

History of European Integration

Lecture 7. Franco-German Alliance as the engine of European integration

- The module is realized in the frame of the project "Enhanced Skills and COmpetences in European Studies for Landscape ARchitects, environmental specialists and managers" (project number: 611545-EPP-1-2019-1-RU-EPPJMO-MODULE), Erasmus+ Jean Monnet Actions.



The Franco-German Alliance and the European integration

- Reconciliation
 - Different traditions of integration
 - Leadership
- ✓ The two countries were certainly instrumental in the establishment of the EU's predecessor, the European Economic Community (EEC)
 - ✓ The two countries continue to work very closely today, bilaterally as well as in an EU context

Franco-German Alliance

- Germany

- C. Adenauer
- L. Erhard
- W. Brandt
- G. Schmidt

- G. Kohl
- G. Schroeder
- A. Merkel

- France

- C. de Gaulle
- J. Pompidou
- V. Giscard
d'Estaing

- F. Mitterrand
- J. Chirac
- N. Sarkozy
- F. Hollande
- E. Macron

TWO VISIONS

The French "monetarist"

- it is necessary to establish constraints common to the monetary policies of the participating States and their freedom to set exchange rates.
- This would have forced governments to converge towards the goal of economic and political integration

The German "economist"

- It's necessary to harmonize economic policies and then create a monetary union
- The intergovernmental conception must be overcome, since EMU requires that the economic policies of the Member States are coordinated to prevent divergences in economic performance between the Member States

France and Germany: united in diversity

- Germany: Rule; Pacifism; Ordoliberalism
- France: Politics; Nuclear power; Economic Dirigism and Protectionism

BUT

The Franco-German axis traditionally derives strength from the ability of the members to overcome their diverging opinions through compromises and then win the support of other member states

Franco-German Council of Ministers

On 22 January 2003, for the 40th anniversary of the Élysée Treaty, French President Jacques Chirac and German Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder decided to introduce a new format for regular high-level consultations. Franco-German Council of Ministers meetings have been behind common positions on European priorities such as:

- Strengthening the economic and budgetary union
- The European Security and Defence Policy
- Energy and the climate
- Support for growth, investment and jobs
- Combating tax avoidance
- Migration issues
- The digital agenda (copyright, regulations of online platforms, reduced VAT on online press and books, etc.)

The Treaty of Aachen (22 January 2019)

- French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel sign strategic depth
- not merely a symbolic celebration of Franco-German friendship, but a tool serving a proactive, effective, committed and coordinated Franco-German alliance
- A mutual Franco-German defence clause
- Creation of a Franco-German digital platform of information and audiovisual content
- Creation of a Franco-German "citizen fund"
- Creation of a Franco-German Council of economic experts
- At local level, a cross-border cooperation committee bringing together all local stakeholders will define a cross-border development strategy to identify priority projects

Franco-German Alliance Today: Franco-German initiative for European recovery from the coronavirus crisis

(May 19, 2020)

1. STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC HEALTH SOVEREIGNTY THROUGH AN EU "HEALTH STRATEGY"
2. CREATE AN AMBITIOUS EU-BASED "RECOVERY FUND" FOR SOLIDARITY AND GROWTH
3. ACCELERATE THE ECOLOGICAL AND DIGITAL TRANSITIONS
4. INCREASE EU ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESILIENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY AND GIVE A NEW LIFE TO THE SINGLE MARKET



The consequences of Franco-German alliance

- Europeanization
- A two-speed Europe
- How did Brexit affect the Franco-German engine?

What is Europeanization?

- Europeanization is a study of the influence of the European Union on member countries (as well as candidates, neighboring states)
- It can be conceptualized as several social processes involving different agents, structures, processes and conceptions of 'self' and 'other'
- Liberal democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and the principles of the market economy as key European ideas
- Ahistoricism?

What is a two(multi)-speed Europe?

- A small group of EU countries pursue tighter integration, leaving those unwilling to follow on the periphery
- European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's vision of a more integrated union the right way forward vs French President Emmanuel Macron's call for a more flexible bloc
- Perpetuating divisions vs Core Values
- Undermining solidarity vs recognizing reality
- Complex vs one size Europe

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