

Agreement  
on Enhanced Co-operation on Security, Defence, and Resilience  
between  
the Government of the  
Federal Republic of Germany  
and  
the Government of the  
Italian Republic

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of the Italian Republic are hereinafter referred to as "The Participants", or individually as "The Participant".

Germany and Italy, as founding members of the European Union and NATO Allies, share a common responsibility for freedom, peace, and security in Europe.

In light of growing global challenges and threats endangering the stability and lasting peace on the European continent, both Participants recognise the need for strengthened cooperation, primarily in the field of security, defence, and resilience.

Germany and Italy reaffirm their shared commitment to strengthening existing security structures, such as NATO, the European Union, the United Nations, and the OSCE.

They recognise that reinforced cooperation will contribute to enhancing European capabilities to safeguard the freedom, peace, and security of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law.

They concur that their coordinated efforts will focus in particular on restoring peace and security in Europe.

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## **Areas of Cooperation**

### **Foreign and Security Policy**

1. The Participants remain fully committed to strengthening NATO's deterrence and defence and advancing the EU's defence readiness. They intend to promote regular consultations at Senior Officials level from Ministries of Foreign Affairs with varying geographic and thematic focusses, with a view to fostering common actions, both within the EU and NATO, as well as in other international organisations and fora to which they belong, such as the United Nations, the OSCE, and the G7.
2. The Participants intend to advance a joint consultation mechanism between their Ministers of Defence and Foreign Affairs ("2+2") on an annual basis on relevant international security and defence issues of common interest, prepared and supported by a 2+2 dialogue at Senior Officials level, in addition to the existing Strategic Dialogues between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Ministries of Defence. The joint consultations aim, *inter alia*, to focus on:
  - Coordinating a joint response to threats to Euro-Atlantic Security,
  - Promoting a more sovereign, capable, and resilient European defence with a 360° approach;
  - Developing joint initiatives to improve European capabilities in line with NATO capability targets,
  - Strengthening the European pillar of NATO to further reinforce NATO's deterrence and defense posture;
  - Enhancing cooperation and coordination between the Participants, as well as with other partners within the EU and NATO.

### **Operational Cooperation and Crisis Management**

3. The Participants intend to continue to cooperate closely in operations, missions, and activities in the framework of NATO and the EU. They seek to further intensify the cooperation between their armed forces across trainings, exercises, and education, including the identification of, and cooperation in, joint activities which would serve the principle of standardisation and interoperability to the benefit of Germany and Italy across all domains.
4. In light of the evolving strategic environment, the Participants wish to extend their cooperation also to crisis management, military cooperation, resilience to hybrid threats, and security in external theatres.
5. Cooperation could include joint participation in missions and operations abroad, including peace-keeping, humanitarian, and stabilisation operations, as well as defence capacity building, drawing upon the complementary strengths of the German and Italian armed forces. This cooperation may also cover logistical support, intelligence sharing, and deployment of joint task forces.

6. The Participants seek to further enhance cooperation in all operational domains and specifically on search-and-rescue operations, disaster response, and humanitarian assistance, leveraging their respective naval and logistical capabilities.

### **Defence Industry**

7. As leading industrial Nations of Europe, Germany and Italy intend to intensify collaborative capability projects and their expansion to include allies and partners.
8. The Participants seek to enhance the competitiveness of Europe's defence industrial and technological base, promoting a closer cooperation between their defence industries on the basis of mutual trust. They aim to reduce fragmentation, foster standardisation and interchangeability, increase interoperability between their forces and strengthen the European defence industry, as the BROMO initiative which aims to create a European champion in the Space sector.
9. The Participants intend to further reinforce the long-lasting and trustful industrial cooperation on defence projects, including through, where appropriate, joint development and upgrades, on significant armament projects. They will also commonly identify additional fields and projects of cooperation in order to significantly strengthen the interoperability of their forces. Where possible, the Participants will explore industrial collaboration and common procurement.
10. The reinforced cooperation could potentially build upon existing projects, but would not be limited to, in different areas, such as:
  - Land domain: self-propelled artillery systems such as Panzerhaubitze 2000, the artillery ammunition family "VULCANO" or tanks.
  - Air and Space domain: the fighter aircraft Eurofighter, the European drone project "Eurodrone", the multi-role medium military transport helicopter NH-90, air defense systems, attack helicopters, the 5<sup>th</sup> generation multi-role fighter aircraft F-35.
  - Maritime domain: submarines class 212 (including Near Future Submarine).
  - The OCCAR projects for the multi jamming capability Responsive Electronic Attack for Cooperative Tasks (REACT) and the European Secure Software Defined Radio (ESSOR).
11. The Participants will examine opportunities for increased cooperation on emerging and critical domains, including integrated air and missile defence, space-based capabilities, unmanned and autonomous systems, naval ship and underwater systems building and development, naval combat management system, cyber and data-centric architectures, electronic warfare, advanced missile systems, air combat systems, land combat systems (including potential future cooperation for production of a common, innovative, land platform) optronics and naval radar, military mobility, and advanced training systems.

12. The Participants intend to support a procurement model based on the harmonisation of military requirements, thereby enabling a competitive market in which multiple industries can innovate and compete in a framework of progressive cost reduction.
13. In order to foster a dialogue amongst defence industries, the Participants will hold a regular Industry Defence Roundtable. Senior Officials of the Ministries of Defence will facilitate this dialogue, ensure matchmaking opportunities and explore – together with industry - cooperative potential. The first iteration will take place in Rome in the first half of 2026.

#### **Joint Training, Exercises, Operational Interoperability, and Capability Development**

14. The Participants intend to hold regular bilateral and, where appropriate, multilateral military exercises across land, naval, air, space, and cyber aimed at increasing interoperability, readiness, and ability to conduct joint operations under, for instance, EU or NATO command.
15. The Participants will use exercises and staff talks aimed to harmonize military requirements and capability development, align logistics, command and control, communication standards, rules of engagement and doctrines.
16. The Participants will develop options how to better track and coordinate the progress of strengthening interoperability by identifying gaps, planning exercises, executing joint trainings, information sharing, and ensuring that equipment jointly procured or developed remains compatible in doctrine and use.
17. The Participants aim to expand combined training activities, exploiting the capabilities of the inter-service experimental training range, to conduct realistic, multi-domain exercises.

#### **Hybrid Threats, Democratic Resilience, and Cyber and Critical Infrastructure**

18. The Participants express their desire to cooperate on strategies to increase their resilience such as the EU-Preparedness Union Strategy. They intend to strengthen the resilience of their democracies in order to build resilient societies that are able to withstand increasing foreign interference and manipulation attempts. Regarding foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), a special focus will be set on proactive strategic communication.
19. The Participants aim to strengthen their capacities to counter hybrid threats through bilateral cooperation and within international fora such as the EU and NATO, and make full use of available instruments, including the EU hybrid toolbox.
20. The Participants will make use of existing tools, such as the EU's cyber-diplomacy toolbox, in order to coordinate their positions in other relevant international processes and identify common cyber capacity building projects. They intend to explore the possibility to dispatch liaison officers to the respective Cyber-Commands.
21. In order to strengthen deterrence and resilience, the Participants wish to intensify cooperation on hybrid threat countermeasures through existing bilateral and multilateral

mechanisms and enhance early coordination, focusing on timely and effective intelligence sharing, integrated threat analysis, joint infrastructure training, and operational coordination.

22. The Participants intend to cooperate on projects to counter cybercrime, enhance cybersecurity and protect their critical infrastructures, including critical undersea infrastructure (CUI). Projects to protect CUI should build upon and further strengthen NATO's activities, with special focus on lessons learned between the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.
23. The Participants intend to exchange threat assessments, leveraging on cyber situational awareness platform, on critical infrastructure both on land and undersea, as well as on critical infrastructure in space (also through space situational awareness). The Participants' Single Points of Contact for ensuring cross-border cooperation with the single points of contacts of other EU Member States and the Critical Entities Resilience Group, as defined by EU Directive 2022/2557, will meet on an annual basis.

### **Space**

24. The Participants wish to strengthen their cooperation in the domain of space by improving the capacities to jointly act in space to support security and defence.
25. The Participants intend to hold regular bilateral German-Italian Space Dialogue to develop shared positions, with particular reference to interoperability, to operative requirements aggregation and to defence doctrine.
26. The Participants seek to increase cooperation by facilitating the exchange of Liaison Officers to the respective space operations' commands in accordance with national ambitions and strategies.
27. The Participants will sign a Letter of Intent for closer cooperation in Space.
28. The Participants seek to develop flexible and scalable space infrastructure that is based on the principles of standardization and interoperability.

### **Support for Ukraine**

29. The Participants will continue to coordinate bilaterally and in international fora on ways to support Ukraine in its defence against the Russian war of aggression.
30. The Participants will continue steadfastly supporting Ukraine through training of Ukrainian forces under the umbrella of the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM UKR), and through donations from military stocks, bilateral industry deliveries, the promotion of defence industrial cooperation with Ukraine, as well as industry procurement, including joint procurement and financing mechanisms such as the Enduring Action on Air Defence (EAAD) initiative, the European Peace Facility (EPF), the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP), and the Ukraine Support Instrument (USI) as well as relevant NATO instruments.

31. The Participants further intend to continue and, where possible, expand their support for Ukraine's critical energy infrastructure and through the Tallinn Mechanism for civilian cyber support, recognising their essential role in strengthening national resilience and ensuring the protection and well-being of the civilian population.
32. We support a just and lasting peace in Ukraine and we are committed to provide Ukraine with robust security guarantees as soon as conditions allow.

### **Cooperation with Africa**

33. The participants acknowledge the strategic importance of engaging with Africa as Europe's neighbouring continent in pursuit of a mutually beneficial partnership for freedom, peace and security. In this regard, both sides explore the possibility for joint projects on the continent, including within the framework of the Mattei Plan and the Rome process with the aim to especially combat root causes for irregular migration and terrorism.

### **Final Provisions**

34. The Participants concur that this Agreement is legally non-binding and does not constitute an international treaty. It will be implemented through mutually decided arrangements and activities, in accordance with the Participants' respective national legal and budgetary frameworks, and in full conformity with the rights and obligations of the Participants under existing international agreements, including those within the EU and NATO.

Signed in Rome on January 23th 2026

For the Government of the  
Federal Republic of Germany

Federal Chancellor  
Friedrich Merz

For the Government of the  
Italian Republic

President of the Council of the Ministers  
Giorgia Meloni