

LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND
DER BUNDESKANZLER

Berlin, Paris
October 2026

Dear Madam President,

The European Union is faced with unprecedented challenges: The open and rules-based trade system is massively affected by weaponization of trade, systemic market distorting-practices, and global macroeconomic imbalances. All this undermines the level playing field for our companies, our position as a sovereign key industrial producer and our ability to innovate, leading to increased dependencies and geoeconomic risks. For all these reasons, we need urgent action to address these threats, to diversify and to derisk.

We welcome your work for strengthening our resilience, our competitiveness, and our ambitious and balanced EU trade agenda. And we hail your commitment to make use of the full range of trade measures in our hands. From dialogue with our trading partners to a more systematic and swifter use of the trade defence toolbox.

But this does not suffice any more. In parallel, and without delaying the full use of the existing set of instruments, we need a comprehensive framework to complement our toolbox with new legal instruments – in a lean and non-bureaucratic way.

First, a new diversification instrument to reduce European dependencies, resolve existing supply chain concentration and prevent emerging concentration risks.

Second, an instrument which would give us the ability to counter cases where third countries deliberately seek to undermine the restoration of a level playing field and fair market conditions by political or economic means leading to severe and systematic distortions of our internal market. To fulfil this goal, we need a credible instrument in the hands of the Commission to allow for decisive and systemic reaction, i.e. activation by reversed qualified majority, and for powerful measures – up to an immediate cut-off from the internal market if needed. This instrument has to be country-agnostic.

H.E. Madam Ursula von der LEYEN
President of the European Commission

Other issues also need to be rapidly addressed:

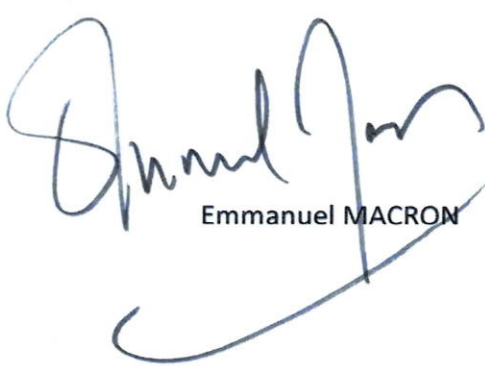
EU exporters continue to face significant non-tariff barriers. Meanwhile, the EU market remains widely open to products with record levels of non-compliance to EU regulations, including as regards consumer safety.

Misalignment and under-evaluation of real exchange rates also support price competitiveness advantage over our companies, on top of other factors, leading to growing imbalances with the EU.

Finally, ensuring the EU's resilience and competitiveness requires strengthening the European industrial base through industrial policy, simplification as well as public and private investment.

Following up on our discussions in the June European Council and on the Franco-German Council of Ministers of July we detailed our ideas in the enclosed Franco-German non-paper and look forward to advancing our discussion on these matters at the European Council in October.

Please accept, Madam President, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Brüderchen,

Emmanuel MACRON

Ich hoffe sehr!

Friedrich MERZ