

**Joint Declaration of Intent on a
Strategic Innovation partnership for security, green and digital transition
between
the Federal Republic of Germany
and
the Kingdom of Sweden**

The Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of Sweden share historical and longstanding ties of friendship, embodied in their vision for the future of the European Union (EU), their commitment to promoting and strengthening the security of the Euro-Atlantic area, including through the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and their common attachment to the rules-based international order, the purposes, rules, and principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter and effective multilateralism.

In 2017, Sweden and Germany embarked on an innovation partnership which was renewed in 2019. A fundamentally worsened security situation in Europe, and their new relationship as Allies in NATO provides a rationale for a deepening and a broadening of the cooperation, building on existing cooperation and lessons learned.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine calls for stronger alignment between Sweden and Germany. By strengthening the bilateral cooperation, including as Baltic Sea states, the two countries are better placed to meet the often complex and multifaceted challenges that they face. This includes the domain of security and defence and related areas like space, defence innovation and new technologies. A deepened partnership will also aim at enhancing Germany's and Sweden's long-term determination to support Ukraine in defending itself against Russia's war of aggression, including its sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. While working together to seize new innovative and technological opportunities, Germany and Sweden as NATO Allies are determined to strengthening both their national security and that of the Euro-Atlantic region. Germany and Sweden will increase cooperation to strengthen national resilience and security and defence capabilities aiming at reducing vulnerabilities in strategic sectors and critical infrastructures.

A renewed Swedish German strategic innovation partnership aims at promoting competitiveness and innovative solutions to societal challenges, such as the digital and green transition. Germany and Sweden are taking the lead within the EU when it comes to investments in research and development, and they share a common culture of competitiveness, innovation and technology at the service of fair and sustainable development, supported by cutting-edge Research & Development centres, world-leading companies, dynamic start-up ecosystems, and a resolute emphasis on the importance of initial and lifelong training as well as gender equality.

The partnership between Germany and Sweden will be based on concrete cooperation, joint projects, and identified players. It will strengthen the already close relations between the two countries in key sectors and further develop sectors of importance for security and defence. The partnership will be the subject of regular reviews conducted at high level meetings between the respective ministries in charge. The Partnership is not intended to and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations.

1. Security & Defence

The new security situation in our neighbourhood requires a further strengthening of the close cooperation and regular dialogue between Germany and Sweden on the security situation in the Baltic Sea region, as well as in a wider geographical context. Sweden and Germany share the conviction that increased efforts are needed to strengthen civilian preparedness and the resilience of their democratic societies. This should include the ability to prevent and counter foreign information manipulation and interference, cyber threats, supply chain attacks and other hybrid threats as well as physical threats/sabotage.

As outlined in the Letter of Intent concerning bilateral defence cooperation, signed by the Ministers of Defence of Germany and Sweden in Stockholm on 5 March 2024, Sweden and Germany declare their intention to deepen and increase practical cooperation between their countries, their respective Armed Forces and other Defence Administrations. This will be done by building on current cooperative activities and implementing new initiatives. Areas will include, but will not be limited to, promoting co-operation in the field of innovation and technology; promoting strategic dialogue on security and

defence issues; harnessing research and development (R&D), defence capability development and armament co-operation opportunities; as well as promoting co-operation in the areas of armament, research, development, and procurement of defense related materiel in addition to industrial cooperation.

As two nations with strong defence industrial bases, Sweden and Germany will seek to leverage opportunities for cooperation, which will also contribute to the strengthening of their national defense and resilience, as well as Europe's defense industrial base and its global competitiveness. Sweden has committed itself to join the Agreement concerning export controls in the field of defence.

In the area of capability development, Sweden and Germany will seek to promote and develop cooperation on innovation and technology development in important areas such as the fighter aircraft domain, the underwater domain, armed vehicles, sensors, cyber defence and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear substances (CBRN). This is supported by the Memorandum of Understanding between Germany and Sweden on collaboration in Defence Research and Technology.

In light of the growing assertiveness of strategic competitors and the increasing complexity of security threats, ensuring the resilience of critical infrastructure is an important element of the strategic partnership and cooperation between the two countries. Thus, Sweden and Germany will seek to promote and develop cooperation on innovation and technology development, considering transparency, redundancy, security, sustainability, and safety.

The bilateral cooperation in the area of defence will continue to be coordinated by the Federal Ministry of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Defence of Sweden, supported by relevant stakeholders.

2. Space

Sweden and Germany will cooperate on enhancing Europe's strategic role and interests in space. The two countries will promote and develop bilateral and international cooperation within the space sector, which constitutes an increasingly important area for innovation, research, and sustainable development and in particular space safety. The renewed innovation partnership

will strengthen and expand cooperation between the two countries, against the backdrop of new opportunities in the space domain, a sector evolving rapidly and constituting an important foundation for future economic growth and security.

The collaboration will contribute to ensuring that Europe's space capability remains competitive on a global scale. Special focus will be placed on sounding rocket activities and access to space, such as launches of sounding rockets from the Swedish space base Esrange Space Center, as well as the development of experiment modules for research in microgravity. Sweden and Germany will also continue cooperation within educational programs in the space domain, stratospheric balloons, tracking stations and space situational awareness. The collaboration may also include engine tests for launch vehicles, test launches and satellite launches from Esrange.

The bilateral cooperation in the area of space will be coordinated by the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research and the Swedish National Space Agency.

3. Energy transition and mobility

Sustainable transport

Focus on sustainable transport solutions needs European consensus spearheaded by Germany and Sweden. Sweden and Germany will continue to develop the work around electric transport solutions. This will include exchange of experiences of co-ordination and strategies for expansion of charging infrastructure. The exchange of experiences will also include electric road systems and its pilots in Sweden and Germany. To optimise transport solutions increased and efficient connectivity solutions will be crucial.

Batteries

Battery technology is the key enabler in energy transition both for transport and energy solutions. Sweden and Germany will deepen the bilateral work within batteries to include indicators for the battery value chain, expansion of research infrastructure and talent attraction. This area will be coordinated between the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and/or the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (depending of scope and

subject) and the Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise and supported by the Swedish Energy Agency.

4. AI and digitalisation

Artificial Intelligence is changing the world. Germany and Sweden will extend the partnership to new research areas and applications. The aim of the partnership will be to deepen the long-standing cooperation of different research institutions and universities, and further develop a network to exchange knowledge and establish new areas of research and applications between Germany and Sweden. Key Swedish stakeholders, such as Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE), Linköping University, Chalmers University of Technology and KTH Royal Institute of Technology should initiate collaboration with German counterparts, such as the universities and research institutes organized under the six German AI competence centres including the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence.

Both countries will cooperate with initiatives that foster the building of a strong European AI ecosystem. Research collaboration to promote the broader application of AI will be explored. Opportunities to address the skills shortage within the area of AI will be pursued.

Sweden and Germany commit to intensify cooperation in research, development, standardisation and facilitation as well as an exchange of best practices in the realm of cyber security and resilience for future mobile network technologies such as 5G/6G, considering especially security and reliability.

Health is a primary example of deepened cooperation, including initiatives which focus on unlocking health data for the development of AI applications, such as the European Health Data Space, the 1+ Million Genomes Initiative or the European Cancer Imaging Initiative, and initiatives fostering trustworthy AI such as Testing and Experimentation Facility for Health AI and Robotics (TEF-Health).

This area will be coordinated by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and regarding health by the German Federal Ministry of Health, and by the Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, the Swedish Ministry of

Health and Social Affairs, together with the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research.

eHealth

The evolution of digital solutions shapes the provision of healthcare. The knowledge exchange will continue to focus on the development and implementation of national digital health strategies, digital infrastructure and interoperability concerning the sharing of health data, mobile digital applications as well as telemedicine solutions, such as 'care at a distance' or remote expert consultations, monitoring and medical education.

The ambition within the partnership ahead is to develop an updated agenda for further cooperation on eHealth between the German and Swedish ministries, agencies, and other relevant actors, with special emphasis on AI applications. The agenda will outline a structure with areas and activities which will be the basis of cooperation. It will contain cooperation initiatives with businesses and start-ups as well as strategic policy exchange elements.

This area will continue to be coordinated by the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Swedish eHealth Agency on the Swedish side and the German Federal Ministry of Health on the German side. The bilateral exchange should be aligned with existing German and Swedish activities at EU level and within the European eHealth Network, as well as develop new activities in preparing for, adapting to and implementing the European Health Data Space Regulation.

5. Innovation enablers

Innovation and cooperation SMEs

Germany and Sweden's joint calls have given companies insights in new markets and digital knowledge in several sectors including life-sciences. This cooperation has been based on the development of a German-Swedish call for proposals for joint R&D projects by small and medium-sized enterprises by Sweden's Innovation Agency, Vinnova, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (funding through Central Innovation Programme of SMEs – ZIM). Several calls have been launched, more than 100 companies and research organizations have been given access to finance and knowledge through cross-border cooperation. The ambition within the

partnership ahead is to continue enabling joint R&D projects for small and medium-sized Swedish and German enterprises, as well as explore the potential for collaboration between cluster networks in areas of specific interest and high ambitions in both countries.

The Innovation and cooperation SMEs part of this section will continue to be coordinated by the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and the Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise.

This Joint Declaration of Intent may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of both Sides.

This Joint Declaration of Intent is not intended to and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations.

Signed in Stockholm on 14 May 2024 in two copies.

For the
Federal Republic of Germany

For the
Kingdom of Sweden

Olaf Scholz

Ulf Kristersson

Chancellor

Prime Minister