

Treaty between the French Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany on French-German cooperation (22 January 1963)

Caption: On 22 January 1963, in Paris, the representatives of France and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) sign the treaty known as the Élysée Treaty on Franco-German cooperation which enshrines the reconciliation between the two countries and under which they undertake to cooperate in particular in the fields of foreign policy, defence, education and culture.

Source: Western European Union Assembly-General Affairs Committee: A retrospective view of the political year in Europe 1963. March 1964. Paris: Western European Union Assembly-General Affairs Committee.

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Publication date: 24/09/2012



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Pursuant to the joint declaration of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and the President of the French Republic, dated 22nd January 1963, on the organisation and principles of co-operation between the two States, the following provisions have been agreed to:

I. Organisation

1. The Heads of State and Government shall give the necessary directives as required and shall follow regularly the implementation of the programme hereinafter laid down. To this end, they shall meet as and whenever required and, in principle, at least twice a year.
2. The Foreign Ministers shall ensure the execution of the programme as a whole. They shall meet at least once every three months. Without prejudicing the contacts normally established through embassies, the senior officials of the two Foreign Ministries in charge of political, economic, and cultural affairs respectively, shall meet each month alternately in Bonn and Paris to review the state of affairs on hand and prepare the meeting of Ministers. Furthermore, the diplomatic missions and the consulates of the two countries, as well as their permanent delegations to international organisations, shall make all necessary contacts regarding problems of common interest.
3. Regular meetings shall take place between the responsible authorities of the two countries in the fields of defence, education and youth. They shall in no way impair the functioning of already existing bodies — Franco-German Cultural Commission, Permanent Group of General Staffs — whose activities shall, on the contrary, be developed. The Foreign Ministers shall be represented at these meetings to ensure the overall co-ordination of co-operation.
 - (a) The Defence and Armed Forces Ministers shall meet at least once every three months. Likewise the French Minister of Education shall meet at similar intervals the person who shall be designated on the German side to follow the execution of the programme of co-operation on the cultural plane.
 - (b) The Chiefs of Staff of the two countries shall meet at least once every two months; should they be unable to attend, they shall be replaced by their responsible representatives.
 - (c) The Federal Minister for Family and Youth Affairs or his representative shall meet the French High Commissioner for Youth and Sports at least once every two months.
4. In each of the two countries an inter-ministerial commission shall be charged with following the problems of co-operation. It shall be presided over by a senior official of the Foreign Ministry and shall include representatives of all departments concerned. Its rôle shall be to co-ordinate the action of the departments concerned and to report periodically to its Government on the state of Franco-German co-operation. It shall also have the task of presenting any appropriate suggestions for the execution of the programme of co-operation and its possible extension to new fields.

II. Programme

A. Foreign Affairs

1. The two Governments shall consult each other, prior to any decision, on all important questions of foreign policy and in the first place on questions of common interest, with a view to reaching, as far as possible, an analogous position. This consultation shall bear, among others, on the following subjects:

- problems relating to the European Communities and to European political cooperation,
- East-West relations both on the political and economic planes,
- matters dealt with in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the various international organisations and in which both Governments are interested, notably in the Council of Europe, Western European Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations and its specialised agencies.

2. The collaboration already established in the field of information shall be continued and developed between the services concerned in Bonn and Paris and between the missions in third countries.

3. With regard to development aid, the two Governments shall systematically compare their programmes with a view to maintaining close co-ordination. They shall study the possibility of undertaking joint projects. Several ministerial departments being competent for these questions on the German side as on the French side, it shall be the task of the two Foreign Ministries to determine in common the practical bases of this collaboration.

4. The two Governments shall study jointly the means of reinforcing their co-operation within the framework of the Common Market, in other important sectors of economic policy, such as agricultural and forestry policy, energy, problems of communications and transport and of industrial development, as well as the policy of export credits.

B. Defence

I. In this field the following objectives shall be pursued:

1. In the field of strategy and tactics the competent authorities of the two countries shall endeavour mutually to approximate their doctrines with a view to reaching common concepts. Franco-German institutes of operational research shall be set up.
2. Exchanges of personnel between the armed forces shall be increased: such exchanges shall in particular concern instructors and students of the general staff colleges; they may include the temporary detachment of entire units. In order to facilitate these exchanges an effort shall be made on both sides concerning practical language teaching to the trainees.
3. With regard to armaments the two Governments shall endeavour to organise work in common beginning at the stage of drawing up suitable armament projects and of preparing plans to finance them.

To this end mixed commissions shall survey current research undertaken on such projects in the two countries and shall carry out a comparative examination of them. These commissions shall submit proposals to the ministers who shall examine them at their quarterly meetings and shall give the necessary directives for implementation.

II. The Governments shall study the conditions on which Franco-German collaboration can be established in

the field of civil defence.

C. Education and Youth

As regards education and youth, the proposals contained in the French and German memoranda of 19th September and 8th November 1962 shall be studied according to the procedures set out above.

1. In the field of education efforts shall be concentrated mainly on the following points:

(a) Language instruction

The two Governments recognise the vital importance for Franco-German co-operation attaching to knowledge in each of the two countries of the other country's language. They shall therefore strive to take concrete measures to increase the number of German pupils learning French and the number of French pupils learning German.

The Federal Government shall examine with the Laender governments, who are competent in this respect, how arrangements can be made which will permit the achievement of this aim.

It appears appropriate to arrange, in all establishments of higher education, for practical instruction of the German language in France and of the French language in Germany, open to all students.

(b) The problem of equivalences

The competent authorities in both countries shall be invited to speed up the adoption of regulations concerning the equivalence of terms of study, examinations, university degrees and diplomas.

(c) Co-operation on scientific research

Research organisations and scientific institutions shall develop their contacts, beginning with more comprehensive mutual information; co-ordinated research programmes shall be set up in branches of science where this is feasible.

2. Young people in the two countries shall be given every opportunity to strengthen the bonds between them and to increase their mutual understanding. In particular, collective exchanges shall be further developed.

A body for developing these opportunities and promoting the exchanges, shall be set up by the two countries, headed by an autonomous Board. This body shall have at its disposal a joint Franco-German fund to be used for meetings and exchanges between the two countries of school-children, students, young artisans and workmen.

III. Final Provisions

1. The necessary directives shall be issued in each country immediately to implement the above. At each of their meetings the Foreign Ministers shall review the progress made.

2. The two Governments shall keep the Governments of the other member States of the European Communities informed of the development of Franco-German co-operation.

3. Apart from the clauses concerning defence, this Treaty shall also apply to Land Berlin, provided that the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has not made a contrary declaration to the Government of the French Republic within three months from the date of entry into force of this Treaty.

4. The two Governments may make such adjustments as may appear desirable for carrying out this Treaty.

5. The present Treaty shall enter into force on the date on which each of the two contracting parties shall have informed the other party that its constitutional requirements for such entry into force have been fulfilled.

Done at Paris on 22nd January 1963 in duplicate, in the German and French languages, both texts being equally authentic.

The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
Adenauer

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany
Schröder

The President of the French Republic
C. de Gaulle

The French Prime Minister
Pompidou

The French Foreign Minister
M. Couve de Murville