

Conseil des ministres franco-allemand du 16 octobre 2019 Roadmap on Climate, Transport and Energy

I- Climate policy

Meseberg Climate Working Group: State of play

The **Meseberg Declaration** establishes the interministerial High Level Working Group on climate change, the so-called “Meseberg Climate Working Group”. The cross-sectoral approach to achieve ambitious climate action in all policy areas is confirmed by the **Aachen Treaty**. France and Germany are fully committed to ensure such mainstreaming and jointly support the current dynamics at EU and international level to achieve greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050. They look forward to concrete proposals on the European Green Deal by the new European Commission and will strive for joint and forward-looking positioning during the upcoming legislative period.

The **Meseberg Climate Working Group** met twice, on 6 September 2018 and on 29 May 2019. It agreed on measures and common positions on climate change policies at national, EU and international level. On 29 May, it was - amongst other elements - decided

- to establish a subgroup on carbon pricing to discuss and promote carbon pricing approaches in the non-ETS sectors based on their national approaches and to develop common elements of carbon pricing, inter alia in the aviation sector, including within the ETS Directive and implementation of CORSIA;
- to establish a working group on reducing the climate impact of both new and existing buildings;
- to commission a Franco-German study on the mitigation of process-related greenhouse gas emissions in energy intensive industry;
- to continue pushing for a methodology to realistically calculate climate spending under the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework in order to avoid overestimation;
- to closely cooperate on the EU's actions on sustainable finance, including the exchange between their Advisory Bodies on Sustainable Finance (i.e. the German Sustainable Finance Committee and the French Finance for Tomorrow). France and Germany will work together to widen the scope of the taxonomy to all 17 SDGs in the medium term;
- to use their influence as shareholders in multilateral development banks to foster Paris-aligned investments and operations including scaled-up contributions to the 100 bn goal;
- to engage for an ambitious and successful replenishment of the Green Climate Fund, and join efforts to mobilize significant contributions from traditional donors and beyond;
- to take into account the interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity protection at all levels of cooperation, especially with regards to COP 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFCCC processes in 2020;
- to support mainstreaming of climate and security, inter alia in the UN context.

Joining forces at EU and international level: Current dossiers

Both countries want the European Union to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and therefore back the Commission President-elect in her plan to propose climate legislation that ensures climate neutrality by 2050. Both countries believe that the existential threat posed by climate crisis demands that collective ambition be further stepped up and requires increased climate action by the EU and at global level. France and Germany will lead the way at the European level on these issues with the view of COP26.

Several tools will be necessary to implement the ecological transition and to ensure that no one is left behind. France and Germany support the introduction of carbon pricing in non-ETS

sectors together with the introduction of minimum carbon pricing in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). They are then ready to closely collaborate with the new Commission to initiate a European wide cross-sectoral Emissions Trading System. They support the work on the strategy planned by President elect von der Leyen, to examine measures to prevent carbon leakage, inter alia a carbon inclusion mechanism as well as the announced review of the energy taxation directive.

To facilitate this essential transition, it is crucial to redirect the financial flows. To this end, France and Germany support the idea of Commission President-elect to turn part of the European Investment Bank into Europe's Climate Bank. EIB financing should, in particular, be in line with the targets laid out in the Paris Climate Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, EU climate and energy targets and with the objective of climate neutrality by 2050.

France and Germany support the creation of adequate mechanisms to support a just transition towards climate neutrality in those regions most affected by the ecological transition. France and Germany wish the European budget to be consistent with the European Union's climate and environmental commitments inter alia by setting an ambitious climate spending target for the multiannual financial framework. France and Germany consider necessary to properly assess the effective contribution of all EU spending programmes to the climate target.

Furthermore, France and Germany invite the European Commission to propose strong initiatives against deforestation and forest degradation, which include an assessment of supply chains or a conditional tariff elimination. In the same perspective, they will further engage in the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership and identify most effective options on European and international level to combat deforestation (in producer countries), e.g. through a label or a standard for deforestation-free products. Both countries share the view that the Paris Agreement should be taken into account in comprehensive trade negotiations.

On biodiversity, both countries will develop a joint roadmap in the perspective of the CBD COP15 in China to which the IUCN congress in Marseille in June 2020 is a critical milestone.

In the coming years, France and Germany will implement these commitments, strengthen the cooperation process and continue regular cross-sectoral collaboration on specific sectoral initiatives and measures towards greenhouse gas neutrality (energy, transport, industry, building, agriculture and forestry, research). They will provide input for relevant fora established under the Aachen Treaty. The Meseberg Climate Working Group will implement and monitor this joint engagement roadmap.

II- Implementation of the Aachen Treaty in the field of transport and energy

Strengthening cross-border mobility and deployment of infrastructure

With the view to decarbonizing transport and promoting convergence as well as cross-border economic development, France and Germany support the strengthening of cross-border mobility.

Concerning rail infrastructure, both countries welcome the agreements between the Region Grand Est and the Länder of Saarland, Baden-Württemberg and Rhineland-Palatinate for the development of Franco-German regional rail links. Both parties have agreed in a first step on financing a joint feasibility study on the rail link Colmar-Freiburg, mentioned in the priority project list, in compliance with relevant legal requirements and depending on budgetary approval. Inter alia the market potential for the establishment of a high-speed rail service between Frankfurt airport and Strasbourg was discussed that could be operated by a private rail enterprise, on the existing high-speed line in Germany which will be improved by the realization of the Appenweier rail curve. Germany and France are in the process of identifying transport projects to be pursued.

Recalling the Franco-German Initiative „Electric and digital mobility“ set up by the responsible Franco-German Ministries MTES and BMVI, France and Germany decided in summer 2019 to promote the emergence of alternative fuels by jointly coordinating the establishment of interoperable charging stations for electric vehicles in the cross-border region. France and

Germany will cooperate for the revision of the European directive on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructures in order to reinforce its ambition concerning the interoperability.

Energy sector

Regarding the energy sector, France and Germany together with other member states have adopted, within the framework of the Pentalateral Energy Forum, a common NECP Chapter inter alia on the decarbonisation of the electricity sector and the functioning of the electricity market. This document of the Pentalateral Energy Forum and a joint text on the North Seas Energy Cooperation will be integrated into their national energy and climate plans (NECPs) by the end of this year.

Fessenheim

France announced the shutdown of the Fessenheim nuclear power plant by summer 2020; France and Germany begin to develop an economic area along the Rhine River through the creation of a semi-public company integrating regional and local entities. Both governments welcome this cross-border cooperation.