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# THINK TANK REVIEW

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SPECIAL ISSUE  
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## Franco-German relationship as engine of EU integration

This special issue of the Think Tank Review<sup>1</sup> gathers papers on various aspects of the Franco-German relations which we harvested over the past two years of Think Tank Reviews. They cover different aspects, including EU integration, economy, energy and foreign policy. Together, they offer a good perspective on the relation between the two countries.

As a concrete illustration of this relationship and if you want to go further, you might want to check the [Franco-German dedicated website](#), co-managed by the French ministry of external affairs and international development and the German Auswärtiges Amt.

The Review can be downloaded from our [informal blog](#). As always, feedback is welcome at [central.library@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:central.library@consilium.europa.eu).

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### SECTION 1: EU INTEGRATION

#### **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)**

*Opening up the Franco-German dialogue - How dialogues can enhance European integration*..... 3

#### **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations) / Institut français des relations internationales**

*Asymmetrie der Erinnerungskulturen - Der Erste Weltkrieg in Frankreich und Deutschland*..... 3

#### **Stiftung Genshagen (Foundation Genshagen)**

*Europa als politisches Zukunftsprojekt. Deutsch-Französische Impulse für eine Erneuerung der EU / L'Europe : projet politique de l'avenir. Impulsions franco-allemandes pour un renouvellement de l'UE*..... 3

#### **Fondation Robert Schuman**

*Franco-German cooperation: productive tension*..... 3

### SECTION 2: ECONOMY

#### **Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute**

*After the Greek deal: why it is urgent to complete EMU* ..... 4

#### **Fondation pour l'innovation politique**

*Politique économique : l'enjeux franco-allemand*..... 4

#### **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations) / Fondation Robert Schuman**

*Thinking towards the future. French and German businesspeople and their expectations for 2025*..... 4

#### **Institut français des relations internationales**

*Quel policy mix de sortie de crise pour la zone euro ? Vers de nouvelles convergences franco-allemandes* ..... 4

### SECTION 3: ENERGY

#### **Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute**

*Strengthening the European electricity market through improved Franco-German cooperation* ..... 5

#### **Fondation Robert Schuman**

*Energy, a networked Europe* ..... 5

#### **Friederich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friederich Ebert Foundation)**

*Die Energiewende in Frankreich: Aufbruch zu einem neuen Energiemodell?* ..... 5

#### **Institut français des relations internationales / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)**

*La politique climatique et énergétique du gouvernement fédéral allemand. Contribution au dialogue franco-allemand*..... 5

#### **Fondation Robert Schuman**

*Mastering energy transitions: a Franco-German project for growth*..... 6

### SECTION 4: FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENCE

#### **Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques**

*French and German defence: the opportunities of transformation*..... 6

#### **Stiftung Genshagen (Foundation Genshagen) / Mittelmeer Institut Berlin (Mediterranean Institute Berlin)**

*Die Europäische Union und der Mittelmeerraum. Deutsche und französische Perspektiven seit den arabischen Umbrüchen*..... 6

## SECTION 1: EU INTEGRATION

### **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)**

*Opening up the Franco-German dialogue - How trialogues can enhance European integration*

by Claire Demesmay and Hans Stark

May 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (56 p.) and in [French](#) (79 p.)

As the EU confronts an unprecedented number of crises, it is crucial to open up the longstanding Franco-German tandem to other partners. The ten authors of this compendium explore ten such possible triangular configurations – involving, respectively, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, the Nordic countries, the UK, the Western Balkans, Turkey, the EC and the EP – and point to several other potentially productive "trialogues".

### **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations) / Institut français des relations internationales**

*Asymmetrie der Erinnerungskulturen - Der Erste Weltkrieg in Frankreich und Deutschland*

by Elise Julien

30 July 2014

Link to the article in [German](#) (20 p.)

A joint IFRI-DGAP project taking stock of the different dynamics of commemoration of the Great War in the two countries, tracing the difference to the underlying historical experiences of the war and its aftermath.

### **Stiftung Genshagen (Foundation Genshagen)**

*Europa als politisches Zukunftsprojekt. Deutsch-Französische Impulse für eine Erneuerung der EU / L'Europe : projet politique de l'avenir. Impulsions franco-allemandes pour un renouvellement de l'UE*

February 2014

Link to the article in [German and French](#) (47 p.)

This reports stems from a meeting organised with experts from think tanks and universities from France and Germany, in order to find a new German-French agenda for Europe. The contributions analyse domestic factors shaping French European policy, perspectives on an increasingly differentiated EU in the wake of the euro crisis, and options on the necessary reform of the governance structure of the euro zone. Further contributions focus on how to revamp European energy policy and on foreign policy challenges.

### **Fondation Robert Schuman**

*Franco-German cooperation: productive tension*

by Henrik Uterwedde

3 June 2013

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.) and in [French](#) (4 p.)

Although the quest for solutions to the eurozone crisis has been interspersed by Franco-German controversies, both governments finally drew closer together and are fostering European compromise, the author of this paper says. National differences, which are inevitable and legitimate in the economic sphere, do not impede vital convergence. Making good use of differences to take Europe forward, is the permanent challenge for the leaders in both countries.

## SECTION 2: ECONOMY

### **Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute**

*After the Greek deal: why it is urgent to complete EMU*

by Jacques Delors, Gerhard Cromme, Henrik Enderlein [@henrikenderlein](#), Pascal Lamy and António Vitorino

22 July 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.)

Following what seems to be the end of hostile negotiations, the authors analyse the dangers and opportunities resulting from the agreement for a strengthening of the EMU and call for greater Franco-German cooperation in order to realize the historic goal of completing the EMU. They identify notably the risks of complacency, the start of a blaming game, and of "fiddling about" in the absence of a long-term strategy and a political vision of the EMU. However, this agreement could also prove to be a basis for intelligent reforms that push to revisit European fiscal policy, and to reinforce investment and integration.

### **Fondation pour l'innovation politique**

*Politique économique : l'enjeux franco-allemand*

by Henry d'Arcole and Wolfgang Glomb

24 June 2015

Link to the article in [French](#) (38 p.)

An enquiry into the roots of the difference in competitiveness between France and Germany, which the authors explain by referring to the centralised/decentralised state structure, as well as to historically rooted differences in the roles of the State and of monetary policy, in industrial policy and in vocational training.

### **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations) / Fondation Robert Schuman**

*Thinking towards the future. French and German businesspeople and their expectations for 2025*

by Claire Demesmay and Barbara Kunz

26 January 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (16 p.), in [French](#) (17 p.) and in [German](#) (18 p.)

Due to the constant public debate about sovereign debt, structural reforms and competitiveness, the relevant state differences between France and Germany are discussed in detail in this paper and in particular the problems, opportunities, and risks during the next decade for France, Germany, and Europe.

### **Institut français des relations internationales**

*Quel policy mix de sortie de crise pour la zone euro ? Vers de nouvelles convergences franco-allemandes*

by Pascal Kauffmann and Henrik Uterwedde

22 January 2015

Link to the article in [French](#) (31 p.)

A developing Franco-German vision explores the components of a policy mix and an economic agenda that could sustain the EMU.

## SECTION 3: ENERGY

### **Notre Europe - Jacques Delors Institute**

*Strengthening the European electricity market through improved Franco-German cooperation*

by Stefan Bössner

16 March 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (30 p.), in [French](#) (32 p.) and in [German](#) (34 p.)

A common European energy policy and a truly common electricity market has yet to emerge, due to the lack of cooperation between Member States and the deficiency of shared governance mechanisms to guide the European energy transition. This paper analyses in depth the bilateral energy relationship between France and Germany, with a focus on the electricity sector, to illustrate this shortcoming and identify opportunities for improved energy cooperation.

### **Fondation Robert Schuman**

*Energy, a networked Europe*

by Michel Derdevet

2 March 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (4 p.) and in [French](#) (4 p.)

This text is a short summary of a [report](#) addressed to the president of the French Republic on 23 February. It explores concrete avenues for strengthening economic and industrial cooperation, in particular within the Franco-German partnership, with regard to European energy networks.

### **Friederich-Ebert-Stiftung (Friederich Ebert Foundation)**

*Die Energiewende in Frankreich: Aufbruch zu einem neuen Energiemodell?*

by Andreas Rüdinger [@andreasrue](#)

September 2014

Link to the article in [German](#) (11 p.)

Following the national debate on "Energiewende", the French government proposed legislation paving the way for breaking with the structural dependency vis-à-vis the old energy model. This new strategy could have positive consequences for both Germany and Europe, partially because we can see a convergence in German and French strategies that could lead to closer cooperation both bilaterally and on the European level. Two aspects are crucial in that regard: However, French government must develop suitable financial mechanisms and the progressive decentralisation of energy policy for embed its vision in more tangible measures.

### **Institut français des relations internationales / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik (German Council on Foreign Relations)**

*La politique climatique et énergétique du gouvernement fédéral allemand. Contribution au dialogue franco-allemand*

by Camilla Bausch, Matthias Duwe [@Matthias\\_Duwe](#) and Benjamin Görlach

July 2014

Link to the article in [French](#) (50 p.) and in [German](#) (49 p.)

An analysis of the international aspects of German energy policy. It moves from the domestic political landscape to assess the government's ability to take coherent stances in international fora such as the G7 and the COP21, and suggests that German policies could fit in a more ambitious EU framework for climate and energy, supported by Franco-German cooperation.

## **Fondation Robert Schuman**

*Mastering energy transitions: a Franco-German project for growth*

by Jean-François Jamet and Emmanuel Lefebvre

11 February 2013

Link to the article in [English](#) (8 p.) and in [French](#) (9 p.)

The commemoration of the Eliseum Treaty gives to France and Germany the possibility to check the progress of their energetic cooperation. Its transformation into a broader bilateral project can boost the importance of Franco-German relationship for Europe. However, the different choices the two countries adopt in the energetic field may hinder the achievement of a full cooperation regime. This risk has to be tackled by the two countries, claims the paper.

## **SECTION 4: FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENCE**

### **Institut de relations internationales et stratégiques**

*French and German defence: the opportunities of transformation*

by Marcel Dickow, Olivier de France, Hilmar Linnenkamp and Jean-Pierre Maulny

27 March 2015

Link to the article in [English](#) (25 p.)

The paper seeks to identify the levers that make cooperation possible, and the locks that hamper it. It establishes the current state of play on both sides of the Rhine, to identify some of the ways France and Germany might work more closely together. It looks at ambitions, capabilities, force structures, institutional approaches, prospective visions of the armed forces and defence industrial policies.

### **Stiftung Genshagen (Foundation Genshagen) / Mittelmeer Institut Berlin (Mediterranean Institute Berlin)**

*Die Europäische Union und der Mittelmeerraum. Deutsche und französische Perspektiven seit den arabischen Umbrüchen*

by Khadija Mohsen-Finan and Isabel Schäfer

April 2014

Link to the article in [German](#) (28 p.)

This paper analyses French and German interest and engagement in North Africa after the political ruptures of the so-called Arab Spring. The two countries face different problems due to divergent historical involvement in the region, which leads partly to competing interests. On the other side, there are also several common interests, namely in economic, energy and migration policy. The authors give policy recommendations to enhance the partnership with North Africa.