



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'ÉCONOMIE
DES FINANCES
ET DE LA RELANCE**

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**Présentation franco-allemande
des plans nationaux de relance et de résilience**

**Discours de Bruno Le Maire,
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Dear Olaf, dear all,

I am pleased to present, alongside Olaf Scholz, our national recovery and resilience plans. It was important for us to do this presentation together, as Germany and France have been working hand in hand since the beginning of the crisis.

Looking back at the past year, **we can be proud of what the European Union has achieved. The Franco-German cooperation has been decisive on three fronts:**

First, we had the same analysis on the crisis. This is the worst economic crisis since 1929. No Member State disputed the necessity to react.

Second, we agreed on the instruments that had to be put in place. This is something striking, we have adopted the same set of instruments to fight the economic crisis, such as state guaranteed loans and partial unemployment scheme.

We also agreed on the necessity for the first time in our history to **raise common debt.** For a better efficiency. And for a stronger solidarity among Member States.

Three, we also agree for the first time on the timetable.

Today, the priority is to **invest massively, not to consolidate public finances.** We have drawn lessons from the past.

We have drawn lessons from the past. We will come back to sound public finances as soon as the covid crisis is behind us.

Thanks to this decision, we were able to decide in July 2020 a European recovery plan of 750 billion euros.

Today, France and Germany are taking another decisive step with this joint presentation of our national recovery and resilience plans (NRRPs). Indeed, the objective behind the recovery plans is to strengthen the coordination between Member States and make sure our economies are emerging more strongly than before.

Our political goal cannot be only to come back to the situation before the crisis. Our political goal must be to have stronger economies with better technologies designed to fight against climate change.

In that regard, let me highlight the main features of the plan that France will publish today.

The implementation of “France Relance”, which we presented last September, is well underway. 30 billion euros have already been disbursed in 2021.

Our recovery plan is based on three pillars: 1/ the green transition, 2/ competitiveness, 3/ social and territorial cohesion.

First, 50% of the investments of our national recovery plan are devoted to the climate transition. Our plan fully contributes to the objective of reducing by 2030 gas emissions by 55 % compared to the 1990 levels.

We have put in place the so-called MaPrimeRenov’ for the energy retrofitting of buildings. **Already 230 000 applications has been submitted.** It is a great success of France Relance.



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Second, 25% of the investments are devoted to the digital transition. We are investing massively in the digitalisation of businesses and the digital transformation of the State and the regions (€1 bn), as well as in digital skills. **We had foreseen 280 million euros for the digitalisation of industrial SMEs.** Because the scheme revealed to be so efficient and needed, we will end spending 1 billion euros.

Third, our plan **also fully responds to the social ambition of the European recovery plan.** We are taking bold measures to enhance training of young people, to invest in skills and to modernise the health system. Already 1 million of young people has been supported by France Relance. Because we are fully aware young people are bearing the brunt of the crisis, we have a debt toward them. And we pay it.

France also presents today an ambitious reform agenda. I want to be clear: we are not introducing reforms for the benefit of the European Commission. We are introducing reforms for the benefit of French citizens and the nation.

The crisis must not divert us from our efforts to respond to the challenges of the French economy.

Before the crisis, we knew where we should focus our efforts: increase the competitiveness of our economy, reduce unemployment by investing in skills, and **lower the level of taxation.** Since we had the highest level of taxation amongst the developed countries, there was no other choice but to reduce it. **And we did it.** We knew that we should engage resolutely in the ecological transition and pursue the digitalisation of companies and public services. **And we did it.**

We intend to continue responding to these challenges, **enabling us to return to the 2019 level of economic activity in 2022.**

We need to pursue our reform agenda in the interest of the country. This is also consistent with France Relance, which aims to prepare France for 2030.

That is why our plan contains ambitious reforms such as:

- the **Climate and Resilience Bill**, which will accelerate the climate transition
- the finalization of the **unemployment insurance reform**
- the strengthening of the **governance framework of our public finances and the quality of our public spending. If we want to restore sound public finances in France, we need to put in place a multiannual framework with an expenditure rule.**

Those reforms are not implemented because it is a request from the European Commission, but because this is in the interest of the country. This is the same for **the pensions' reform**: it is not a prerequisite from the EU, but I continue to think it is indispensable, when the time comes.

The European recovery plan will also **fund joint projects**, in the form of Important Projects of Common European Interest. **Competitiveness in cutting-edge technologies can only be achieved on a European scale.**

France and Germany have already started joint cooperation, following the impetus given by Chancellor Merkel and President Macron in the Aachen Treaty.

This Franco-German cooperation is at the core of our respective recovery and resilience plans in several key areas such as **hydrogen, cloud, electronics and telecommunications, as well as artificial intelligence and batteries.**



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What is at stake is quite clear: either we are able to invest together for those technologies and we will remain in the race between China and the US, or we will become fully dependant on China and the US, and we will disappear. The future of the EU cannot be based on dependence, **it must be based on technological independence, which is key for political sovereignty.**

Tomorrow, with Spain and Italy, we will submit together our national recovery plans to the Commission.

The political responsibility of the Member States and the Commission is now to make the European Recovery Plan a concrete reality for our citizens.

- Member States have to submit **their recovery and resilience plans** and to **ratify the Own Resources Decision as soon as possible**. This is vital for the EU to raise funds and start paying out the first euros of the European recovery plan.
- The Commission should analyse **National Recovery and Resilience Plans as soon as possible** so they can be approved by the Council in July at the latest.
- This will allow the money to flow **before the end of the summer**. Once our plan has been adopted by the Council, **we should receive a first payment of 13%, which represents €5.1 billion in the case of France.**

Let's be clear: we were very efficient last year in the adoption of the European Recovery Plan and on the decision on common debt issuance. **Since then, we have lost too much time.** China has resumed its growth. The US is booming. The EU must remain in the race.

J'ai une conviction : Ce plan de relance marque le passage de l'Union européenne à l'âge adulte.

1) L'âge adulte, c'est celui de l'indépendance.

L'Union européenne doit arrêter de compter sur les autres et doit compter sur ses propres forces. C'est ce que nous faisons avec ce plan de relance européen.

Ce ne sont pas les Etats-Unis ou la Chine qui apporteront des solutions à nos problèmes. Nous apportons nous même des solutions aux enjeux du siècle à venir. En particulier l'enjeu climatique mais aussi celui de la prospérité et des emplois de nos concitoyens.

2) L'âge adulte, c'est l'âge on l'on sait ce qu'on veut réaliser.

Ce que l'Union européenne veut réaliser, c'est une économie durable, respectueuse du climat, attentive à la planète.

3) Cela ne peut reposer que sur la solidarité européenne.

Aucune nation européenne ne pourra atteindre cet objectif seule. Ensemble, nous pouvons y arriver.

Je voudrais également rappeler un fait : le plan de relance national fonctionne bien. Nous avons déjà engagé 30 milliards d'euros, soit 1/3 du plan de relance, en particulier sur :

- MaPrimeRenov' ;
- la digitalisation des PME industrielles ;
- la relocalisation industrielle qui est un immense succès et qui paraissait hors de portée ;
- sur le soutien aux jeunes : plus d'un demi-million de jeunes en apprentissage pour la première fois de notre histoire.



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Dans ces temps très difficiles, je mesure pleinement les inquiétudes, les doutes et les désarrois de millions de nos compatriotes. **Je veux simple leur dire que nous pouvons encore croire dans notre nation et croire dans le choix européen.**