

Declaration of the EU-Committee Chairs of the Weimar Triangle (FRA-POL-GER)

The fall of the Berlin Wall 35 years ago was a precondition for freedom in Europe and for cooperation in the Weimar Triangle format. We acknowledge the essential role of the Polish Solidarność movement that contributed decisively to this political change.

For more than 30 years Poland, France and Germany have been working together in the Weimar Triangle Format for the sake of a stronger Europe. Close consultations did not only take place between governments but – equally important – also on a parliamentary level.

In light of the current challenges, the Weimar Triangle is a crucial format today for holding up democracy, freedom, unity and further integration in Europe. This is ever more important since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which endangers the European peace order in an unprecedented way since decades. The recent US election results have made even clearer to everyone that a joint European approach regarding European security and support for Ukraine is necessary. We want to strengthen the European pillar within NATO in order to strengthen the strategic sovereignty of Europeans and ramp up European assistance for Ukraine substantially to counter the current Russian advantage. This includes a long-term and more substantive amount of military, financial and humanitarian aid.

We condemn Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in the strongest terms. The Russian regime continuously violates international law. We are working together on a just and lasting peace for Ukraine, according to the principles of the UN charter, according to international law and according to the Ukrainian peace formula.

We admit that Poland and other Middle and Eastern Europeans have correctly warned Western Europeans early enough of the imperialistic ambitions of Russia. This historical lesson will guide our political decisions in the future.

Other authoritarian regimes like China, which indirectly fuels Russia's war against Ukraine, threaten our European unity, our values and capabilities. We want to work together to develop a more coherent European China policy and actively counter any foreign and internal efforts to divide the EU and threaten our democracies.

Based on the Strategic Agenda 2024-2029 we want to work together on a free, democratic, resilient, green and prosperous Europe. We approve the recent wave of new Weimar Triangle initiatives on the governmental level and stress the need for the according parliamentary cooperation.

We want to continue the success of the Weimar Triangle meeting of the parliamentary European committees in March 2024. We want to work together on the following priorities and discuss the according proposals:

1. Deepen parliamentary cooperation of the EU committees in the Weimar Triangle format
 - Consult each other before each COSAC plenary conference
 - Agree that the host country will propose contributions before each Weimar Triangle session on central issues of EU-integration to foster a results-driven approach
 - Consider if members of EU-committees of the Weimar Triangle may participate in the national committee sessions of each other
 - Debate how the Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly and parliamentary friendship groups may serve as a role model for further parliamentary cooperation within the Weimar Triangle

- Debate how the exchange between officials on the administration level can be enhanced
 - Debate how to organize trilateral citizen dialogue on central EU-integration issues
 - Discuss the possibility of setting up working groups on specific topics, consisting of rapporteurs from each member assembly of the Weimar parliamentary triangle. Working group will be invited to present a joint report at the next meeting of the parliamentary triangle, together with a proposal for the contribution.
2. Focus on main topics in the area of EU-integration for the cooperation of the EU committees in the Weimar Triangle format
- Security and defense – for a strong European pillar within NATO in order to strengthen the strategic sovereignty of Europeans
 - Strengthen long term financial and military support for Ukraine, via Ukraine Facility, G7 support measures and bilaterally
 - Strengthen common joint European defense industry and joint defense projects
 - Debate to expand the bilateral Franco-German Defence and Security Council to trilateral Franco-German-Polish format on governmental but also parliamentary level
 - debate collective security on the basis of a common understanding of Article 42 (7) of the EU treaty
 - Exchange on best practices regarding the fight against disinformation and cyberattacks and anti-democratic political influence
 - Enlargement and constitutional reforms - for a more powerful and geostrategic EU
 - Organize joint discussions on the progress reports of the EU commission
 - Hold meetings in broader parliamentary formats like “Weimar Triangle + Ukraine” or “Weimar Triangle + Moldova” consultations to facilitate the enlargement process
 - Widen the Berlin process: Weimar Triangle EU Committees + 6
 - Discuss the improvement of rule of law instruments and strengthening of our common values, also in dialogue with Ukraine, Moldova and the Western Balkans; continue to work towards the European future of Georgia on the indispensable basis of democracy and rule of law
 - Assess possibilities to introduce majority voting in some areas
 - Discuss details of the multiannual financial frameworks (MFF) with the goal of securing European sovereignty and agency in crucial areas such as defense, energy security, climate-neutral transformation, competitiveness, (digital) infrastructure
 - Discuss ways to improve the competitiveness of the European economy taking into consideration the recommendations made by Mario Draghi's report
 - Exchange views on the protection of the external EU borders, and the humanitarian obligations at the same time

3. Foster more regional and local cooperation – for stronger European cohesion and solidarity
 - Discuss how to improve Euregio and Interreg programs
 - Discuss how to improve trilateral city partnerships
 - Debate how to improve cross-border dialogue for youth, culture, education etc; discuss how to introduce more cooperation of the franco-german youth office and the german-polish youth office
 - Deliberate how to use experiences of regional cooperation and experiences in cross-border infrastructure, especially in the area of train infrastructure

Anton Hofreiter, Chair of the EU Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag

Pieyre-Alexandre Anglade, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the Assemblée nationale

Jean-François Rapin, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the French Senate

Agnieszka Pomaska, Chair of the EU Affairs Committee of the Sejm

Jacek Włosowicz, Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Polish Senate