

Joint Press Release

Chisinau, 22th January 2019

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Embassy of the Republic of France announce the following:

During a visit at the Moldovan news agency INFOTAG, German Ambassador, Her Excellency Angela Ganninger and French Ambassador, His Excellency Pascal Le Deunff, talked about the close Franco-German friendship and the important meaning of the new, ambitious Franco-German Treaty which was signed by German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron in the city of Aachen in Germany on January 22 in the presence of the Presidents of the European Commission, the European Council and the Council of the EU – the Romanian President.

On this occasion, both ambassadors underlined the excellent cooperation between the German and French Embassies in Chisinau, which is reflected in the close political consultations between both embassies, the joint organization of cultural events, a joint cooperation program in the field of health, a joint project in the field of justice and the fight against corruption, and in the exchange of information on economic issues.

Today's date was not randomly chosen: 22nd of January marks the 56th anniversary of the Elysée Treaty, the Franco-German Day commemorating the signing of the Élysée Treaty in 1963.

The Treaty of Aachen is a treaty of Franco-German friendship and cooperation. It does not replace the 1963 Elysée Treaty, the foundation of Franco-German reconciliation, but aims to complement it by adapting our cooperation to the challenges of the 21st century and placing it under the sign of strengthening the European project.

The objective of the 1963 Treaty was reconciliation, that of the 2019 Treaty is convergence (of our economic and social models, our positions in international fora, our regulations in border areas, our economic analyses), with a view to further European integration.

The Treaty also lays the foundations for concrete cooperation projects:

- A Franco-German mutual defense clause based on our European and international commitments, whereby Germany and France provide each other with aid and assistance by all means at their disposal, including armed forces, in the event of armed aggression against their territories. It is a strong and concrete affirmation that each country is particularly committed to the security of the other;

- The creation of a Franco-German digital platform for audiovisual and information content;
- The creation of a Franco-German "citizen fund", which will make it possible to finance new twinning arrangements and Franco-German civil society initiatives;
- The creation of a Franco-German Council of Economic Experts, responsible for making economic policy recommendations to both governments: this will be an important contribution to understanding and convergence between our two countries;
- A cross-border cooperation committee bringing together all local actors will define a cross-border development strategy to identify priority projects (infrastructure, shared public services, etc.). Legal tools will also be provided to adapt local regulations, at the request of local actors, to the daily realities of border regions. This is a step forward in everyday life for tens of thousands of border residents in particular.

The intensive involvement of the Franco-German working group of the German Bundestag and the French National Assembly, created on 22 January last year, in drafting the text of the Treaty should be highlighted. They also prepared the draft for the so called Franco-German Parliamentary Agreement which was confirmed today by both parliaments in the presence of delegates of the other country's parliament. In this declaration, the Bundestag and the Assemblée Nationale agreed on establishing a Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly, consisting of 50 French and 50 German members and disposing of a joint office.

Élysée Treaty of 1963:

In 1963, the focus was on promoting reconciliation and fostering encounters – which at the time were by no means a matter of course. Ending rivalries and conflicts that had lasted for hundreds of years, Germany and France signaled that they were seeking reconciliation. They thereby laid the foundation for close bilateral cooperation and further European integration. The new Treaty of Aachen is picking up where the first agreement leaves off, by now taking the two country's partnership to the next level.