
MACRON, MERZ TOUT RENEWED FRANCO-GERMAN ENGINE TO LEAD EUROPE

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French President Emmanuel Macron and newly minted German Chancellor Friedrich Merz presented a shared vision for a well-armed and business-friendly Europe during their first formal meeting as peers on Wednesday.

Fewer than 24 hours after formally becoming Germany's new leader, Merz traveled to Paris to meet with Macron at the Elysée Palace on how the so-called Franco-German engine can help the European Union confront the myriad issues facing the bloc, including American retrenchment and the need for increased defense spending; supporting Ukraine in the war against Russia; and boosting European competitiveness.

"We want to answer together the challenges that Europe faces," Macron said.

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