



Beirat Junge Digitale Wirtschaft
beim Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie



Berlin/Paris, 04.12.18

Europe needs digital impulses from Germany and France!

A joint appeal by BJDW and C/Num for a third digital summit

Dear Minister Altmaier,

Dear Minister Le Maire,

Europe has recognised the importance of digitisation for its social, economic and political development. We are currently engaged in fierce competition as regards digital technologies, digital platforms and digital sovereignty with international players like Google, Alibaba, Facebook & co. The associated data is not bound by national borders, and we are immersed in a completely new world of electronic added-value, electronic information and communication networks and the interpretation of economic and social participation. However, this data is not a raw material in the classical sense, which is mined and consumed as a resource. The production and the stock of data increases every day! This puts the use of data for people, businesses and states at the centre of the future of a common digital Europe.

The related questions are obvious: how will we be able to use the data in and from Europe to develop our own digital technologies and innovations in, for instance, the fields of artificial intelligence, blockchain and Big Data? How will we develop our own digital platforms for start-ups and industry around this data to also become digital world market leaders? How will we build a common digital infrastructure for transporting data? How will we jointly become a leading region for digital future topics in fields such as eHealth, digital ecology and Energy 4.0? It is clear to us that only a common digital Europe can create the necessary framework conditions for this. The individual member states are too small for this, and there can, therefore, be no North or South and no East or West on a digital map, but only a common digital Europe! It follows that the Digital Single Market is not an option, but a must-have for all of us. Perhaps digitisation is also one of the strongest arguments for reviving the European idea.

Yet, this digital single market is dynamic and therefore constantly needs new impulses! The German Advisory Council for the Young Digital Economy (BJDW) in the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the French Digital Council (C/Num) are jointly convinced that these impulses for a digital Europe must arise from a joint alliance, in

particular one originating within Germany and France. 55 years after the signing of the Franco-German friendship treaty in the Elysée Palace by Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer, an opportunity now exists to transform our friendship into a united strong action for a digital Europe. In the internet sphere, only the reach and the strength of the community counts. We urge both countries to take this common ground for digitisation to the next level.

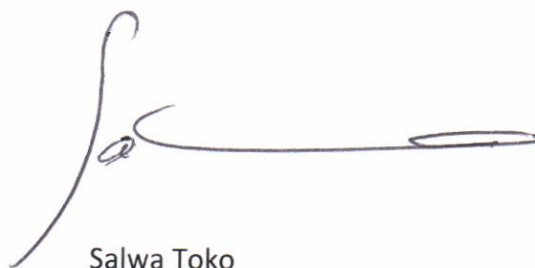
For this, we, the BJDW and the CNNum, in friendly and cooperative partnership from many years of joint work for your ministries, today appeal to you to resume the tradition of the joint German-French digital summits. After 2015 in Paris and 2016 in Berlin, from our point of view, it is time for a third edition of this digital summit. Recalling our common impulses and recommendations as part of these two conferences, we continue to offer our support and participation in terms of content and organisation. With the BJDW and the CNNum in your respective ministries, you have a valuable source for thematic input at the highest expertise and practical levels. Take advantage of this potential and let us work together for this event.

Germany and France must assume their leading role and responsibility in defining a short, medium and long-term vision for a digital Europe. Of course, this must be based on state cooperation, but not exclusively. It is important to involve all French and German representatives of the digital ecosystem in this discussion and, moreover, to keep the door open for other European countries. That is why we see a third German-French digital summit as an opportunity to allow other European countries to participate in the discussion, building, for instance, similar political advisory structures as those existing in our two countries. Against this background, let us lay the foundations for a new network of politics and business for a digital Europe, which can also be connected in a valuable and seamless way for joint activities in Brussels.

We are ready for this task! For Germany, France and Europe!



Prof. Dr. Tobias Kollmann
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