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Treaty between the French Republic and the Italian Republic for enhanced bilateral cooperation

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The origin of the Treaty

The principle of an enhanced bilateral cooperation treaty was discussed at the Franco-Italian summit in Lyon in 2017 and the work was launched in January 2018 by the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, and the President of the Italian Council, Paolo Gentiloni. A committee of Franco-Italian sages then made a first contribution.

During President Sergio Mattarella's state visit to France in July 2021, the two Presidents confirmed that it would be signed before the end of 2021.

The desire to implement this Treaty is nourished first of all by the observation of the great proximity between our two countries, based in particular on:

- the breadth and depth of the friendship that unites us, rooted in history and strengthened by very rich exchanges and cooperation in many fields: political, social, cultural, economic, industrial and commercial, transport, defence, environmental, research, digital, energy and cross-border cooperation. France is, for example, the second destination for Italian students on mobility abroad and the second country of origin for students on mobility in Italy;
- a constant common commitment to European unity and a shared desire to relaunch and deepen the European project;
- a shared commitment to multilateralism and to rules-based international order and exchange, as well as to the defence of fundamental principles on a global scale: peace, security, freedom, equality, respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law;
- a shared commitment to sustainable development, the defence of climate and biodiversity, as well as the protection of the Mediterranean and the Alpine Arc;
- the objective of strengthening bilateral cooperation on European issues and sectoral policies.

What does the Treaty look like?

The Treaty is structured around three objectives: to work together at European level in favour of an ever more united, democratic and sovereign Europe, placing our cooperation in this perspective; promote the rapprochement and integration of our civil societies, in particular by encouraging the mobility of young people; structuring the bilateral relationship by providing strategic guidance and formalizing a number of consultation frameworks.

The Treaty itself, consisting of a preamble and twelve articles, sets out a common agenda for European matters and for bilateral cooperation in different fields: foreign affairs, security and defence, European affairs, economic, industrial and digital cooperation, sustainable and inclusive development, space, education, research and innovation, youth culture and civil society, cross-border cooperation. For each of these areas, it sets out commitments for the promotion of common objectives, for example in terms of sustainable development, the establishment of joint initiatives such as in the field of education or youth, the formalization of consultation processes for example in the field of cross-border cooperation, in order to forge a "Franco-Italian reflex" in most areas of our cooperation. A roadmap has been prepared in parallel, which sets out, in each of these areas, the actions to be carried out in a more precise, operational and adaptable way over time. The aim is to create a joint work programme for the coming years.

The flagship measures of the Treaty and the roadmap

1 - Defence: principle of mutual assistance in the event of armed aggression on their territories, under Article 5 of the NATO Treaty and Article 42.7 of the Treaty on European

Union, and revival of the Franco-Italian Defence and Security Council (2+2), involving the Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs; development of synergies at the capability and operational levels; new cooperation between our naval air groups, for example, in the form of reciprocal accompaniment of our naval air groups; intention to cooperate in the missile sector, establishment of a road map for capability cooperation.

2 - Economy: creation of an annual Franco-Italian economic consultation forum, bringing together the ministers of economy, finance and economic development of each country, in order to ensure a regular dialogue on macroeconomic and industrial policies, and to bring together the economic fabrics of the two countries, in particular on strategic sectors for European independence such as cloud infrastructures, electric batteries, the pharmaceutical industry or semiconductors.

3 - Sustainable development: support for cross-border and transnational cooperation initiatives between French and Italian protected areas, terrestrial and marine; reaffirmed objective of making the Mediterranean a clean and ecologically sustainable sea; promotion of a strengthening of the provisions of the European Union's trade and investment agreements related to sustainable development, and their proper implementation, including compliance with the Paris Agreement.

4 - Innovation: development of joint financing programs for innovative projects, in support of start-ups and SMEs; signature of an agreement between the Italian Caisse des Dépôts and the French BPI strengthening cooperation in support of SMEs and start-ups.

5 - Youth: establishment of a joint Franco-Italian civic service, the first cohort of which is planned for 2022, with a target of 150 young people who will volunteer between France and Italy; creation of a Franco-Italian Youth Council, and definition of a strategy to develop mobility.

6 - Franco-Italian curriculum: development of Esabac courses, allowing the dual delivery of the French baccalaureate and the Italian Esame di Stato, in France; all academies in France will have at least one Esabac section by 2025.

7 - Student mobility: promote the mobility of pupils and students, by doubling the number of pupils and teachers benefiting from mobility by 2025, in particular those from the ESABAC curriculum, vocational and technological education and apprentices. Launch of a first Franco-Italian trades campus in 2022, in sectors such as automotive, artificial intelligence and crafts; development of strategic partnerships between national institutes of the French and Italian teaching arts to facilitate the mobility of future teachers.

8 - Universities: promote exchanges of students and researchers and the establishment of double degrees and joint diplomas as well as cooperation between doctoral schools; establishment of a biennial forum bringing together the ministries responsible for higher education and the actors of the university world.

9 - Culture: strengthening exchanges between cultural industries and enhanced cooperation for the protection of heritage; organization in 2022 of a first joint event between schools of art and crafts and a Franco-Italian forum "Entreprendre dans la Culture"; support for Franco-Italian translation to promote literary exchanges.

10 - Cross-border cooperation: recognition of the Franco-Italian border as a place of shared interest of the two countries, to be the subject of special joint attention, and creation of a cross-border cooperation committee, dedicated to cross-border issues (environment, health, energy, transport, education, economy, culture, tourism, etc.) involving the competent actors at local, regional and national level; strengthening of cooperation in health matters; launch of negotiations on an agreement on cross-border health cooperation and civil protection.

11 - Police cooperation: perpetuation of the mixed border police brigade, and creation of a Franco-Italian operational unit, for the management of major events or the contribution to international police missions; intensification of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and magistrates, particularly in the field of organized crime.

12 - Foreign Affairs: programme of exchanges of diplomats between the French and Italian ministries in charge of foreign affairs.

[Download the Franco-Italian roadmap.](#)