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GAIA-X : une initiative franco-allemande

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First of all, I would like to say two words about the very intense cooperation between France and Germany on the key question of the economic recovery after the covid crisis before coming to the GAIA-X. I fully share the assessment by Peter Altmaier about the key role played by Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron to have a very historic and important economic recovery plan launched by the EU Commission.

Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron really put on the table what was necessary to have an efficient and effective economic recovery as soon as possible. As you know, Angela Merkel and the German government just presented last night a new recovery plan for Germany. That's good news for Germany, that's good news also for France and for all European countries because we need this recovery being active in all EU member states as soon as possible.

As you know, we are currently working on the French recovery plan that will complement the current measures and the sectoral plans. Two steps will come very soon.

The first one will be next week where we will announce our support to the sectors that have been severely hit by the crisis. I mean tourism, the automotive industry, aeronautics and all the sectors that have been severely hit by the crisis.

The last step will be the global recovery plan, the French one, but should be announced in a few weeks and be effective for the beginning of september. I think that we fully share the same objective the European recovery will have to be green, it will have to be effective and it will pave the way for having more growth within EU countries.

We have been in close touch with Peter Altmaier and with Olaf Scholz about all the measures and of course we will continue to remain in close touch to continue our route towards powerful recovery plans.

We want them to be efficient and to really support our economies, that's why I will be happy to go to Berlin for my first visit abroad in the coming weeks to discuss with Peter Altmaier and with Olaf Scholz. And we have also decided with Peter to go to Brussels together on the 10th of July to meet with the European Commission, especially with Mr Breton working on this recovery plan.

Coming to GAIA-X, I'm really very glad and as Peter said very proud to present the complete results of the Franco-German cooperation we had initiated with Peter over a year ago. That's the second major outcome of the cooperation between Peter and I on the industrial field.

I just want to recall that we have been able to provide solutions for the electric car batteries, we have had this initiative a few months ago. It is now implemented and it will provide more growth, more jobs and more sovereignty for the automotive industry in France, in Germany and all over Europe.

It will be the same for GAIA-X. We had first discussed the idea of a shared data initiative in Berlin in February 2019 when we published our common manifesto for european industrial policies. And this manifesto is clearly the basis of all the initiatives that we have taken with Peter Altmaier to support a



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strong and independent industrial sector in Europe. The manifesto already mentions works on data sharing.

Less than two years after, and I want to underline, like Peter, how quick we have been in implementing this initiative. We have a concrete, strong, major result GAIA-X. This is a new success for France, for Germany, for Europe and for all Europeans citizens.

GAIA-X could not have been more timely. With the Covid crisis, companies massively shifted to teleworking. This makes the need for a secure and European cloud solution all the more urgent. All companies, including the smallest ones, need to be equipped and to be equipped fast.

The crisis also showed that the giant tech companies are the winners of the crisis. European digital space has to be protected.

The objective of the GAIA-X is to build a European data infrastructure. It will enable mechanisms for sharing and processing data across different companies. It will ensure the application of policy rules based on EU values and standards.

We should be proud of our values, we should be proud of the kind of society we want to build together at the European level. We are not China, we are not the United States. We are European countries with our own values and with our own economic interests that we want to defend.

It will be based on four principles openness, interoperability, transparency and trust.

On transparency, if data could fall under extraterritorial laws of some countries, for instance the Cloud Act of the United States, the provider will have to specify this information when a company subscribes to its services. It would be a marketplace with different services on offer that are interoperable. This means that if you are not satisfied with your current cloud service or if it becomes too expensive for you, you can easily switch to another cloud service without losing any of your data. That's the way we are seeing this necessity of interoperability, and I would say freedom.

GAIA-X is key for our European economy and industry to fully benefit from digitalisation and compete on the global market.

Let me give you a concrete example. To develop autonomous cars, you need a lot of data regarding road safety. Having data that can easily be shared between the European car makers would make such cars safer and more reliable.

I really want to thank the companies for their commitment and ambition to develop a European solution. The initiative has brought together twenty two companies from France and from Germany. This is an excellent result. Nothing would have been possible without the support of these companies, and I really want to warmly thank them.

On the French side. I especially want to thank the work done by Atos, OVH, Orange, SkyWay, Dassault systèmes. Now I call on all other European companies and countries to join the initiative



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because together we will be stronger, and together this key French German initiative will be more efficient.

As a conclusion, I just want to underline what is at the core of this initiative the European sovereignty. This principle of European sovereignty has been put on the forefront of our common economic policy by

Emmanuel Macron a few years ago. I really think that in the aftermath of the Covid crisis, we have to build on this question of European sovereignty, on this principle of European independence, and I am deeply convinced that the step that we are making together with Peter Altmaier today is a big step in the right direction.