



**MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES**

*Liberté
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**FOREIGN
MINISTERS'
MEETING**

**ABBAYE DES VAUX-DE-CERNAY
26-27 MARCH 2026**

PRESS KIT

EDITORIAL

In a world where conflicts are on the rise, where cross-cutting threats such as organized crime and drug trafficking are intensifying, and where the global economic order is fragmenting, France intends to place dialogue and the renewal of multilateralism at the heart of its G7 Presidency.

No region of the world is spared the shockwaves of crises and conflicts. They affect security, economic balances and the living conditions of all peoples. Each of us feels the tangible effects of the instability weighing on global trade, shipping and energy prices.

The role of the G7 is to promote global solutions to resolve conflicts and overcome crises. Finding responses to destabilizing factors and strengthening the resilience of our societies and economies are the objectives that will guide the work of the G7 Foreign Ministers, meeting on 26 and 27 March 2026 in Les Vaux-de-Cernay. In this valley steeped in history, shaped by centuries of patience, discipline and the quest for balance, this meeting takes on a special significance: that of a time for clear-sightedness and action in the face of global turmoil.

We will work to bring about a new international order and to build a more balanced and fairer system, underpinned by a renewed multilateralism. Reforming global governance and combatting cross-cutting threats require a collective commitment which extends beyond G7 members alone. That is why the French Presidency has chosen to involve major emerging economies and regional partners in its work: Saudi Arabia, Brazil, South Korea, India and Ukraine will thus join the discussions.

True to the spirit of the founding summit in Rambouillet in 1975, France wishes to demonstrate that the G7, born out of the first oil crisis, embodies a shared – and highly relevant – vision of global prosperity. A vision based on three principles: solidarity between nations, economic stability and collective responsibility. As the President of the Republic has pointed out, the G7 was established 50 years ago to resolve economic crises; it must once again become a driving force for stability in the face of global change.

The French G7 Presidency aims to be a presidency of balance, convergence and results. Its ambition is to achieve concrete progress in the interests of security and prosperity for all.

Jean-Noël Barrot

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

G7 Heads of Delegation



Germany

Mr Johann Wadephul

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs



Canada

Ms Anita Anand

Minister of Foreign Affairs



United States

Mr Marco Rubio

Secretary of State



France

Mr Jean-Noël Barrot

Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs



Italy

Mr Antonio Tajani

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation



Japan

Mr Toshimitsu Motegi

Minister for Foreign Affairs



United Kingdom

Ms Yvette Cooper

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs



European External Action Service

Ms Kaja Kallas

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Invited countries



Saudi Arabia

Mr Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud

Minister of Foreign Affairs



Brazil

Mr Mauro Vieira

Minister of Foreign Affairs



Republic of Korea

Mr Cho Hyun

Minister of Foreign Affairs



India

Mr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Minister of External Affairs



Ukraine

Mr Andrii Sybiha

Minister of Foreign Affairs

International organizations



European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Ms Odile Renaud-Basso, President of the EBRD

THE G7 FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING: OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

The Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Les Vaux-de-Cernay forms part of a series of meetings of G7 foreign ministers scheduled throughout the French G7 Presidency, including informal meetings on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference (February) and the United Nations General Assembly (September), and the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Évian (15-17 June), where geopolitical issues will also be addressed. A second Foreign Ministers' Meeting is scheduled for November in Marseille to take stock of the work carried out throughout the year in the dedicated expert groups.

In this context, Les Vaux-de-Cernay Foreign Ministers' Meeting aims, on the one hand, to contribute to the resolution of major international crises and to highlight France's initiatives in this field and, on the other hand, to provide political impetus and guide discussions in working groups for the development, over the course of the year, of concrete initiatives centred on the following key areas

Resolving major crises

On Iran and the Middle East, G7 partners will discuss potential avenues for negotiation that could lead to a de-escalation of the conflict, whilst promoting the safety of our nationals and all civilian populations, the reopening of maritime and trade routes, and the cessation of the Iranian regime's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

On Ukraine, the aim is to continue supporting Kyiv in terms of capabilities and energy, and to maintain pressure on Russia, notably by strengthening the coordination of sanctions targeting the shadow fleet, including a complete ban on the provision of maritime services.

Other regional issues will also be addressed: the Indo-Pacific, Sudan, Haiti, Gaza, and Venezuela and Cuba, in light of events which have taken place since the start of 2026.

Reform of global governance and reconstruction

Against a backdrop of budgetary pressures and erosion of multilateralism, issues relating to the effectiveness of UN action are attracting interest not only from G7 partners but also from major emerging economies involved in global governance reform initiatives. In this regard, the involvement of India, Brazil, South Korea and Saudi Arabia will enable concrete work to be launched on humanitarian supply chains and the reform of peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, the presence of the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will provide insight into the

restoration of the Chernobyl sarcophagus and the prospects of economic integration in the Middle East.

Combating cross-cutting threats and defending sovereignty

Finally, the ministerial meeting will provide an opportunity to address, in a broader format, the international aspect of transnational issues that require collective and coordinated responses: the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime; issues related to maritime and port security, for which a dedicated task force will be created; migration, an integral part of current crises; and, finally, the supply of critical minerals, with the aim of reducing our dependencies and ensuring the resilience of our economies

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 26 March

Foreign Ministers' Meeting at Les Vaux-de-Cernay

- 11:00** Bilateral meetings
- 14:15** Official welcome of the G7 delegations by Mr Jean-Noël Barrot, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- 15:00** Working Session I – “Reform of Global Governance”
- 16:30** Welcome of Mr Andriy Sybiha, Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, by Mr. Jean-Noël Barrot, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- 16:30** Bilateral meetings
- 18:45** Press conference by Mr Jean-Noël Barrot, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- 19:15** Welcome of Ms Odile Renaud-Basso, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), by Mr. Jean-Noël Barrot, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- 19:30** Dinner/Working Session II – “Reconstruction”

Friday, 27 March

Abbaye des Vaux-de-Cernay

- 8:00** Bilateral meetings
- 8:45** Group photo
- 9:10** Official welcome of the G7 delegations by Mr Jean-Noël Barrot, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs
- 9:15** Working session III – “Cross-cutting Threats and Sovereignty”
- 11:15** Working Session IV – “Support for Ukraine”
- 12:45** Lunch/Working Session V – “The Situation in Iran and Its Implications for the Region”
- 14:15** Working Session VI – “Peace and Security”
- 16:10** Closing press conference by Mr. Jean-Noël Barrot, French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKING SESSIONS

Thursday, 26 March, 15:00 - Working Session I – “Reform of Global Governance”

Format: G7 and partners (Saudi Arabia, Brazil, South Korea, India)

Contribution to the reform of peacekeeping operations

Peacekeeping is adapting to new circumstances stemming from the shifting US stance towards the United Nations, its budgetary implications, and the broader reform efforts undertaken as part of the UN 80 initiative, announced by the UN Secretary-General in March 2025, which aims to streamline the Organization’s operations and enhance its efficiency, notably to reaffirm its relevance.

The UN Secretary-General’s review on the future of all forms of UN peace operations (PKO), expected in late spring, marks a milestone in this renewal in 2026.

In this context, the French G7 Presidency will announce, at the Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Les Vaux-de-Cernay, the modalities for better coordination of peacekeeping reform.

Efficiency of humanitarian supply chains

The humanitarian sector is facing major upheaval, including a drastic decline in public funding at a time when needs are growing and crises are becoming more frequent and prolonged

Our goal is to increase the impact of humanitarian aid by reaching more beneficiaries through cost savings achieved by improving efficiency, to provide an appropriate and high-quality response by pre-positioning pre-selected humanitarian goods tailored to various needs (food, water purification, health, and shelter, in particular), **and to accelerate the speed of deployment of this aid.**

Specifically, the work undertaken under the French G7 Presidency will help:

- **reach more people in need of emergency humanitarian aid** through the reform initiated by the United Nations, which will yield substantial savings;
- **respond more quickly to humanitarian emergencies** by strengthening G7 countries’ support for the eight global humanitarian hubs and their network;
- **strengthen private-sector engagement to contribute to humanitarian action**, including through public-private partnerships for humanitarian aid delivery operations or humanitarian donations.

Thursday, 26 March 26, 19:30 - Working Session II "Reconstruction"

Format: G7 and partners (Saudi Arabia, Brazil, South Korea, India, Ukraine, EBRD)

Economic integration in the Middle East

The adoption of the Gaza peace plan via United Nations Security Council Resolution 2803 and the creation of the Board of Peace have ushered the Middle East into a phase of major strategic realignment. The reconstruction needs are immense, but the challenge goes beyond mere infrastructure repair: it involves rebuilding a regional economic architecture capable of addressing the underinvestment plaguing the region and generating sustainable dividends of stability.

Several actors are already active in the region, notably the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Islamic Development Bank. Nevertheless, financial institutions have not played the post-1990 role of the EBRD in Central and Eastern Europe for the Levant, due to their respective scopes of intervention and governance models.

France will propose examining how to anchor peace processes in tangible economic benefits, through the financing of sustainable infrastructure and the structuring of regional private investment capable of fostering cross-border economic integration.

Regional Conference on the fight against Captagon in Syria

Captagon, an addictive amphetamine-type pill that was produced and trafficked on an industrial scale by the regime of Bashar al-Assad, is now being controlled by other actors (notably armed groups, including Hezbollah) and poses a threat to the stabilization of Syria and its regional environment. The production of this synthetic drug is shifting beyond its usual scope, and the consumer market is diversifying. The fight against Captagon serves the objectives of crisis resolution (stabilizing Syria within its regional context), combating cross-cutting threats (combating synthetic drugs in the Middle East), and protecting Europe, which has become a springboard zone for Captagon.

France is already funding programmes implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) aimed at combating trafficking in Captagon and other synthetic drugs in the region. **At the Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Les Vaux-de-Cernay, France will announce the organization of a regional conference on combating Captagon in Syria, in partnership with the UNODC.** This initiative, which would be **the first at the ministerial level**, would aim to bring together, in the region, the G7 States and the States affected by this trafficking to establish effective regional cooperation. The ministerial meeting will provide an opportunity to secure political approval for the

project from partners, as well as to mobilize financial support to organize this event in September or October 2026.

Restoration of the Chernobyl confinement structure

The Chernobyl confinement structure, built between 2007 and 2019 (with the G7 already playing a leading role) to enable the containment and decommissioning of the reactor at the Chernobyl power plant that was damaged in 1986, was severely damaged by a Russian drone strike in February 2025.

According to preliminary estimates, major repairs are needed by 2030 to prevent irreversible corrosion of the confinement structure – which would necessitate funding a new structure at a much higher cost. The project would cost at least €500 million according to the most recent studies, which are still preliminary estimates. Initial financial commitments, including those of France, were secured in 2025.

The French Presidency of the G7 will seek to act a catalyst in fundraising to restore the confinement structure, in close cooperation with the EBRD, Ukraine and all donor countries, in order to secure the financial commitments needed for the post-2026 period.

Friday, 27 March, 9:15 - Working Session III “Cross-cutting Threats and Sovereignty”

Format: G7 and partners (Saudi Arabia, Brazil, South Korea, India)

Regional Security Conference in the Caribbean

The Caribbean serves as a transit zone and destination for illicit trafficking, particularly in narcotics and firearms destined for the domestic market. This transnational organized crime is reaching unprecedented levels, directly affecting French communities in the Americas and the regional environment, and also poses a cross-cutting threat on a global scale. For example, drug seizures by the Armed Forces in the Antilles increased by 30% between 2025 and 2024, a sign of the region’s growing importance as a global hub for the trafficking of drugs, particularly cocaine. The increase in illegal flows in narcotics and firearms is accompanied by a significant increase in violence: Guadeloupe and Martinique have the highest homicide rates in France.

To combat this threat, regional cooperation is essential given the ever-changing nature of drug routes, the prevalence of inter-island trafficking, the agility of traffickers, and the regional reach of criminal groups.

In this context, France will host a dedicated regional security conference, to which G7 partners are invited. The objective of this conference is to develop a shared vision of the challenges facing the region, strengthen the network of relevant stakeholders, and promote regional standards in all areas necessary for combating drug and firearms trafficking: information sharing, operational cooperation, securing port and airport access, and mutual law enforcement assistance.

Fifth “No Money for Terror” Conference

Since 2018, France has played a significant role in the fight against terrorist financing, organizing the first “No Money for Terror” conference in Paris at the initiative of the President of the Republic. This event reaffirmed the central role of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in the effort to combat the various sources of terrorist financing and led to the adoption of the “Paris Agenda,” an international action plan on the matter, which was enshrined in 2019, during France’s Presidency of the UN Security Council, in UNSC Resolution 2462.

The fight against terrorist financing currently faces several major challenges, linked in particular to terrorist groups’ capacity for innovation and adaptation in terms of financing (increased use of crypto-assets, misuse of digital and financial innovations, interactions with organized crime, and financing through control of territory).

In this context, France will announce that the **fifth “No Money for Terror” conference** will be held during its G7 Presidency. This fifth edition will reaffirm France’s leading role in the fight against terrorist financing and promote an updated international agenda aimed at holistically countering new terrorist financing practices (through the participation of more than 60 foreign delegations and interministerial cooperation).

Critical minerals

A key priority of the French G7 Presidency is addressing the challenges related to the value chains of critical minerals, which are a major issue for economic security and for the energy and digital transitions. The goal is to secure these value chains by developing industrial partnerships among G7 countries and with our partner countries.

With this in mind, throughout its presidency, France will lead efforts to diversify our supply sources and strengthen the entire value chain – from responsible extraction to recycling –while adhering to high environmental and social standards. To this end, G7 countries and their partners will work to strengthen traceability and transparency systems in value chains, and to promote recycling and the circular economy. They will also work to establish a more attractive, stable and sustainable minerals market that encourages long-term investment and protects our companies from unfair and non-market practices, potentially through coordinated trade policies.

The objective of the Foreign Ministers' Meeting is to facilitate an initial discussion on the measures proposed by the French G7 Presidency to address the vulnerabilities in our critical mineral supply chains, reduce our dependencies, and strengthen our collective economic resilience and security.

Maritime and port security

The maritime route is the primary means used to transport narcotics (particularly cocaine) into European territory and represents a priority for action in the global fight against drug trafficking. To disrupt these trafficking routes, action must be taken at the international level in two key areas: (i) strengthening port security, and (ii) cooperating with States in transit and springboard zones.

To address this cross-cutting threat, **France wishes to launch an initiative on maritime and port security** in the fight against drug trafficking within the G7 framework, supported by the establishment of a dedicated G7 task force.

With regard to ports, the G7 task force will aim to:

- develop a toolkit of best practices on port security in the fight against drug trafficking (port security, public-private partnerships, combating criminal infiltration, etc.);
- create a G7+ port network to promote the sharing of information and best practices in the fight against drug trafficking. This port network will aim to connect the governing authorities of the main ports of the G7 and its partners – which together account for one-third of the world's major seaports – in order to strengthen dialogue and promote the sharing of information and best practices in the fight against drug trafficking.

This initiative demonstrates the G7's commitment to strengthening its cooperation with its partners in order to bolster our collective capacity to address cross-cutting threats. It is also consistent with France's resolute action within other international bodies, such as the European Drug Coalition, launched by France and Italy last year within the European Political Community (EPC).

On the maritime front, the task force will examine ways to strengthen, in priority regions, our common capabilities regarding the boarding and seizure at sea of vessels transporting narcotics. It will be able to draw on the existing "G7++ Friends of the Gulf of Guinea" framework, which works specifically in the strategic Gulf of Guinea region with regional partners; its objective of strengthening maritime security cooperation is all the more relevant in a major transit and springboard zone for narcotics, primarily cocaine.

Thursday, 27 March, 11:15 – Working Session IV “Support for Ukraine”

Format: G7 and Ukraine

Combating the shadow fleet is a priority for France, primarily due to:

- (i) the unprecedented proliferation of substandard vessels;
- (ii) risks to maritime safety and the environment;
- (iii) the potential use of these vessels in Russian hybrid operations.

The French Presidency of the G7 proposes to:

- **continue the multi-year work agenda**, particularly regarding awareness-raising efforts (among flag States and relevant coastal States);
- **highlight the enforcement actions taken by France** to raise awareness among other European Union and G7 Member States regarding the effectiveness of this tool, in accordance with international law.

Friday, 27 March, 12:15 - Working Session IV “The Situation in Iran and its Implications for the Region”

Format: G7

G7 members are expected to adopt a **declaration in support of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)**, the Review Conference of which will begin in New York in April. This declaration reaffirms the G7 members' commitment to the authority and centrality of the NPT, which is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation regime. **This would be the first G7 declaration in support of the NPT and it could be issued at ministerial level.**

Thursday, 27 March, 14:15 - Working Session VI “Peace and Security”

Format: G7

The French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Noël Barrot, has invited his G7 counterparts, as well as the European Union High Representative, to **discuss major international crises, particularly the situation in Iran and the Middle East, as well as the Great Lakes region, Sudan, the Indo-Pacific, Venezuela, Cuba, Haiti and Ukraine.**



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