

Conclusions from the French-German AI Industry Executives' Dialogue January 2025

On 24th January 2025, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and the French embassy in Germany, with the support of Inria, gathered industry, innovation and research leaders as well as policy makers from the EU Commission, France and Germany in Berlin for the first ***French-German AI Industry Executives' Dialogue***.

In the current context where European enterprises face the double need of increasing their economic competitiveness while simultaneously striving for technological sovereignty, this dialogue aimed at discussing actions to shape a more competitive, sovereign and sustainable AI in and for Europe.

In line with the spirit of the Aachen Treaty, revitalising French-German collaboration on Artificial Intelligence is particularly relevant and urgent for the future of Europe.

A Call for Action from French and German Research and Industry Stakeholders: Towards an industry-led French-German AI Roadmap for Europe

Industry, technology, innovation and applied research stakeholders from France and Germany (listed in annex) call for swift action in order to address the challenges of Europe's digital sovereignty and overall competitiveness.

They share the following **priorities** for the way forward in Europe:

- **Simplified, business and innovation friendly regulations**, in particular the implementation of AI Act and Data act;
- A robust and scalable **AI infrastructure**. This includes a European cloud service ecosystem with a single, user-friendly certification process and **trusted data spaces** to share data, effective AI model training and fine-tuning, as well as availability of computing power;
- Stable, affordable and sustainable **energy supply**;
- **Talent acquisition and development strategies** effectively attracting and retaining skilled professionals in Europe and from abroad;
- **Venture capital investment** and a **strong European Savings and Investments Union** - to harness the innovation potential in France and Germany and upscale European Champions.
- **Focus on strategic verticals** and applied language models and promotion of frugal and sustainable AI.

To achieve these goals, they share interest to **continue this dialogue** and to **strengthen synergies** among industry, research and innovation ecosystems, in order to:

- Launch a **coalition of the willing** aiming at developing a joint French-German **AI industry-led roadmap** identifying actions and commitments from stakeholders. Fraunhofer and Inria have proposed to facilitate this process.
- Identify several **lighthouse projects** that are catalysts of existing French and German innovations (e.g. edge computing, data spaces, label for sustainable AI) and can be scaled up rapidly.
- Collaborate in developing **AI applied use cases for industry** in strategic sectors such as health, energy, defence, cyber or robotics.
- **Unite researchers, innovators and industry leaders** by strengthening the French-German dimension of ongoing and future actions, including EU initiatives such as GENAI4EU, EDIC.
- **Incentivise the development and use of European AI solutions** by European governments and corporates, for instance through public and private procurements, partnerships between corporates and start-ups.
- Identify **sustainable financing models**, for instance AI Bonds and other forms of capital investment.
- Provide support to **like-minded network initiatives**, such as the European AI championship initiative aiming at gathering AI providers, investors and industry.
- To promote this agenda in **major policy discussions** at international (e.g. International AI Action Summit, Paris, February 2025), European, bilateral (e.g. French-German 2025 Research Forum, Berlin, and the next French German ministerial council), national and regional levels.
- To encourage relevant French, German stakeholders to **join this call for action**.
- To convene for a **second Dialogue within 9 months** in order to evaluate progress and agree on next steps.

Now is the time to take action!

Industry, applied research and innovation players must join forces.

Let's shape the future of European AI together!

Participants to the French German AI Industry Executives Dialogue
January 24th at the Residence of the French Embassy to Berlin

Bayer AG
BDI
BNP Paribas
Cap Gemini
Dassault Systèmes
Dawex
Deutsche Bank
Deutsche Telekom
Deutsche Venture
ESCP
EON
Eviden Big Data Security
Forvia Hella
Fraunhofer Gesellschaft
General Catalyst Europe
Hub France IA
Inria
Kayrros
KI Bundesverband
LightOn
Make.com
OVHcloud
Phoenix Contact GmbH & Co. KG
Redstone
Rittal International
Safran IA
SAP
Scaleway
Schaeffler
Schneider Electric
Schwarz IT
Sick AG
Siemens Digital Industries
SupplyOn AG
Thales
Valeo
Volkswagen Group Info Services AG