, industrial and financial framework favourable to nuclear projects and the nuclear industry at the European level. On a bilateral level, the declaration encourages exchanges of experience between French and Swedish stakeholders active in the construction of new nuclear power reactors, the maintenance and modernisation of existing power plants, nuclear safety, nuclear fuel supply security, spent fuel and radioactive waste management, research, and training.

The development of renewable energy, notably solar and offshore wind energy, is also a potential area for bilateral cooperation, given the deployment of large wind parks in France and Sweden and the mobilisation of our respective industrial sectors.

Heating and cooling accounts for 50% of energy consumption in the EU. The district heating sector can therefore play a key role in achieving the EU energy and climate objectives with key policy developments under the REPowerEU plan and Fit for 55. **Sustainable heating and cooling** is an area for further joint efforts.

2. France and Sweden will develop an ambitious and enhanced cooperation on forest and wood policy, aimed at the promotion of sustainable forest management, of the use of wood-based products and competitive forest-based industries. France and Sweden emphasise the profound and strategic contribution of forestry and forest-based products in the sustainable, green and fossil-free transition, linear to the objectives of strengthening competitiveness, resilience, conservation of biodiversity and soils, and security of sustainable raw material and energy supply. In order to establish long-term cooperation, a Declaration of Intent on cooperation in the field of forest policy was signed between France and Sweden on 23 October 2023. France and Sweden

will encourage bilateral technical exchanges in areas such as wood construction, bioenergy and other wood-based products, forest damages, climate change adaptation, and forest management, and facilitate exchanges of expertise between research organisations and between stakeholders such as the French and Swedish forest-owner organisations. At EU-level, France and Sweden will promote good framework conditions and EU policies favourable to innovation, production, use and trade in wood and forest-based products, competitive forest-based industries and organised value chains, as well as sustainable and multifunctional forest management.

3. Based on concrete industrial cooperation between relevant stakeholders and public partners, France and Sweden will step up cooperation on environmental issues, notably in the field of the management of textile waste at global level, the management of hazardous chemicals, the regulation of plastic pollution and the protection of the oceans. Through bilateral and technical prospects in those areas, the two countries will pursue more sustainable and more resilient economies.

4. France and Sweden will step up their cooperation in the field of sustainable transport, building on considerable cross-investment and cutting-edge research in areas essential to the green and digital transition, aiming at long term competitiveness. To speed up the pace of electrification, the two countries will continue to cooperate on batteries, while adding cooperation on fuel cells. This will include work on battery and fuel cell technology for application within defence and security as well as for civil applications. The two countries will also cooperate, in multilateral contexts, on recharging and re-fuelling infrastructure, which is central to enable transition to electrification. Exchanges of experience through the trilateral cooperation with Germany on Electric Roads Systems (ERS), such as the European exchange platform COLLERS, will continue.

Possible cooperation on sustainable aviation will be explored. This could entail the development of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), innovations in favour of electric and low-carbon aircrafts and joint efforts between manufacturers and airlines to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from air transport.

5. France and Sweden will step up their cooperation on sustainable development in a transversal way. Sharing best practices between cities and regions, and cooperation between economic players will be encouraged in the areas of sustainable and smart urban mobility, innovation and research. The two countries will also continue to actively contribute to the mission on climate neutral and smart cities within Horizon Europe. Within the EU context, France and Sweden both recognise that progress within the field of green finance is an essential component of the transition to sustainability.

II Digitalisation, innovation and research

6. France and Sweden will work to promote a Europe that is more digitally competitive and equipped with advanced infrastructures and technologies. The two countries will facilitate cooperation in the fields of artificial intelligence, high-speed connectivity, the deployment of 5G/6G, virtual twins, cybersecurity (in particular applications for critical telecommunications),

and advanced digital skills in all sectors of society. France and Sweden acknowledge that digital transformation tools represent a key vector for accelerating the greening of their economies, for example by optimising the use of electricity networks and harnessing 5G/6G technology in industrial transformation. Industrial and scientific partnerships within this field, as well as cooperation on standardisation, will be encouraged and supported.

The satellite sector, in particular the new low-orbit communication constellations based on 5G standards, will be subject to enhanced cooperation.

7. France and Sweden will promote space as a vector for innovation and sustainable development. The framework agreement signed on 22 February 2023 in Kiruna by the French National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and the Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA) extends and strengthens the long and fruitful cooperation between the two countries, within the framework of new prospects for space activities. The two countries will seek to ensure that European launching capability remains competitive at the global level. Particular focus will be put on propulsion (Prometheus engine) and reusable launchers, notably through the organisation of Themis tests at the Swedish Esrange Space Centre (ESC), and on interoperability between the Guiana Space Centre (CSG) and the ESC, with a view to establishing a joint launch offer. France and Sweden will also step up collaboration to exploit the contribution of space data to the study of climate change, through the Space Climate Observatory (SCO), the 'Global Watch' service and other joint missions. Cooperation on stratospheric balloons, sounding rockets and tracking stations will be continued.

8. New bilateral cooperation linked to leading research infrastructures in France and Sweden will be encouraged, notably the European Spallation Source (ESS) and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), among others. Research, training, the mobilisation of skills, and specialised applications will be priority areas for cooperation. The two countries will also cooperate on the development of a European strategy for **tech infrastructure**.

9. This partnership takes into account the ability to develop and integrate emerging, disruptive technologies and innovation in defence and security. France and Sweden recognise the interdependence between innovation for defence and security and innovation for sustainability, digitalisation, and resilient societies, as well as issues related to security, and immaterial rights protections of jointly developed technologies and capabilities.

III Shaping competitive and resilient economies

10. France and Sweden will support a proactive policy for European competitiveness and the Single Market in order to safeguard robust and agile economies that are pre-requisites for an open, resilient and sustainable Europe of tomorrow. In this context, the two countries will examine and share best practices in fostering investment, removing barriers to the fundamental freedoms on the Single Market and the development of human capital. The two countries will continue to cooperate on the strategic issues facing European and national industrial policies. The two countries will continue the dialogue established within the framework of **the French-Swedish**

industrial policy working group co-organised by the French Ministry of the Economy, Finance, Industrial and Digital Sovereignty and the Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise.

11. The bilateral dialogue will focus on European initiatives to strengthen the European Union's energy security and competitiveness. France and Sweden will seek to cooperate on the European electricity market design and on the Net-Zero Industry Act to achieve its objectives, and will strive to ensure the swift implementation of the reforms and investments included in their REPowerEU chapters. Recognising the need for Europe to generate and attract more private investments in key areas of future industrial competitiveness and to strengthen the resilience of value chains, the two countries will support enhanced dialogue on major projects of common European interest relating to batteries and low-carbon hydrogen. In terms of research as well as industrial and transport applications, France and Sweden will promote exchanges between economic players - with the support of Business Sweden, Business France, the Swedish Chamber of Commerce in France, the French Chamber of Commerce in Sweden and the French Business Confederation (MEDEF) International's hydrogen task force - and scientists from both countries.

12. France and Sweden will also cooperate to contribute to the objectives of the Critical Raw Materials Act, to ensure the European Union's access to a secure, diversified, affordable and sustainable supply of critical raw materials. The two countries will encourage cooperation between the mining sector and industrial players.

13. Bilateral exchanges will also be organised in the field of healthcare and life science to support the European Union's capacity and resilience in this area. France and Sweden will continue working together to foster the development of digital solutions to enhance the quality of health and patient-centred health care systems in line with a European Health Data Space. France and Sweden will also continue cooperation between relevant authorities and partners including the French Digital Health Agency (ANS), the Swedish eHealth Agency, Swecare, Business Sweden, the French Health Innovation Agency (AIS), and the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM). France and Sweden will work to strengthen the competitiveness, resilience and innovative capacity of the European Union's pharmaceutical industry. Collaboration will be encouraged between French and Swedish partners to develop innovative methods in response to the global threat of antimicrobial resistance, based on a One Health approach.

14. Resilient economies rely on a safe and secure environment. In order to address security challenges comprehensively, France and Sweden have declared their intention, in the field of defence, to build on current bilateral cooperative activities and implement new initiatives to continue intensifying the strategic dialogue on security and defence issues and expand cooperation in the field of research and development as well as defence capability development. This ambition is supported by the Letter of Intent concerning bilateral defence cooperation signed by the Ministers of Defence of France and Sweden in Stockholm on 24 September 2021.

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France and Sweden will further deepen the cooperation between their armament industries, including production of and essential supply chains for defence and security industry i.e., ammunition, propellants and explosives, as a concrete way to strengthen their resilience and also contribute to the strengthening of the European defence technological and industrial base to make it more innovative, competitive and resilient.

In the field of anti-armour weapons, a first framework arrangement was signed in Stockholm on 17 April 2023 to develop a common, improved version of a medium-range missile, paving the way for further cooperation in anti-tank missiles. The development of common equipment will also benefit the tactical cooperation between our operational land forces.

France and Sweden emphasise their common willingness to strengthen their capabilities and to develop their cooperation in the field of air surveillance and air defence in order to face future aerial threats.

Further projects in the domain of Earth observation from space, where ongoing cooperation is already strong, could arise for the next satellite generation.

Possibilities of cooperation regarding energy efficiency and synthetic fuels within the defence sector could be further explored.

15. France and Sweden will also continue cooperation between their Military Health services in the domains of cold environment medicine, civil-military cooperation, and training, and in the field of research related to military medicine, including the medical response to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) threats. The French Military Health Service (SSA), the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI), and the Karolinska Institutet (KI) will work together in order to improve mutual understanding of the impact of chemical agents on military medicine, experimental traumatology, and health.

IV Implementation of the partnership

The two governments will coordinate the implementation of the partnership, with the support of their respective bilateral embassies. Annually, or when otherwise required, the two governments will take stock of the progress of the partnership. As part of this monitoring process, the two embassies will be entitled to put forward any proposals for improvements or adaptations that will facilitate the implementation of the partnership and enhance its contribution to our European ambitions. The partnership and its implementation will be the subject of joint promotion and systematic communication by France and Sweden.

Signed in Stockholm, on 30 January 2024, in French and in Swedish.

For the French Republic

For the Kingdom of Sweden

Emmanuel MACRON

Ulf KRISTERSSON

President of the Republic

Prime Minister of Sweden