

Franco-German Ministerial Council

(29 August 2025)

Bilateral cooperation flagships

At the Franco-German Ministerial Council meeting in Toulon on 29 August 2025, bilateral cooperation continued to strengthen, with progress made in three areas: support for the media and the fight against disinformation, cross-border cooperation and civil security.

In terms of **support for the media and the fight against disinformation**, Minister of Culture, Ms Rachida Dati, and the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media, Mr Wolfram Weimer, the German Plenipotentiary for Franco-German Cultural Cooperation, Ms Anke Rehlinger, and the Commissioners for Franco-German cooperation, Mr Benjamin Haddad and Mr Gunther Krichbaum, signed a **declaration of intent** to support two Franco-German projects in the context of the increasingly polarized information landscape and contest of narratives we are currently experiencing:

- The **Europeanisation of Arte**, which aims to expand the Franco-German channel across Europe and develop content that reflects European diversity and values. The launch of Arte's Romanian-language digital platform in Moldova and Romania on 7 July is a prime example of this dynamic.
- The project developed by France Médias Monde and its German counterpart Deutsche Welle to jointly create an **information shield** in response to the withdrawal of the US Agency for Global Media (USAGM, Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe) via new radio frequencies in Europe and internationally. The aim of this cooperation is to strengthen their offerings by diversifying their international audiences.

These two projects are **complementary in terms of their objectives, geographical scope, formats and audiences, and are a priority** for both our countries. A Franco-German **interministerial working group** will be responsible for monitoring their implementation.

Franco-German cooperation is also deepening on **cross-border issues**. In line with the momentum generated by the Aachen Treaty, the two Commissioners for Franco-German cooperation presented the prospects for cross-border cooperation led by the Cross-Border Cooperation Committee (CCT) through a **roadmap of concrete projects** in the areas of **mobility** (interconnections and interoperability), **access to healthcare** (health corridor), **vocational training** (expansion of cross-border apprenticeship and work-study opportunities), energy (geothermal potential at the border) and the functioning of the internal market (facilitating the **posting of workers**).

Finally, in a context where national civil security systems are increasingly under pressure, particularly as a result of climate change, the two Ministers of the Interior, Mr Bruno Retailleau and Mr Alexander Dobrindt, signed a **civil security cooperation agreement** for the next five years. It covers all **strategic, operational and organisational areas related to prevention, preparedness and management of natural disasters, as well as the protection of populations**, through the joint exchange of expertise, depending on the specific needs of each country, operational information and training. It is part of a broader effort to strengthen Franco-German coordination on European civil protection issues.