

The Elysée Treaty Is A New Opportunity

This statement by Helga Zepp-LaRouche was circulated by her Civil Rights Movement Solidarity (BüSo) party in Germany, and the allied Solidarité et Progrès party in France, in observances of the 40th anniversary of the Franco-German Elysée Treaty.

On the 22nd of January the German-French friendship treaty reaches its 40th year. This Elysée Treaty, which German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and French President Charles de Gaulle concluded in 1963 as the foundation for a common foreign policy, can also play a decisive role today in overcoming the crisis. If France and Germany act together for the development of modern infrastructure, in the framework of the Eurasian Land-Bridge, Italy will no doubt join this engine of development, as well as the rest of the European continent.

If France and Germany jointly agree on the necessity of suspending the Maastricht Treaty and the Stability Pact because of the crisis, that is precisely what will occur, and Italy and the other countries will follow. Already the President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi, has labelled the Maastricht Treaty “stupid.” And if France and Germany want to rediscover their identities as industrial nations and the efficiency that has just been demonstrated by the Chinese in Shanghai, then we must, along with France, put on ice the enormous thicket of ecological laws, regulations, and bureaucratic licensing procedures.

If Germany and France jointly agree, as part of the 40-year anniversary of the Elysée Treaty, this tangle of ecological laws, the financial market liberalization of the last 35 years, and the monetarist, growth-strangling strait-jacket of Maastricht, can be abruptly set aside due to the crisis. When the crisis has been overcome, but only then, can we judge anew the logic, or illogic, of these regulations.



The French President and German Chancellor before the relief plaque commemorating Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer, who signed the Elysée Treaty on Jan. 22, 1962, establishing the French-German postwar friendship.

Old friendships, like those which were established by Adenauer and de Gaulle between Germany and France, often, over longer intervals, express their significance in small, overlooked areas, such as youth exchanges, language promotions, and so forth. But many times these friendships are confronted with the challenge to overcome, jointly, greater problems. That is exactly the case today, when France, in January, and Germany, in February, take over the chairmanship of the UN Security Council—the two months during which it will be determined whether the war against Iraq will be stopped. But such a common great challenge, as well, is infrastructural and economic integration as Eurasia’s security policy.

Therefore, let’s seize the moment! We need a national debate in Germany about these questions which will decide our future, but also in France. An extraordinary opportunity for such a broad public discussion is the state election campaigns in Hesse and Lower Saxony, because only when voters are fully aware of these questions on which, ultimately, the fate of Europe hangs, can you make the right decision.