

German-Polish Action Plan

PREAMBLE

Poland and Germany are neighbours, strategic partners in the European Union and allies in NATO. We are bound by an intensive network of political, social, economic, cultural and scientific ties and close exchange among our citizens.

The Governments of the Republic of Poland and of the Federal Republic of Germany declare their willingness to continue and further enhance their close relations in all fields. We wish to further develop our cooperation for the benefit of our societies and with a view to the prosperity of all of Europe.

Since the signing of the Treaty on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation on 17 June 1991, civil society dialogue has been conducted and supported by numerous Polish-German institutions. We appreciate their role in bringing our citizens together and building trust, and we pledge our continued support for their activities.

An important role in this regard is played by the Polish community in Germany and the German minority in Poland.

Poland and Germany share the ambition of jointly contributing to the ongoing debate on the future of the European Union. Our goal is a strong European Union, capable of living up to global challenges and providing security for all EU citizens.

The founding idea behind the European Union was to guarantee peace on our continent. Russia's aggression against Ukraine has in the most brutal way reminded us of the utmost importance of this goal, inducing urgency to making Europe capable of defending itself. The war in our immediate neighbourhood has thus added a new dimension to Polish-German relations. Both Governments express their continued and concrete support for Ukraine, especially by providing political, financial, military and humanitarian assistance.

Our common goal is to find convincing answers to the challenges of our time and to shape our common European future without forgetting the past. We are aware of the importance of remembrance and reconciliation as a central aspect of Polish-German relations. Reconciliation is a never-ending process. It is passed on to the next generation and must be experienced again and again.

To underline our sincere commitment to concrete action in order to live up to our citizens' expectations, the Governments of the Republic of Poland and of the Federal Republic of Germany, at this year's Intergovernmental Consultations in Warsaw on 2 July 2024, have agreed on the following Action Plan, setting the direction for our cooperation and comprising a whole set of new initiatives and projects.

COOPERATION IN BILATERAL MATTERS

Polish-German relations are characterised by high dynamics. One of their key purposes is to achieve common positions on core issues of European policy and security. The dialogue is conducted in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Our partnership is essential for finding solutions that correspond to the interests of both sides.

We declare our commitment to continue cooperation in existing formats with particular emphasis on **intergovernmental consultations**, which we will hold on a regular basis, in order to conduct a comprehensive review of the present state of interministerial cooperation and set its near- and medium-term goals in the future. We express our willingness to establish new mechanisms for bilateral consultations, such as **joint meetings of foreign and defence ministers**.

The Role of History

The past plays a special role in Polish-German relations. The Second World War and the memory of the abuses and crimes committed by German aggressors against the Poles in the Nazi era remain a vivid historical memory. For many Poles it is an element of collective identity.

Both Governments will engage in an intensive dialogue on measures for the support of the still-living victims of the German attack and the occupation from 1939 to 1945, remembrance and security. The Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation will play an important role in this process.

In this context, we emphasise the importance of the establishment of a **German-Polish House** dedicated to the Polish victims of the Second World War in a central location in Berlin. We further emphasise the need to complete as soon as possible a project for a dignified commemoration of the Polish victims of the Second World War in a central location in Berlin. The House should include in particular the creation of a monument dedicated to the memory of Polish victims of the German occupation of Poland in 1939-1945. This memorial will be enriched with an informative part in the form of a permanent exhibition presenting a comprehensive picture of the German occupation of Poland.

We appreciate the efforts and many years of work of Polish and German experts and scholars on the project of a **Polish-German history textbook** entitled "Europe. Our History". We commit ourselves to promote the wide use of the textbook as educational material in Polish and German schools.

We work to strengthen the cooperation on **memory policy**, among others with the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (ENRS). We will strengthen joint activities to invite more European countries to get involved in ENRS.

We support the cooperation of state and federal **archives** of both countries, especially the Polish State Archives (Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych) and the Bundesarchiv (Federal Archives). The enhanced cooperation can include the research

of collections, the possibilities of sharing resources and digital copies, the securing of collections, and the managing of contemporary digital documentation.

The Polish side will issue an invitation to a conference of museums and memorial sites of Second World War crimes that are today located in Poland and Germany. The conference will become an expert platform for exchange of experience in the field of protection and management of memorial sites (dialogue, exchange of information, cooperation, creating programmes, formulating recommendations for the future of such institutions and their organisers).

German Minority in Poland and Polish Community in Germany

The relations of the German Government with the Polish community in Germany and the Polish Government with the German minority in Poland are based on equal appreciation and mutual understanding in accordance with the provisions of the Polish-German Treaty on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation of 1991. We intend to resume the **talks on the support of German citizens of Polish origin and Poles in Germany and the German minority in Poland** in a renewed Polish-German Round Table.

Both Governments will undertake efforts to ensure the implementation of the provisions of Article 21 of the 1991 Treaty on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation with regard to **mother-tongue teaching** for the German minority in Poland and the Polish community in Germany, respectively.

People-to-People Contacts

People-to-people contacts remain an integral part of relations between neighbouring countries. We intend to support permanent formats and institutions that are important forums for dialogue between our societies.

We will consider the possibility of increasing the financial support of the **Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation** with the aim of expanding its activities in both countries, increasing its visibility in Germany, and involving third parties, including partners from Ukraine, in ongoing projects.

We agree that the Foundation will continue to organise the **Polish-German Forum**, a platform for dialogue between experts from both countries with a tradition dating back to the 1970s. The Forum should be modernised, including by adding a strong business component. We call on the Foundation to soon present proposals to increase the attractiveness and reach of the Forum.

We express our intention to resume the annual award of the **Polish-German Prize**, established by the provisions of the 1991 Treaty on Good Neighbourliness and Friendly Cooperation.

Both sides welcome the restoration of the appropriate status of the **Plenipotentiary of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Polish-German Social and Cross-Border Cooperation**. Both sides acknowledge the importance of close cooperation between the Coordinator of German-Polish Intersocietal and Cross-Border Cooperation and the Plenipotentiary of the Minister for Foreign Affairs for Polish-German Social and Cross-Border Cooperation.

Together with civil society, we want to create an exchange format under the umbrella of existing structures of German-Polish cooperation, in the sense of a **German-Polish parliament of civil society**, in which, under the patronage of both Coordinators, civil society actors debate the state of relations and new ideas and give recommendations to the two Governments.

Our strong ties on the regional and communal local level are the foundation of exchange between our citizens. The **cooperation between regions and municipalities** is an important part not only to tackle the global challenges but also to build neighbourly connections and even to help other neighbours in need. We intend to further strengthen those partnerships on all levels and to increase our regional and communal exchange – also with regard to our cooperation towards Ukraine.

We also support existing people-to-people contacts and initiatives that ensure a regular exchange of civil society, science, experts and Governments of our countries, e.g. in the field of **ageing**.

Cross-Border Cooperation

We emphasise the importance of cross-border cooperation in promoting contacts between citizens and strengthening European integration. To this end, we encourage the Euroregions, the three twin cities Frankfurt/Oder-Słubice, Görlitz-Zgorzelec and Guben-Gubin and all other actors in cross-border cooperation to make good use of the instrument of European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation. We emphasise the importance of and our support for dialogue at the local government level in border regions in general and within the framework of the **Polish-German Governmental Commission for Cross-Border and Interregional Cooperation**.

We commit to modernising the Commission and to strengthening its interaction with the population of the border regions. Taking into account constitutional and European regulations, we will identify areas in which the application of derogation, like opening clauses, can overcome obstacles to the implementation of cross-border projects.

Through the development of a **cross-border educational and vocational training** network, both sides will promote increased exchanges between civil societies and recognise the specific role that the Coordinators of German-Polish Intersocietal and Cross-Border Cooperation assume in this exchange.

We will facilitate communication between cross-border regions in order to advance the implementation of the bilateral Framework Agreement on **Cross-Border Emergency Services**.

Spatial Planning

We will work together in the Spatial Development Committee of the German-Polish Governmental Commission for Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation.

We will cooperate to update the **Common Future Vision for the German-Polish Interaction Area – Horizon 2030** (adopted at the 17th Meeting of the Spatial Development Committee of the German-Polish Governmental Commission for Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation on 1 December 2016).

We will work together on the German-Polish Demonstration Project of Spatial Planning (Modellvorhaben der Raumordnung – MORO) “Cross-border synergies of spatial planning and water management in the Odra river basin” – including the German-Polish kick-off conference in autumn 2024.

Education and Youth

The German-Polish Youth Office (GPYO) is an important institution in bilateral youth cooperation with a current exchange of around 60,000 young people each year. We are committed to a strong GPYO and to youth encounters as an instrument for bringing our countries even closer together in future: e.g. with the German-Polish Youth Award, youth exchange through local partnerships, projects of historical-civic education for young people from both countries or youth forums to be organised in the Weimar Triangle together with the Franco-German Youth Office. We welcome the significant increase in funding from the Polish Government and declare that we will further strive for the development of Polish-German youth cooperation. We will continue our successful projects with the Office to strengthen our bilateral youth cooperation but also our work towards the joint support for the youth in Ukraine.

We will cooperate to increase the knowledge about the neighbouring country in the young generation, also through our existing successful structures like the International Youth Meeting Centres in Krzyżowa/Kreisau and Oświęcim/Auschwitz.

We will strive to organise an annual **competition for students** on the subject of the knowledge of the country, geography, history and present of the neighbouring country.

Knowledge of the partner’s language helps to bring citizens closer together and to establish professional and social relationships. Together we will look for new forms of cooperation in order to promote the **knowledge of Polish as a foreign language in Germany and German in Poland**.

Justice

With a view to strengthening cooperation in the area of the administration of justice we will resume bilateral consultations on **civil and criminal matters**. We will promote and support the development of direct contacts between our judicial authorities in order to improve cooperation, e.g. the enforcement of mutual legal assistance requests, the execution of European arrest warrants, European Investigation Orders requests for the transfer of sentenced persons based on Framework decision 2008/909/JHA. We encourage our judicial authorities to establish partnership relations, conduct joint training for judges, court employees and public prosecutors, and organise conferences and workshops in order to facilitate and improve cooperation between these authorities.

We will exchange expertise with regard to **digitalisation of the justice system**, e.g. eCourt systems, use of videoconferencing technology, publication of court decisions, access to case files and court documents and availability of information and judicial services to citizens.

Furthermore, we will exchange experiences in the application and implementation of the EU AI Regulation in the judiciary, case studies of **trustworthy artificial intelligence** and best practices of **cyber incident management**.

We will strive to improve and optimise current instruments for **more resilient and efficient justice systems** and intensify **cooperation** and support **better legislation at EU level**.

We commit to keep supporting the work of the United Nations on prevention and punishment of **crimes against humanity**. The international law needs to be filled by a universal, victim oriented, child sensitive, legally binding instrument based on the Draft articles on Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Humanity adopted by the International Law Commission. We will work together on the elimination of this lacuna and make sure that the rights of the most vulnerable, namely children, would be observed. We welcome the elaboration of the Convention on International Cooperation in the Investigation and Prosecution of the Crime of Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes and Other International Crimes (Ljubljana-The Hague Convention).

Police and Border Cooperation

Germany and Poland, as neighbours and as Member States of the European Union, share many tasks and opportunities in the field of home affairs. We wish to keep combining our efforts when it comes to challenges such as the war in Ukraine and its repercussions on our countries and on Europe as a whole. The same applies to other challenges such as reducing irregular migration in line with our international obligations, organised crime and natural disasters. At the same time, we want to make greater use of the potential arising from the fact that we have common borders and from our existing regional and civil society connections.

We are committed to shaping interior policies, also at the European level, to the benefit of our citizens and to making an important contribution to freedom and security in Europe. We will strive to ensure the smooth functioning of the **Schengen area** without border controls at the internal borders by enhanced cross-border police cooperation, by using available compensatory measures to their full extent.

The Polish and German **law enforcement and border police** authorities are already working together closely. This applies in particular to our common border regions. We want to intensify our cooperation even further in order to keep fighting negative impacts on public security in an effective manner. This especially impacts cross-border crime and irregular migration and illegal smuggling activities. Strengthening our cooperation includes, above all, the joint training of law enforcement and border police officers to prepare for joint operations, and the determination of a procedure for the cross-border use of police aircraft, as well as for joint search measures. Furthermore, we will look into how cooperation in the joint Polish and German border police offices can be stepped up even further. In addition, as long as the German border controls cannot yet be fully replaced by compensatory measures alone, we will also strive together to minimise impacts of these controls on traffic and the free movement of goods, services and persons and to further improve the safety of persons to be controlled and police officers.

The recently established joint Task Force to **Combat Illegal Smuggling Activities** and the joint patrols on Polish territory will also help us to reduce irregular migration within our legal international obligations and illegal immigrant smuggling even more effectively. Human trafficking is a cross-border crime, therefore extending mutual cooperation plays a key role in effectively combatting this phenomenon.

The impacts of climate change and the recent geopolitical changes show that especially in times like these, **civil protection** must be approached on a cross-border basis. As neighbouring countries, we will therefore step up our exchange and cooperation on protecting the population from natural and environmental disasters, but also from war-related threats.

We intend to benefit from arrangements provided by the existing agreement between the Republic of Poland and the Federal Republic of Germany on **mutual assistance in case of disasters and other major emergencies**, agreements between the Minister of the Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland and the Ministries of the Interior of Brandenburg, Saxony and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania on mutual assistance in case of disasters and other major emergencies, as well as from the cooperation within the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, to enable civil protection units to act even more effectively across our common borders in case of emergencies. We will also use these frameworks for capacity building, including through conducting training measures and exercises, as well as exchanging experience and expertise among operational personnel.

We believe that admitting and hosting **displaced persons from Ukraine** is a task to be taken on by all EU Member States in a spirit of solidarity. We are therefore making

efforts to promote this approach at EU level, as well as the need to more effectively support those Member States that receive the largest numbers of displaced persons from Ukraine, including by ensuring adequate financing.

Sports and Tourism

Both sides appreciate the cooperation in supporting the organisation of major **sporting events**. The involvement of Polish police officers in securing public order during EURO 2024 is the best example. The people of our two countries are united by their enthusiasm for sport. We will therefore work together more closely in the field of sport, involving the sports movement and other relevant stakeholders. It is particularly important to us to boost the integrity of sport and to promote personal encounters among active athletes.

We will hold regular contacts and bilateral cooperation in the field of the **tourism** industry.

Enhanced Cooperation on Countering Disinformation

Poland and Germany aim to strengthen cooperation between civil society organisations. The parties intend to support inter-institutional exchange, including exchange and joint training between academic centres. We will work towards better understanding the threat and building societal resilience to disinformation (for example through exchanges between RODM Regionalne Ośrodki Debaty Międzynarodowej and the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education) and Landeszentralen für politische Bildung (Regional Centres for Civic Education)).

Science

We want to intensify our strategic dialogue and provide a strong foundation for science, research and innovation through joint investment in order to secure prosperity, competitive strength and the technological sovereignty of Poland, Germany and Europe. We will provide active support with available funding for cooperation between our higher education institutions and research organisations. To this end, we will renew the 2018 Joint Declaration of Intent concerning bilateral and European cooperation in research and development.

DIOSCURI centres in Poland, jointly managed by the Polish National Science Centre and the Max Planck Society, set the benchmark for scientific excellence, promote brain circulation within Europe and develop the “European Research Area” further. We want these centres to become points of leverage to intensify European cooperation.

We acknowledge the major role played by the **German-Polish Science Foundation** as a beacon of bilateral cooperation, in particular in the humanities and social sciences.

It is to this end that we signed an amendment in 2023, with the major aim of enabling the provision of funding for special calls devoted to research on German-Polish

relations in the 20th and 21st centuries. A further, co-funded special call on the topic of “epochal change” (“Zeitenwende”) is planned. The topic of the call was proposed by the Scientific Council of the German-Polish Science Foundation. The research area focuses on Russia’s military attack on Ukraine since February 2022. This topic is not only relevant in the context of the geopolitical situation, particularly in Europe, which has undergone significant changes, but also considers long-term development trends that extend beyond the military sphere.

With regard to applied research, technology transfer and cooperation of science and industry (esp. SMEs), and based on the resources available to us, we intend to publish a further call to support artificial intelligence under the successful bilateral funding programme on the “Digitisation of the Economy” launched in 2018. Furthermore, we will review whether additional topics are suitable for joint calls.

We expressly welcome the successful German-Polish cooperation under the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon Europe. We will work together within the EU bodies constructively and in a spirit of trust on the preparations for the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) and on the future ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27. Since 2004, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research has provided active support for the involvement of German-Polish consortia in the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation, for example through joint applications for funding under the Bridge2ERA funding measure.

We are pleased about the intensive collaboration between the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) and the Polish National Science Centre resulting from their participation in the multilateral European WEAVE initiative in the area of basic research. We welcome that the dialogue between funding agencies and research institutions in Poland and Germany also occurs in the course of regular Polish-German Science Meetings. The Science Meetings are organised jointly by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, the National Science Centre and the Foundation for Polish Science, and are taking place for the fourth time in 2024.

We encourage our **higher education institutions and non-university research institutions** to deepen their cooperation at bilateral and European level. More than 1,400 collaborations in higher education are evidence of the vitality of relations. Germany is actively engaged in the events hosted by the 2024 European City of Science Katowice. Further, we acknowledge the important role of the European University Viadrina as an example in bilateral academic cooperation and especially the Collegium Polonicum as a unique project of the European University Viadrina and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The European University Viadrina and the Willy Brandt Centre of German and European Studies at the University of Wrocław are part of the Network of Interdisciplinary Ukraine Studies in Frankfurt/Oder – one out of two DAAD projects to support the internationalisation of the Ukrainian academic sector.

We will support the further development of **large European and international research infrastructures** to ensure that Europe continues to be a leader in science and innovation and remains internationally competitive. We advocate that research

infrastructures such as the Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research in Europe (FAIR) and the European X-Ray Free-Electron Laser (XFEL) continue to offer optimal conditions for excellent research. We point especially to FAIR in Darmstadt as a future European beacon. We underline the significance of additional commitments for the realisation of the outstanding international research infrastructure FAIR.

We emphasise the importance of **scientific freedom** to ensure a thriving, resilient and open science system, and we jointly campaign for the freedom of science, using the “Science Year 2024 – Freedom” in Germany and the Polish EU Council Presidency in the first half of 2025, during which a conference on the topic “research, development and freedom” is planned.

With regard to science and research in Ukraine, we will examine closely how we can jointly do our part to help establish a modern, sustainable research infrastructure in Ukraine. We see this as our shared responsibility. Moreover, the current wave of political crises demands that we examine how civil and military research can be used together in a responsible way.

Health

We will improve our cooperation in the field of healthcare by exchanging experience on the development and implementation of **national digital health strategies/roadmaps**. We will cooperate in the context of cross-border digital healthcare services such as the exchange of e-prescription data and patient summaries via National Contact Points for eHealth (MyHealth@EU). We intend to strengthen our capacities to share and process health data in the context of the creation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS). We will exchange experience related to the organisation of the healthcare system in the field of outpatient and inpatient healthcare and current reforms. We want to exchange information on the legislative work in the field of in vitro. We will exchange information on the EU pharma package, especially on incentive structures for new medicinal products, including innovative antimicrobial products, on the scope of exemptions/rules for pharmacy preparations and Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMP) and other regulatory aspects (authorisation procedures, etc.).

Gender Equality; Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence

We commit to review and advance all aspects linked to bilateral relations and exchange views and best practices on issues of common interest for the elimination of all forms of gender-based **violence** as stipulated in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, signed in Istanbul in 2011. We seek to promote cooperation by focusing on **LGBTIQ+ equality** through exchanging views, information and best practices, including our respective civil societies and taking into account the European Commission’s LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025. We want to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding on

gender equality. A professional and high-level ministerial exchange (German-Polish Day) should take place at least once a year.

SECURITY AND DEFENCE, SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Maintaining the Rules-Based Order

The multilateral rules-based order has been under challenge in recent years. The Russian aggression against Ukraine has violated universal and fundamental principles of international law. The repercussions of the conflict resonate globally.

Poland and Germany share the commitment to **multilateralism with the UN at its core**. We are determined to defend the UN Charter, which is the cornerstone of international law, with its principle of sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity, political independence and the right to self-determination of peoples. We strongly emphasise that the UN Charter and other existing international law apply in cyber-space.

We call for the reinforcement of multilateral cooperation in the spirit of solidarity within the three UN pillars – **peace and security, sustainable development and human rights** – , which are equally important, interrelated and interdependent. The promotion of democracy will continue to be one of our priorities.

We believe that the three principal organs of the UN – the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council – need to be reformed and revitalised.

We support the “Summit of the Future” as an opportunity to strengthen the United Nations and the multilateral system and also as an incentive for the 2030 Agenda.

We contribute actively to the international efforts to maintain **international peace and security**, taking into account the prevailing security environment and the security of all allies and complementing the alliance’s deterrence and defence posture. We support UN Peacekeeping as a means to contribute to peace and stability. We commit to defending and strengthening the global non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control architecture, which has been constantly undermined by Russia. Seizing the benefits of Poland’s recent election to the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, we intend to work closely together to uphold and defend the global ban on chemical weapons, in particular in the context of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine.

Our countries advocate **strengthening international law**, including international humanitarian law. We will continue to promote and defend the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights. We will support the efforts to ensure independence, transparency, efficiency and sustainable financing of the human rights pillar of the UN, as the protection and promotion of human rights is a condition for stable, peaceful and prosperous societies.

Security and Defence

We are strongly committed to the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** and close transatlantic relations. We will consult on specific issues regarding cooperation within NATO, with a particular focus on the ongoing adaptation of NATO's deterrence and defence posture, NATO's support to and cooperation with Ukraine, NATO's response to the threat from Russia and NATO-EU cooperation.

With Russia and its allies as the greatest threat to peace, freedom, democracy and security in Europe, the EU needs to increase its ability to act autonomously when necessary and with partners whenever possible. Such an EU will be capable of fairer transatlantic burden-sharing, in coordination with NATO, which remains a backbone for European security.

We remain strongly committed to deepening the cooperation between our countries within the **CSDP**. Through the continued implementation of the Strategic Compass, we will strive to improve the effectiveness of the CSDP and contribute to strengthening the role of the EU as a security provider. Together, we will improve the civilian and military capability development, enhance EU resilience and increase the European contribution to the security of the Euro-Atlantic zone, including through increasing interoperability and investments in research and innovative defence technologies. We remain determined to reinvigorate EU-NATO cooperation, bolster military mobility and achieve the full operational capability of the Rapid Deployment Capacity by 2025. We will maintain regular consultations on policy and security issues.

We will strengthen interoperability and standardisation of our defence capabilities and boost production capacities and foster investments of our **defence industries**. We need to address relevant capability shortfalls and support the competitiveness of our defence industries. To this end, we will increase bilateral cooperation. At EU level, we will advocate for more coordination and standardisation according to NATO standards. We will seek cooperation in key domains, including by increased collaboration in research and development programmes.

Taking into account the rapidly evolving **cybersecurity** landscape, including the high level of sophistication in cyber threats, we consider international cooperation in the cybersecurity domain as being of prime importance. We intend to hold a regular cyber dialogue to expand and deepen cooperation in various aspects of cybersecurity, digital diplomacy and new technologies.

Military Cooperation

Over the past years, German-Polish military cooperation has brought tangible results contributing to our nations' security by visibly strengthening ties between the armed forces of our countries. We share a common vision on the strategic importance of our relations and are determined to boost the dynamics of our cooperation as well as to implement common defence and military projects meeting our level of ambition and capabilities. Such an approach could enable us to make an influential contribution to

European security and therewith to the transatlantic community. Given the current circumstances and confronted with the fundamental change to Euro-Atlantic security, one of the key areas of our cooperation will be providing continuous support for Ukraine.

In order to gain satisfactory results and necessary coordination of our overall efforts, we aim at upholding a regular Polish-German political and politico-military dialogue complemented by the Weimar Triangle format and correlated with NATO and EU high-level meetings.

We will strive for closer cooperation in the following areas:

Bilateral military cooperation: building on the achievements of previous years of bilateral cooperation, including not only legal agreements and common projects put into practice, but also taking into account the recent dynamic changes in the security environment, it is necessary to analyse the relevance of previously undertaken activities in the new political conditions, current priorities in the development and modernisation of the armed forces and the principle of maximising the end result of all activities. The message for the continuation or opening of new areas will be the mutual complementation of combat capabilities by the branches of the armed forces as well as the importance of the assumed results of joint operations for the comprehensive strengthening of the Alliance's Eastern flank. Such close cooperation of German and Polish combat units may also provide a platform for enhancing interoperability between our respective formations and – in a broader sense – our armed forces.

The newly identified and assessed areas of cooperation will be specified during working meetings. The scope of cooperation will involve:

- enhancing cooperation within the Polish-German Military Engineers Cooperation Group established under the Army Cooperation Group;
- developing cooperation between Territorial Defence Forces (TDF) Brigades and Regional Commands;
- deepening bilateral cooperation related to hybrid threats, including strategic communications, protection of critical infrastructure and technology;
- extending mutual cooperation in the cyber domain;
- intensifying cooperation of the Polish and German Navies in the Baltic Sea Region through COMSUBBALTIC – a bilateral cell of SUBOPAETH (Submarine Operating Authority);
- establishing mutual cooperation and integration of Polish and German Maritime Forces Staffs (POL and DEU MARFORs) within the Baltic Sea Region (BaSR) Commander Task Force BALTIC.

We will deepen the cooperation of the services by participation in **bilateral and allied military exercises** (including exercises in the framework of the Weimar Triangle); intensification of cooperation in the field of military exercises through participation in the force generation conferences to multinational exercises; cooperation as F-35 user

nations; enhancement of the situational awareness of military commanders through participation in strategic-to-operational-level Table Top Exercises.

Military cooperation/Allied context: Poland and Germany will consult on further strengthening NATO's deterrence and defence, including NATO's presence in the Eastern flank, the executability of NATO's Concept for Deterrence and Defence of the Euro-Atlantic Area (DDA family of plans), as well as NATO Command and Control (C2) architecture, as both states agree that the Russian Federation is the most significant and direct threat to Allies' security and to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

Poland and Germany will continue cooperation to further enhance allied C2 in the Baltic Sea Region, particularly in the land and maritime domains. There are two priorities in our endeavours in this matter. As a first step, we will consult on further development of the Multinational Corps North-East (MNCNE) in Szczecin.

- As we mark the 25th anniversary of its establishment, both our countries will strive to further strengthen the MNC NE ability to guarantee allied security in the Baltic region, including to contribute to allied deterrence and defence activities.
- Poland and Germany will also consult and cooperate on the optimal solution to establish the NATO regional maritime command for the Baltic Sea Region.

Poland and Germany will cooperate on and contribute to strengthening the transatlantic bond within NATO. We will strive to ensure transatlantic political unity, as well as optimal military presence of the North American Allies in Europe, including in the Eastern flank. Moreover, we should continue to cooperate to enhance Allied ability to effectively enable North American reinforcement for Europe.

Military Mobility and sustainment of forces. Poland and Germany will closely work on reduction of obstacles in cross bordering, also by using initiatives aimed at logistic support enhancement. The Military Mobility initiative (NLD-DEU-POL Military Mobility Corridor) signed by Ministers of Defence on 30 January 2024 should be used as a guiding example for other topics.

Central European Pipeline System (CEPS). Poland and Germany should discuss proposals for enhancing the NATO fuel supply chain and try to define conditions for CEPS extension to effectively secure the Eastern flank of SACEUR Area of Responsibility (AORs) in this regard. Primary focus should be an integrated NATO approach. Other modalities should also be taken into consideration.

We should harmonise our effort aimed at having **a stronger and more capable European pillar** in NATO significantly contributing to NATO's deterrence and defence posture.

We should seek opportunities to use Permanent Structured Cooperation (**PESCO**) projects for enhancing defence cooperation based on military needs and strategic necessity in the course of the next round of PESCO project proposals. Initiatives such as the Cyber and Information Domain Coordination Centre (CIDCC) and NetLogHubs are examples of such opportunities.

Poland and Germany in close cooperation with other Framework Nations of **Eurocorps** will continue their effort to develop Eurocorps in the context of a dual function for both the EU and NATO.

Armaments: Poland and Germany will exchange information and discuss how to effectively use the existing potential of military technical and industrial cooperation to increase defence capabilities of both armed forces and further enhance interoperability. Topics will include multiple domains and combat platforms, in particular tanks, ammunition and spare parts, air defence as well as many others.

We intend to investigate and develop joint initiatives, especially in tanks and ammunition domains; analyse possibilities concerning increasing an availability of spare parts for Leopard tanks and modernisation of the Leopard 2A4 tanks to the 2PLM1 version, including engagement of both industries. We will maintain the complementary repair and maintenance installations of the Leopard 2 tanks and will aim to improve the coordination of spare parts. We will continue deepening our cooperation at the governmental level in the process of providing military support to Ukraine, among others, exchanging experience of technical support of repairs of Leopard 2 tanks delivered to Ukraine. Germany and Poland will also strive to optimise repair and maintenance of Leopard 2 tanks in the context of Ukrainian needs resulting from Russia's illegal war of aggression.

We will develop the cooperation in the area of submarines and sea mines in a broader multinational approach. Cooperation in both areas is intended to include armaments cooperation, such as procurement of the relevant capabilities as well as doctrine and training aspects and long-term continuous capability sustainment (e.g. logistics and maintenance).

European Air Defence: The aim is to establish comprehensive air defence capabilities in Europe in order to strengthen NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defence (IAMD), including but not limited to ground-based systems. The Polish and German Governments strongly support initiatives aiming at creating robust IAMD capabilities in Europe. Therefore, Poland is considering becoming a participant in the European Sky Shield Initiative – coordinated by Germany. Poland agrees with the German intention to accelerate the build-up of interoperable ground-based air defence capabilities in Europe and to exploit synergies through joint exercises, logistics, sustainment and operations, and interoperability, also keeping this in mind for potential future procurements. Also, appropriate discussions on mutually beneficial industrial cooperation in common purchase or development of required IAMD capabilities should be pursued further.

Poland and Germany will work together to increase practical military support for **Ukraine**. In particular, both countries will engage in the establishment of the NATO-Ukraine Joint Analysis Training and Education Centre (JATEC) in Bydgoszcz, according to the decision made by NUC Defence Ministers in February 2024 as well as subsequent decisions. Both Poland and Germany will aim to create a robust and

effective centre. Poland welcomes the German declaration to provide a personnel contribution to JATEC.

Both countries will cooperate within the framework of the capability coalitions that support Ukraine.

We will cooperate to ensure the new role of NATO in coordinating support for Ukraine as well as the related EU toolbox (Ukrainian Assistance Fund/UAF, EU Military Assistance Mission/EUMAM, joint procurement initiatives) are effective.

Finally, we are convinced of the benefit of continuing to closely coordinate our military support for Ukraine nationally and within established international fora, such as the Ukraine Defence Contact Group (UDCG) and the framework of EU instruments. We will seek cooperation wherever it makes sense. This will apply across the entire spectrum of our support, including the delivery of equipment, training and maintenance.

Russia's Aggression against Ukraine

Russia's unprovoked, illegal war of aggression against Ukraine and the threat it constitutes for the security of the Euro-Atlantic zone is one of the biggest tests of our generation. Therefore, we must prevent a failure in our response as it would go far beyond Ukraine. To counter this, we will enhance our cooperation on the options and scope of our response to the challenges stemming from Russia's aggression against Ukraine, both bilaterally and within the framework of the EU and NATO.

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally transformed our relations with Moscow. **Russia is the most direct threat to Euro-Atlantic security.** On its current trajectory, Russia is set on confrontation for a long term, challenging and changing the international security order. Together with our allies, we will continue to adapt our posture in response to Russia's threats and hostile actions and continue to consult on and assess the long-term implications of Russia's policies and actions for our security.

We will remain committed to maintain and rigorously implement and enforce **sanctions** on Russia and to jointly prepare proposals for new restrictive measures where appropriate as long as Russia does not cease its aggression against Ukraine.

Based on regular exchange and combined efforts, including among our customs authorities, we will continue to counter, in close cooperation with third countries, any efforts aimed at evading or circumventing our sanctions and export control measures.

We are determined to use the **extraordinary revenues stemming from immobilised Russian sovereign assets** to continue to support Ukraine in all dimensions. We confirm that, consistent with all applicable laws and our respective legal systems, Russia's sovereign assets in our jurisdictions will remain immobilised until Russia ends its aggression and pays for the damage it has caused to Ukraine.

In view of Russia's efforts to wreck the Ukrainian economy and its persistent disregard for its international legal obligations, our resolve is unwavering to ensure **full accountability**. We reaffirm that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine constitutes a manifest violation of the Charter of the United Nations. Russia and its leadership must be held fully accountable for waging a war of aggression against Ukraine and other most serious crimes under international law. We reiterate our commitment to establishing a tribunal for the prosecution of the crime of aggression against Ukraine that would enjoy the broadest cross-regional support and legitimacy. We **support Ukraine in obtaining reparation** for damage, loss or injury caused by internationally wrongful acts of the Russian Federation in and against Ukraine.

We will aim at developing and coordinating our approaches to **support Russian pro-democratic and anti-war diaspora, human rights defenders, and independent journalists**. Measures to be implemented will address a diverse set of actors, taking into account Russian society's diversity. This will also include coordination on developing joint proposals for restrictive measures against those responsible for serious human rights violations or abuses, repression of civil society and democratic opposition, and undermining democracy and the rule of law in Russia.

Together we will act to strengthen our resilience against and counter Russian disinformation and foreign interference, including in the Weimar Triangle. Russia's **hybrid campaigns and threats** are characterised by deniability, flexibility and adaptability. **Sabotage, acts of violence, cyber and electronic interference**, disinformation, information manipulation, as well as attacks against critical infrastructure, are particularly important components of Russia's broader hybrid campaign against NATO, the EU and its Member States. This strategy is continuously developed and tested. The rapidly evolving hybrid threat landscape requires increasing situational awareness and exchange of information, the further strengthening of EU-NATO cooperation and the bolstering of national capabilities to recognise, counter and attribute hybrid threats, if possible, in a joint effort. We aim to deepen Polish-German cooperation in all areas relevant to countering hybrid threats, including strategic communications, protection of critical infrastructure and risks and opportunities in connection to new/emerging technologies.

Supporting Ukraine

Alleviating the devastating consequences of the Russian aggression on Ukraine remains high on our agenda. We will consult and jointly participate in projects to **support Ukraine, its economic recovery and its integration into the EU**. We will work with the Multi-agency Donor Coordination Platform for Ukraine and our European partners to address Ukraine's needs.

We will further explore potential cooperation through an international Ukraine Recovery Support Centre in Lublin. We will collaborate in the Coalition of Sustainable Municipalities launched at URC2024. Further, we will continue to look for support for

local partnerships between German, Polish and Ukrainian communities for a sustainable reconstruction of Ukraine. Considering the importance of human capital in this process and to ensure that Ukraine's economy is back on the growth path, our countries will particularly engage in the field of **vocational education and skills development** (VET) to ensure Ukraine has the skilled workforce to rebuild the country. We will work together through the Skills Alliance at the Ukraine Recovery Conference. to bridge vocational education and the labour market and jointly implement the Skills4Recovery project in cooperation with European partners (EU, Finland and Estonia) in Team Europe spirit.

We will encourage our respective institutions working with Ukraine to closely coordinate their activities and to actively seek opportunities for joint projects providing added value to Ukraine. Possible examples are further joint applications to calls for proposals by the European Commission for twinning projects; joint support of the Eastern Partnership Public Administration Academy; joint cooperation with Ukraine in the field of air traffic control.

We will also look at cooperation related to the implementation of Pillar II of the Ukraine Facility by the European Union. We welcome that our respective national development banks Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) are exploring options for a coordinated approach of their activities.

We will jointly provide **capacity-building support for urban and regional development** in Ukraine (such as the New Leipzig Charter as a basis for planning and urban management processes, National Urban Policy, programming of funding), closely aligned with the implementation of the EU's Ukraine Facility instrument.

Our institutions responsible for **conformity assessment and technical safety** will consult to support Ukraine in the implementation of European regulations regarding conformity assessment and CE marking in the area of directives and EU regulations.

We support Ukraine in **preserving cultural heritage**, ensuring the safety of cultural assets and creative communities, through assistance activities of various organisations, government agencies and civic initiatives. We will examine closely how we can jointly do our part to help establish a modern, sustainable research infrastructure in Ukraine.

We recall as stated in the NATO Vilnius Summit Communiqué that the NATO Alliance will support Ukraine in making necessary reforms on its path towards future membership.

Belarus

A focus of our activities will be on **countering the aggressive rhetoric** as well as disinformation by Belarusian authorities and supporting independent Belarusian media platforms in exile.

In particular, we will work on **enhancing sanction measures**, in line with the EU's gradual and targeted approach, both in terms of individual and sectoral sanctions. We will strive to prevent Belarus from acting as a facilitator of sanctions evasion by the Russian Federation.

Together with our allies, we will continue to monitor the politico-military integration of Belarus and Russia, and its implications for regional security.

A key issue will be the **support of Belarusian civil society**, including the Belarusian diaspora in Europe and representatives of the democratic forces. We are in favour of maintaining the EU's openness for people-to-people contacts and mobility for civil society exchanges. One of the main areas of interest, due to the internal repression forcing Belarusians to leave their country, continues to be the issuance of humanitarian visas for safety reasons.

We are ready to engage in a process of developing a **comprehensive EU strategy on Belarus**, including a roadmap for future democratic reforms in the country.

Western Balkans and Berlin Process

Poland and Germany actively support the EU missions EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina and EULEX Kosovo as well as the NATO mission KFOR in Kosovo. Both sides support the High Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina as the facilitator of the process of strengthening the unity and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina which is essential to upholding the Dayton Peace Agreement. Both partners will continue to jointly engage in fostering peace, stability and security in the Western Balkans and support their way into the EU including through the Berlin Process. Within this context, the German-Polish reconciliation experience should continue to play a constructive role as a best practice. We will closely liaise in the fifth anniversary of the Roma Ministerial, a format that was launched in Poznań in 2019 under the Polish chairmanship of the Berlin Process.

Eastern Partnership and Central Asia

Recognising the key role of the Eastern Partnership in building stabilisation and supporting reforms in Eastern Europe, we will strive to continue this policy, adapting it to the new geopolitical situation, including decisions of the EaP Summit in 2025.

Both sides agree on the important role of civil societies as key actors for democratic development in the Eastern Partnership countries. In order to support civil society to play this important role, both sides agree on promoting cooperation between civil society organisations of their countries, also towards the Eastern Partnership. We stand ready to contribute to achieving a peaceful resolution of the conflict between

Armenia and Azerbaijan. In parallel, we will continue to develop and deepen bilateral and EU cooperation with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

We will further develop and strengthen relations with the countries of **Central Asia** and promote cooperation in areas of common interest – such as connectivity, energy and security, including the prevention of sanctions circumvention. We will continue making Central Asian states offers of increased cooperation, including considering participation in Eastern Partnership formats on a case-by-case basis. To increase the resilience of Central Asian states, we will support the region's transition toward sustainable, socially resilient and climate-neutral growth.

STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN UNION

Given a continued tense geopolitical situation and with Russia and its allies as the greatest threat to peace, freedom, democracy and security in Europe, we will strive for a more geopolitical EU which bundles its strengths, enhances its inner cohesion and is both competitive and more capable of defending itself. The next institutional cycle must be used to strengthen the internal and external instruments of the EU, including in the security area, and reflect the Strategic Agenda 2024-2029.

Poland and Germany reaffirm their determination to promote an ambitious agenda for the EU. Furthermore, we aim to intensify regular consultations on EU policy.

Enlargement and Reforms

Enlargement is a geostrategic investment in peace, security, stability and prosperity and a merit-based process. We are committed to making the enlargement of the European Union a success and to helping candidate countries step up the necessary reforms. We will work together on further strengthening and accelerating the EU accession process of the countries willing to join the European Union.

Through our diplomatic academies we will share best practices and organise joint consultations and brain-storming sessions as well as study visits linked with skill-enhancing seminars and workshops. The option of an exchange of experts or joint actions will be further explored, also in the context of training and capacity-building programmes dedicated to the diplomats and civil servants from the EU candidate countries.

We are convinced that work on enlargement and internal reforms should advance in parallel to ensure that both future Member States and the EU are ready at the time of accession. Poland and Germany will work together on EU internal reforms, on the basis of the roadmap adopted by the European Council on 27-28 June 2024, to address the Union's values, policies, budget and governance, with the objective to prepare for enlargement, adapt to a new geopolitical environment and enhance the EU's capacity to act.

Our EU ministers will consult regularly on the issue of EU internal reforms, both bilaterally and with EU partners, including in the format of the Weimar Triangle. They will establish a **bilateral working group on EU reforms**, coordinated by the European Secretariat of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland and the German Federal Foreign Office.

We commend the achievements of **Ukraine** on its EU path, achieved in the extraordinary circumstances of the ongoing Russian war of aggression, and encourage Ukraine to continue its efforts. We welcome the formal opening of accession negotiations with Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova and will support the opening of

the fundamentals' negotiating clusters with both countries, without unnecessary delays.

The Republic of Moldova has become a target for Russian disinformation and destabilisation activities, targeted at derailing the country's progress on its European path and aiming at undermining trust in its democratically elected Government and institutions. Our common efforts aim at supporting the Republic of Moldova to strengthen its resilience, security and stability, inter alia by providing common expertise, technical support, assistance in digital transformation and transition towards renewable energy sources, policy planning and harmonising efforts in multilateral bodies, such as the EU, OSCE and other common efforts in the state institution-building process in the Justice and Home Affairs Council and the EU requirements implementation areas. We will conduct joint visits of German and Polish representatives of high and expert level to the Republic of Moldova to present political and technical support.

We will continue supporting reforms in **Georgia** on its path towards an EU future. In light of the worrying internal developments in Georgia and the shift of the Georgian authorities from the integration path, we will coordinate our activities in order to take the most appropriate actions.

To the same extent, we stay committed to the accession process of the **Western Balkans** and will continue to support all six countries to meet the necessary criteria to join the European Union.

Rule of Law

Enshrined in the Treaties, the rule of law is a cornerstone of the EU's legal order which is crucial for the principle of mutual trust between Member States and instrumental for the functioning of the EU. Thus, strengthening the rule of law is a precondition for making the EU stronger as a whole. Poland and Germany will cooperate closely to protect the rule of law in the EU, especially in view of its enlargement to the new Member States. We will also strive to improve and optimise the EU's set of tools for the defence and protection of the rule of law in order to increase their effectiveness.

Competitiveness, Single Market and Implementation of Cohesion Policy and European Structural Funds

As the European Union is facing increased global competition and enormous geopolitical challenges, there is a key need for further European integration, a highly **effective, deepened Single Market** without barriers, notably in the services sector, and **strategic sovereignty** of the EU – in an open economy – as well as swift progress in the green and digital transformation. We advocate that the current EU Structural Funds guide the various regions in making their strategic investments to enable

citizens all over Europe to participate in sustainable economic growth. We underline the role of cohesion policy to further strengthen the Single Market by reducing imbalances between regions, fostering growth and promoting innovation.

Our cooperation will envisage inter alia the main fields of action addressed by the 9th Cohesion Report. It places the focus on the need for targeted place-based support for investments according to the specific regional needs, addressing regional disparities, coordination between EU policies, national and regional policies as well as improving administrative capacity.

We will cooperate on the strategic implementation of EU Structural Funds in the current funding period (2021-2027), policy objectives, best practices and lessons learned. We will exchange views and positions on the future of Cohesion Policy after 2027 with a focus on its role and impact, structural reforms and simplification. We will exchange on the potential role of Cohesion Policy addressing common challenges by focusing on competitiveness and transitions (e.g. innovation, digitalisation, climate and environment, demography and skilled labour, rural regions) with a focus on a place-based approach and enhancing cross-border cooperation.

We will exchange experiences in various fields of action, inter alia improved implementation of EU Structural Funds and lessons learnt from the Recovery and Resilience Facility with a view to drawing conclusions and recommendations for the future.

ECONOMICS AND TRANSPORT

Germany and Poland are direct European neighbours and close economic partners. Since 2020 Poland has ranked fifth among German trading partners, and Germany has been the first trade partner for Poland for years within the EU, which is reflected in solid and high investments and in the generation of jobs and innovations.

Together, we want to **boost sustainable competitiveness and growth** in our countries and the European Union, while upholding and implementing our ambition to make the EU the first climate-neutral continent in the world, thus increasing welfare and prosperity for their citizens while at the same time achieving an effective and socially responsible green transformation in line with 1.5° pathways and supporting the implementation of the GST outcomes from Dubai 2023. Currently, as EU partners, Poland and Germany are facing similar challenges due to the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the geopolitical situation as well as the dramatically increasing effects of climate change, highlighting the need to reduce dependencies in critical areas as well as structural weaknesses of our economies, particularly affecting energy security and global supply chains. Germany and Poland will actively cooperate to strengthen the EU's competitiveness, resilience and strategic sovereignty, in an open economy. We want to remain an industrial and technological powerhouse and be the world leader in the green and digital technologies of tomorrow.

We must put in place the right policies to spur **private investment and innovation** across the whole EU. This means advancing work to create truly integrated European capital markets and eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic burdens; developing our regulatory framework in a way that boosts economic momentum; and fostering the mobilisation of the necessary public and private investments. Europe will need a fresh economic dynamism in the coming five years and we should direct all our efforts and instruments towards unleashing it and achieving our goals. It also means strengthening the rule of law as a fundamental value of the EU as well as a basis for the Single Market.

We support an ambitious EU trade policy, based on openness and assertiveness. We need to strengthen the effectiveness of our **multilateral trading system** with the WTO at its core and also promote bilateral, plurilateral and regional trade agreements and other forms of tailored partnerships as a means of diversification, de-risking and geopolitical alliance-building, notably with countries in the Indo-Pacific and Latin America. The EU's trade policy should promote diversification, resilience, reindustrialisation, social standards and sustainability. We need to modernise the EU's approach on trade agreements, in light of the geostrategic need for securing our supply chains and by focusing on thematic areas of mutual interest with partners across the globe. In order to ensure a global level playing field, trade defence instruments should be used consistently, where necessary, to effectively encounter unfair or abusive trade practices.

Economy, Industry, Green and Digital Transition and Innovation

We will coordinate and foster favourable conditions for mutual economic and business development. We will hold annual meetings in the format of a German-Polish economic forum and the Weimar Triangle starting in 2024.

We will exchange and cooperate in the area of **innovation and artificial intelligence**, as well as internationalisation and support for start-ups by using and, where appropriate, expanding the existing cooperation structures within the Polish-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, as well as other cooperation platforms. We will deepen and further develop the innovation cooperation on jointly funded R&D projects from all technology and application areas (Germany: BMWK / ZIM, BGR; Poland: NCBR / INNOGLOBO, GIG).

We will consult and cooperate on **future-related topics**, such as green transition of industry, critical raw materials, semi-conductors, digitalisation, Industry 4.0, start-ups and their internationalisation and on increasing the degree of reuse of raw materials (circular economy).

In order to promote the creation of affordable housing, we will aspire to an exchange of experiences as well as a possible collaboration on serial, modular and systemic construction, especially on measures to support this construction method (e.g. reducing construction costs, building with wood).

We will exchange on best practices and possible future strategies, i.e. on a **socially just transformation of coal mining regions**, including on-site visits in Germany and Poland. This will be executed inter alia through “Twinning Programmes” and institutional exchange between public experts focusing on best practices with an increasing awareness of the consequences of transformation (for local authorities, the business environment and SMEs and schools).

We will actively develop our established cooperation in the **space utilisation sector**, with the participation of the Polish Space Agency (POLSA) and the German agency Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR, German Aerospace Center), as well as other European institutions implementing European Space Agency projects.

We will consult on the **future and priorities of the European Union in this policy area**, e.g. expectations for the new European legislative period, particularly in the areas of industrial policy, such as a new European Maritime Industry Strategy.

Transport and Infrastructure

We will consult and cooperate on the **modernisation of existing railway lines** and on possible future infrastructure projects linking Poland and Germany to accommodate the developing rail passenger and freight traffic. We will consider security issues and aspects of military mobility in the development of the railway infrastructure between Poland and Germany.

We will closely coordinate to link up the rail **integrated regular interval timetables**/target timetables Deutschlandtakt and Horyzontalny Rozkład Jazdy, including analysis of the travel time between Polish and German cities and examination of the demand to speed up different cross-border railway connections.

We will cooperate on the implementation of the **Polish-German Friendship Ticket**.

We will exchange experience concerning implementation of EU legislation in the field of **decarbonisation of transport** (fuels, cross-border planning and construction of charging and hydrogen filling stations, setting up charging infrastructure for HDV).

In the field of **inland navigation**, we will continue the dialogue and cooperation on the implementation of the Polish-German agreement on the Oder/Odra waterway from 2015 and issues related to navigation safety.

We will cooperate in the field of **border bridge maintenance**. We will intensify the exchange of innovation and knowledge in the areas of road construction, road traffic technology and road safety.

We will work on the development of the **dual-use infrastructure capacity** to enhance European resilience and support Ukraine more efficiently (funding opportunities at EU level, implementation of cross-border projects, exchange of experience).

We will consult on the future **priorities of the European Union** and on specific EU dossiers in the field of transport, also with a view to the Polish Council Presidency in 2025.

Digitalisation

We will foster cooperation in the programming of the new institutional cycle in the EU/Polish Presidency. We will search for thematic areas of mutual interest during the new cycle and the Polish Presidency. In particular, we aim to focus on digital wallets, the international governance on AI, as well as the implementation of the Digital Services Act regarding disinformation. We will discuss the launch of the “Digital Weimar Triangle” to develop common stances to be presented to the European Commission and other Member States. We will exchange knowledge and experiences on the implementation of EU digital laws.

We will work together to promote the common form for posted workers declarations (eDeclaration) and to establish a multilingual EU portal to allow companies to submit posting declarations digitally in their own language.

Financial Cooperation

We will initiate a dialogue between tax experts on a wide range of **tax policy** issues with a view to promoting investment and the business environment.

We will extend our cooperation in the Weimar Triangle format in the field of **anti-money laundering** and **countering terrorist financing**.

Our **customs** administrations will work in the EU Port Alliance Project Group aimed at coordinating the activities of customs administrations regarding the fight against drugs and organised crime. This includes the establishment of a new team of experts, EU Customs Alliance for Borders (EUCAB), from 1 January, 2025, the primary goal of which will be to strengthen operational cooperation through better coordination, effective exchange of information and combining human resources of EU customs administrations.

We will share best practices for fostering a thriving Fintech ecosystem and effective stakeholder management by initiating a Fintech experts dialogue between the finance ministries.

Urban Development

We will extend the cooperation on the implementation of **national urban policies (NUP)** and exchange resulting good practices on the sustainable development of functional areas. We will strive for close exchange of positions on NUP and related topics in light of the upcoming **Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU** and the next EU financial perspective after 2027, especially with regard to the **cohesion policy**.

We will continue to work together as part of the EU city mission “**100 Climate Neutral and Intelligent Cities**” and exchange experiences on best practice and accompanying national processes as well as on urban climate protection in the context of integrated urban development.

We will continue and possibly expand our cooperation on **Culture/Cultural Heritage** within the framework of the thematic partnership of the Urban Agenda for the EU with various cities and partners, including the city of Katowice and the Silesian Voivodeship, as well as within this framework on Dissonant Heritage with various partners, including the cities of Gdańsk and Kraków and the Poznań University of Technology.

Development Policy and Cooperation

We will support European and international efforts aiming at mainstreaming the **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus**, building more resilient societies and addressing drivers of fragility. We will explore options for joint Team Europe visits with EU representatives to promote the **Global Gateway** initiative in partner countries and to showcase Team Europe in action. We will also explore organising joint Team Europe trips with representatives of the French Government in the framework of the Weimar Triangle. We will support enhanced cooperation of our **development banks** BGK (Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego) and KfW Entwicklungsbank (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau), aiming at strengthening the mutual exchange of information and

knowledge transfer and identifying possible projects to be financed jointly as well as further enhancing the cooperation at EU level as part of the JEFIC Network (Joint European Financiers for International Cooperation) also to enable joint use of EU development cooperation instruments.

Social Dimension

We share a commitment to social cohesion, social inclusion, quality jobs and fair working conditions and a just green and digital transition. Social upward convergence and the competitiveness of the EU economies go hand in hand. We will commit to further **strengthening the social dimension of the European Union** and to implementing the Action Plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights as agreed at the Porto Social Summit on 8 May 2021.

With the shared goal of pursuing a socially inclusive economic development, we intend to foster our bilateral exchange and cooperation on full social inclusion and participation of people with disabilities. This will involve an exchange of experience and good practices on inclusion policies, including the pending introduction of a statutory personal assistance system in Poland. Against the background of the EU Directive on improving working conditions in platform work, we intend to foster our bilateral exchange on implementing the Directive in national law.

In the light of the ongoing green and digital transition, we intend to promote exchange of information on **vocational education and training systems** including tailor-made counselling on skills, skills acquisition and training (especially training of workers in the context of their transition from declining professions to those requiring a different range of skills).

We intend to share best practices regarding the support for the labour market of regions particularly affected by the costs of energy transition. The transition must be accompanied by the retention and creation of quality jobs. This can be achieved in the best way by involving social partners and strengthening collective bargaining. With the aim of promoting and strengthening respect for workers' rights, we will work on possible joint activities both on a bilateral as well as on a European level.

We acknowledge that social inclusion is fundamental for resilient economies and societies. We will therefore contribute at national and European level to strengthen participation and inclusiveness, ensuring that no one is left behind.

ENERGY, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Climate change requires sustainable and accelerated restructuring of our energy supply and our economies and industries. Moreover, the technological transformation will have a profound impact on companies' business models and our societies as a whole. It is important to steer this change in such a way that the associated socio-ecological opportunities are widely realised. Joint cooperation and mutual learning from best practices between our countries will contribute to successfully meeting these challenges.

To facilitate the exchange between both Governments in the area of energy and climate, we will establish a **German-Polish Energy and Climate Working Group**. The Group will meet regularly and will consist of representatives at the expert level from ministries affected by the topics to be discussed. Furthermore, both Governments agree to promote the scope of activities of the **German-Polish Energy Platform**, including its high-level bilateral German-Polish Energy Transition Forum.

We will continue cooperation within the Polish-German Energy Platform, with an aim to strengthen our energy supply, to advance the transition of our energy systems and to secure affordable and competitive energy prices, in particular through projects in energy efficiency, renewables, hydrogen, infrastructure, and the energy market.

Energy

We will regularly exchange on our policies aiming at accelerating deployment of **renewable energy sources**, especially offshore and onshore wind and PV. We want to improve energy efficiency and facilitate decarbonisation of the heating sector, especially district heating. We will exchange best practices concerning policies and measures increasing the rate of home insulation.

We will discuss the deployment of the **hydrogen economy**, including decarbonisation of industry and implementation of the 2030 RFNBO (renewable fuels of non-biological origin) targets. We will exchange technological and legislative experience in the development of the hydrogen economy in Europe. We will discuss joint infrastructure projects, such as the construction of the Nordic-Baltic Hydrogen Corridor, and implement other cross-border projects. We will exchange on retrofitting gas storage facilities to H₂ storage facilities, development of new H₂ storage facilities and necessary volumes up to 2035.

Concerning the development of **cross-border infrastructure**, we will assess the potential of how to best develop cross-border alternative fuels infrastructure, discuss the development of cross-border electricity exchange as well as best practices to rapidly upgrade our electricity grids, and exchange on the development of transboundary hydrogen pipelines.

We will exchange best practices in the area of **energy storage** and flexibility, specifically on the introduction of subsidy schemes for the installation of energy storage

facilities and other incentives; on the development of new battery technologies, in particular to make production less dependent on the supply of imported raw materials from outside the EU or the recycling of waste batteries; on the accelerated deployment of smart meters; on scaling up the provision of flexibility services by individual and commercial prosumers, e.g. smart charging; on increasing climate-friendly flexible generation capacity.

We will deepen our cooperation on **energy security issues**, in particular affordable and secure oil and gas supply, against the background of Russia's war of aggression and Russia's weaponisation of energy, including continuing and intensifying our efforts to diversify our energy supplies and **working towards effectively reducing Russia's revenues from energy exports**.

We will encourage German and Polish cooperation of companies in the field of **crude oil infrastructure and stability of fuel supply** from Germany to Poland. We will coordinate securing oil supplies to the PCK Schwedt refinery, needs and status of oil supplies to the PCK Schwedt refinery via the Polish Naftoport and the ownership status thereof. In case of a disruption of transit flows through Russia, Poland and Germany will act in close cooperation to maintain stable oil supplies to PCK Schwedt and security of supply of the region.

We will exchange best practices and discuss cooperation on the production and import of renewable hydrogen and green ammonia to meet the goals of Fit for 55 and the RED III Directive.

Climate Protection

We support the implementation of the **EU's climate neutrality target** for 2050 and will exchange best practices on the implementation of the Fit-For-55 package, including the emissions trading system, and on further development of EU climate and energy policy and of the EU Green Deal including reviewing the European Climate Law. We will consult in preparation of **Social Climate Plans**.

We will also collaborate closely in the EU procedures towards submitting the next **EU's NDC** for 2035 well ahead of COP 30.

Environment

We will cooperate on **cross-border nature conservation** and the Lower Odra Valley National Park in the framework of the Polish-German Programme Council on Protected Areas in the Lower Odra Valley. We will cooperate to expand monitoring of groundwater at the border, on the Odra ecosystem to expand joint restoration and protection, and on nature and biodiversity-based solutions against climate change.

We will establish a dialogue and cooperation platform in the field of illegal shipments of waste that would be a facility for a long-term and regular dialogue as well as for joint inspections by the relevant authorities in Poland and Germany. The dialogue will be

conducted with representatives at the expert level from ministries and other relevant authorities affected by the topics to be discussed.

We will cooperate on EIA/SEA in the Polish-German Working Group on transboundary environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments.

We will exchange our experience on the principles adopted to support the development of SAF on the government level.

We will promote youth exchange on the topic of the environment and establish a Polish-German Working Group for youth exchange on environmental culture.

Food and Agriculture

With regard to contemporary and future challenges to our European agriculture and alimentation, we will cooperate closely in the development of the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Both sides will work jointly on building up resilient and sustainable agri-food systems and on administrative simplifications for the farmers and the administration related to the CAP also in the framework of the Polish Council Presidency 2025.

We want to cooperate in organic farming and agroecology including investigating whether joint action planning and research would be possible in this area.

In the field of genetic resources, we will cooperate to **promote biodiversity** within national development strategies. We will exchange best practices on conservation and utilisation of genetic resources and develop value chains aligned with the Strategy for Genetic Resources for Europe. Our cooperation will facilitate access to genetic resources, share management experiences, conserve crop wild relatives (CWR), and engage in transboundary breeding programmes. Additionally, we will exchange knowledge on cooperation at European and global levels, including the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR). We will promote biodiversity and genetic resources within the framework of national development strategies.

FOLLOW UP

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs will monitor and support the implementation of the relevant provisions of this Action Plan in accordance with respective national legislations and the obligations arising from the common membership of the EU and from international law.

At intergovernmental consultations the implementation of the Action Plan will be regularly reviewed, in order to adapt it to new priorities and challenges.

State Secretaries will include in their regular consultations progress reviews of the implementation of the Action Plan in preparation of the bilateral Governmental Summits, also collecting relevant inputs arising from parliamentary dialogue and from the exchanges with representatives of Polish-German civil society, reflecting the richness of the different dimensions of the Polish-German partnership.