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## Merz and Macron pledge stronger Franco-German alliance



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Paris, May 7, 2025 – German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and French President Emmanuel Macron convened in Paris to reaffirm the Franco-German alliance, emphasizing the need for European unity and strategic autonomy amidst global uncertainties.

During their meeting, both leaders underscored the importance of bolstering Europe's defense capabilities and reducing reliance on external powers. They discussed plans to establish a joint

French-German defense council aimed at coordinating military strategies and enhancing the continent's security infrastructure.

Chancellor Merz highlighted the necessity for European nations to increase defense spending to address capability gaps and sustain support for ongoing international commitments. He stated, "Europe must take greater responsibility for its own security and be prepared to act independently when necessary."

President Macron echoed these sentiments, advocating for a stronger, more sovereign Europe capable of responding effectively to global challenges. The leaders also addressed economic competitiveness, energy transformation, and the need for cohesive policies to manage migration across the continent.

This meeting marks a renewed commitment to the Franco-German partnership, often considered the driving force of the European Union. Both leaders expressed optimism that their collaboration would lead to a revitalized and more resilient Europe, better equipped to navigate the complexities of the current geopolitical landscape.

The outcomes of this summit are expected to influence upcoming European Union discussions and the broader international community's approach to shared global issues.