

The Macron Doctrine in Sorbonne: Saving Europe from the Brink of Collapse

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Macron revisited his Sorbonne speech after 7 years on April 26, 2024, stressing the vital link between France's and Europe's futures. He warns that Europe's fate is at risk, stressing the need for crucial decisions. Macron warned external and internal risks and mention that Europe will “die” without action. Macron, in various contexts, used the word "die" in french “mourir” several times in his speech. For instance he pointed out that “ We must be clear about the fact that today, our Europe is mortal. It can die. It can die, and it all depends on our choices” (in French: “Nous devons être lucides sur le fait que notre Europe, aujourd’hui, est mortelle. Elle peut mourir. Elle peut mourir, et cela dépend uniquement de nos choix. Mais ces choix sont à faire maintenant.”)

Macron proposed a growth model involving decarbonization, trade policy changes, research, innovation, and financial shifts. Macron calls the importance of unity of Europe, particularly in security and financial matters. He emphasizes the urgency for Europe to assert itself as a leading global power, independent of the U.S. and on par with China.

Defense Initiative: Strengthening European Security

Macron urged Europe to reclaim its security autonomy, especially amid the Ukraine conflict. He highlights Europe's vulnerability and its slow response to security risks, stressing the urgent need for improvement. He notes the rising regional military powers such as Russia and Iran, posing security challenges for Europe. Macron emphasizes the importance of strategic autonomy in defense, advocating for a robust European defense to counter external threats, particularly amid the conflict in Ukraine and Russia. He acknowledges the United States' prioritization of its own interests, particularly concerning China, suggesting Europe cannot rely solely on the US for security.

Therefore, Macron emphasized the need for urgent strong defense measures, proposing initiatives like enhancing missile capabilities and promoting strategic cohesion among European armies. He also advocated for creating institutions like the European Military Academy to bolster defense capabilities and reduce reliance on non-European equipment.

Strengthening European Borders for Security and Stability

Amid the ongoing political discussions about migrants and migration, both in France and across Europe, Macron ensured that European borders to ensure security and stability for all. Macron emphasized the importance of Europe controlling its borders and highlighted the need for operational partnerships to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking, and showed his

support for getting Frontex involved to help with repatriation efforts and to bolster border security. Macron also proposed transforming the Schengen Council into a true Internal Security Council of the Union, emphasizing the common good nature of European borders and the need for collective decision-making on issues such as immigration and organized crime.

A new prosperity paradigm : “Made in Europe” and less bureaucracy

Macron emphasizes the need for Europe to adapt to profound changes, especially in terms of growth and production models. He's tackling issues like limited resources, tensions between countries, and climate change head-on. He says we urgently need to decarbonize our economies, take control of what we produce, and stay open to the world. He recognizes that Europe is falling behind the US, especially in terms of things like green tech and AI. Macron stressed the importance of boosting productivity while ensuring environmental sustainability, arguing that Europe shouldn't see decarbonization and economic growth as conflicting goals. Macron emphasized the importance of consolidating Europe's industrial strategy, highlighted Europe's progress in battery production, aiming to meet all battery requirements by 2030.

He's recognizing the bureaucratic challenges both in France and throughout Europe. He suggests a new prosperity pact that prioritizes simplicity and adaptability. He addressed also the concerns of farmers, acknowledging their frustrations with over-regulation, complexity, and flawed application of laws in agriculture. He emphasized the need to strengthen food sovereignty and advocated for a simplified common agriculture policy to reduce administrative burden and support domestic food production.

Fair trade

Macron emphasized the economic challenges Europe faces, noting that the current model is unsustainable. He highlighted the need for fair trade, expressing concerns about changing global trade rules and over-subsidization by countries like China and the United States. He also pointed out the disparity in economic growth between the US and Europe, suggesting that Europe risks falling behind despite its efforts as an example he gave “Between 1993 and 2022, gross domestic product per capita in the United States rose by almost 60% and Europe's has grown by less than 30%”. Macron emphasized the need for a revised trade policy, highlighting the importance of defending European interests while maintaining openness. He stressed the necessity of updating trade rules to reflect current realities, particularly in response to practices like over-subsidization by China and the US. He says “as I mentioned — that cannot work if we are the only ones in the world respecting the rules of trade as they were written 15 years ago. If the Chinese and Americans no longer respect them by over-subsidizing critical sectors, we cannot be the only ones to do so.”

Macron called for greater transparency in product labeling to inform consumers about the environmental impact, advocating for European products as more environmentally friendly.

Additionally, he underscored the importance of strengthening economic security measures, including protecting industrial and intellectual property, regulating non-European investment in sensitive sectors, and safeguarding critical infrastructure such as undersea cables and satellite systems.

Will Germany align with his nuclear energy ambitions?

In his speech, Macron emphasized the importance of building a stronger Europe in terms of energy and agriculture. He highlighted the need for Europe to transition towards becoming an atomic powerhouse, stressing the importance of energy efficiency, renewable energy deployment, and nuclear power. Macron advocated for technological neutrality and emphasized the necessity of investing in renewable and nuclear capacity to enhance Europe's competitiveness in the energy sector. In this regard, we can see that Macron and Germany have two different approaches when it comes to nuclear power. While Macron advocates for the deployment of nuclear power as part of a combined strategy to enhance Europe's energy competitiveness, Germany has opted for a phase-out of nuclear energy, focusing instead on renewable energy sources. This divergence in approach highlights differing perspectives within the European Union regarding the role of nuclear power in the transition to sustainable energy.

Advancing Europe: Innovation and research

Macron stressed the importance of Europe investing in innovation, research, and competitiveness to drive prosperity for all. He emphasized the need for Europe to lead in innovation and research to boost productivity. Macron acknowledged that while many European countries already have these capabilities, there's a continuous need to nurture talent and keep it within European institutions, while also attracting talent from outside Europe. He warned of the competitive threats posed by America and Asia in this regard. Macron pushed for setting aside 3% of Europe's GDP for research to keep Europe ahead. He stressed how important research and education are for Europe's success, calling for policies that help startups grow and make it easier to bring talent and money together to spark innovation all across Europe.

Defending European culture and values in the time of “cultural and civilisational battle”

In his concluding remarks, Macron discussed the clash of cultures regarding beliefs and values. He highlighted the distinctions between liberal democracy, authoritarian regimes, and European cultural values. He warned of the increasing influence of non-European content, particularly from America and Asia, on European youth, emphasizing the need to protect European culture and values. These three facts he says—geopolitical and security concerns, economic challenges, and cultural shifts—highlight the increased significance of sovereignty.

Macron says it's vital to stand up for European values like freedom and reason and pointing out the difference between how Europe and the Anglo-Saxon world when it comes to the digital space. He believes that Europe has to keep things democratic and open, but not the other side leans more towards letting private companies take full control. Therefore he calls for parental control over digital access for children under 15 and emphasizes the importance of regulating online content to combat hate speech and ensure digital civility.

Macron sees the modern era as posing challenges to culture, ideas, stories, and beliefs. He suggests that Europe isn't as inspiring for new stories and ideas as it once was. "This is a profound, anthropological, civilizational change. When children today spend hours in front of screens, when teenagers discover culture, intimacy and emotional life through these screens and the content they can be exposed to, when democratic debate is structured in this space, this digital space that we inhabit most of the time, are we Europeans serious about delegating it to others? No. And I'm deliberately telling you that this is a cultural and civilizational battle".

In short Macron's vision aims for Europe to maintain its sovereignty, ensure its security, and uphold its democratic and cultural principles in a rapidly changing world.

Please note: This article provides a summary of French President Emmanuel Macron's speech at the Sorbonne on April 26, 2024. You can access his full speech in both French and English at the following link:

<https://geopolitique.eu/en/2024/04/26/macron-europe-it-can-die-a-new-paradigm-at-the-sorbonne/>

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