

Germany and Spain

Draft Joint Plan of Action (JPA) for Closer Bilateral and EU Cooperation

October 2022

Germany and Spain are close partners within the European Union and at the international level: our economies are firmly interlinked; our civil societies are closely intertwined. We share values, the common vision of a strong, solidary and sovereign geopolitical Europe as a stronghold of the rules-based international order, principles and strategic interests, and work closely together towards our common goals and objectives.

Now more than ever, our countries share a strong commitment to the EU and to NATO. These two organisations have proven to be essential for the existence of a peaceful and secure world order, which ultimately finds its vital cornerstone in the United Nations.

This understanding, founded on the grounds of our European identity, multilateralism, democracy and the rule of law, a social-ecological market economy, and respect for the environment and for human rights, guides us on the quest for tackling the great challenges of the 21st century. In this sense, we are determined to bridge the existing gap in terms of development, inequality and poverty globally. The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals are at the core of our actions. Stemming from a leadership position in fields such as the fight for gender equality and decarbonisation, we are deeply aware of the need to build a fair, sustainable, and safe world for our children and for us.

Despite the close collaboration between our countries to that end, we realize there is still potential to be tapped. We want to forge even closer ties in order to leverage complementary strengths and approaches in an enhanced bilateral partnership. This partnership should also increase the cohesion among Member States, and move the EU forward.

Therefore, this Joint Plan of Action aims at identifying this potential, outlining concrete fields of cooperation where bilateral cooperation has added value, setting strategic goals in those areas and underpinning them with concrete joint projects that will accomplish tangible results. The first part of the JPA contains selected lighthouse projects and ideas for an enhanced bilateral cooperation. The annex provides a more extensive insight into ongoing projects. Spain and Germany consider the JPA to be a living document.

Fields of closer cooperation

Increased bilateral cooperation should translate into concrete projects in specific fields. The following fields of action have been identified for the period ahead. This work will be kept under active review and further projects will be added over time.

1. Increasing foreign policy and development policy cooperation. Structured dialogue: enhancing bilateral exchange.

In these demanding times, we must decisively defend not only European security but also global peace and prosperity in accordance with the established multilateral and rules-based international order. We remain committed to the respect of International Law as well as to the integrity and sovereignty of each state in the International Community. Together, our countries can substantially contribute to actively shaping the EU towards our shared goal of an ever closer Union and to promoting overarching goals in the European and in the global context. To achieve this common goal, our countries will pull their efforts to foster cooperation on the grounds of a joint political action in a value-based foreign policy and to foster multilateralism.

Our specific sensitivities and knowledge of some regions of the world have an added value when outlining approaches to address global challenges. Our countries share the aim of promoting stability, prosperity and security in the European Neighbourhood and in Africa, adopting both bilateral, country-based and cross-border cooperation programmes. Together, we can contribute to fostering and enhancing relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly with like-minded partners.

In order to do so, we will stabilize consultation formats in areas of joint interest to enhance bilateral action, including platforms to promote people-to-people exchanges, in particular in the following fields:

Areas of cooperation

- **Southern Neighbourhood and Africa:** The European Neighbourhood Policy shall be adapted to the new geopolitical circumstances and strengthened in order to make progress in common endeavours, such as the green transition and the creation of opportunities for sustainable and fair growth. In addition to the annual Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial Meeting and Regional Forum of the Union for the Mediterranean, we intend to reinforce our dialogue and cooperation by coordinating on possible joint projects and exchanging ideas regarding reforms and consolidation of the institutional framework. We will continue our close cooperation to advance the relations between the EU and Africa, especially in the context of an increasingly challenging geopolitical environment. To this end, we will advance joint activities (including Team Europe Initiatives) in the field of migration, and other common cooperation priorities. We will coordinate closely on our respective efforts in providing support to the stabilization of the Sahel; as well as strengthening the role played by the most active regional and sub-regional organizations – namely the African Union, but also the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) – in advancing shared objectives such as peace, security and sustainable development.

- **Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC):** We share a solid foundation of interests, values and cooperation with the LAC region and strive to develop common lines of action with and towards it, in a bilateral context as well as in the EU and other international fora, through the “road map 2023” and with a view to holding a summit EU-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) in that year. We will intensify our cooperation in priority areas such as trade and investment, democracy and human rights.
- **Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean:** We share an interest in mutually beneficial and constructive relations with Turkey, NATO ally and EU accession candidate. Therefore, we will join our efforts to engage with Turkey in areas of common interest and support a well-balanced EU-Turkey relationship, while promoting core European values like democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights. We will also continue supporting efforts in full EU solidarity for sustainable de-escalation and dialogue between all parties involved in the Eastern Mediterranean.
- **Western Balkans:** We share the strong commitment to the EU perspective of the Western Balkans. It is key that the region overcomes long-standing disputes. In our joint support for enlargement, reconciliation, reforms, dialogue, regional cooperation and regional security and stability, we will continue our close coordination. Our Foreign Ministries will hold regular bilateral consultations to this end.
- **Development Policy Coordination:** Our countries work closely together to support sustainable development as well as the implementation of international standards in particular regarding governance, gender and social cohesion, energy, climate, environment in the LAC region and priority regions in Africa and in the Southern Neighbourhood. We cooperate in bilateral development cooperation projects as well as in joint initiatives with the EU, in particular through Team Europe Initiatives. We are also very active in the definition and implementation of Triangular Cooperation programs as an instrument to cooperate with Development and Transition countries. Additionally, Spain and Germany are joint shareholders in almost all Multilateral Development Banks and members of relevant international fora.
- **Migration:** Europe needs a realistic, forward-looking migration policy. Therefore we intend to continue our dialogue and coordination on migration (addressing root causes of irregular migration; supporting host countries and countries of origin and transit; combating smuggling of migrants; facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration by among others making better use of existing regular pathways; voluntary return, readmission and reintegration), building on the existing six-monthly consultation mechanism, focusing on possible joint positions in the framework of the New EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, as well as on possible joint projects and the cooperation regarding the external dimension of EU migration policy, including Team Europe Initiatives. In addition, we aim to foster our coordination within relevant multilateral frameworks such as the Global Compact of Migration.
- **Policy Planning Consultations:** We aim to deepen our cooperation and continue our exchanges on broad strategic issues, such as European affairs, foreign, development and security policy and climate foreign policy.

- **Exchange of Diplomats:** The staggered exchange and deployment of seconded diplomats from the partner country ensures gaining a deep-rooted knowledge of functions and procedures in the respective foreign ministries. Our human resources departments remain in close contact with each other in this regard and ensure continuity. We commit to continuing the current exchange programme, agreed upon at the highest ministerial level.
- **Diplomatic Academies:** Young diplomats in training will one-day shape diplomacy. Our diplomatic academies aim to work together to incorporate events for young attaché(e)s during their training.
- **Training for International Diplomats:** Young diplomats from all over the world are invited to attend training courses for international diplomats. Two courses are designed for diplomats newly accredited in Berlin. Each year, different embassies are invited to participate. Spain has renewed its participation in 2022.

2. Contributing to peace and security.

Europe is not at peace. Confronted with the fundamental challenge to Euro-Atlantic security that Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine represents, we stand in full solidarity with the Ukrainian government. Our countries remain committed to supporting Ukraine's inherent right to self-defence and to choose its own security arrangements. We stand united in our resolve to defend the multilateral rules-based world order and the UN Charter by all means necessary.

As NATO allies, we will continue to protect our populations and defend every inch of Allied territory at all times. We will significantly strengthen our deterrence and defence for the long term, as agreed in the NATO Summit in Madrid in June 2022. As NATO allies, our countries stand together to defend our security, freedom, values and democratic way of life. For us, NATO and the EU play complementary, coherent and mutually reinforcing roles in the European security and defence domain, supporting international peace and stability. Our commitment to multilateralism also translates into cooperation with our partners in the OSCE.

Germany and Spain seek to develop and strengthen the EU's ability to act as well as to strengthen our resilience in complementarity to NATO, as agreed in the Strategic Compass. We strive for ongoing integration in the fields of Common Foreign and Security Policy / Common Security and Defence Policy (CFSP / CSDP) of the EU. We are committed to implementing the Strategic Compass to leverage cooperation and strengthen efficiency in European security and defence. To this end, we will promote the extension of qualified majority voting in the Council in the area of CFSP / CSDP – possibly starting with sanctions or human rights.

Despite a strong focus on increased measure for collective defence in Europe, we remain committed to international crisis management in a 360 degrees-approach in order to promote peace and stability.

Mindful of the fact that participation, protection and prevention are fundamental to empower women globally, we join forces to establish a crosscutting feminist foreign and development cooperation policy. Increasing the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace-making, conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts is a key priority for us.

We will strive at closer cooperation in the following areas:

Areas of cooperation

- **Multilateralism:** In our strive for strengthened multilateralism, we work together for a rules-based international order that protects and advances human rights. To this end, Spain has co-initiated the UN Alliance of Civilizations with the aim of merging common approaches between different societies including on topics like youth empowerment and youth exchange, gender equality, countering hate speech, interreligious dialogue etc. The Stockholm Initiative, for nuclear disarmament, with 15 countries, including Germany and Spain, consists of 22 stepping-stones as concrete proposals to promote steps towards nuclear disarmament. Moreover, Germany and Spain continue to engage in policy dialogues within the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean, for example with regard to an active regional employment and trade policy and fostering social dialogue, and will continue to closely cooperate and advance our joint priorities in the framework of the G20.

- **NATO:** Germany and Spain will remain committed to further developing NATO's core tasks in line with the Summit decisions in order to enhance Allied Collective Defence and stand in full solidarity with Allies. Our Joint contribution to the enhanced Baltic Air Policing is only one important initiative. We will furthermore remain committed to international crisis management and aim at even closer cooperation in common missions. We will also remain committed to strengthening NATO-EU cooperation, in line with the already existing Joint Declarations (2016 and 2018), fostering a new and more ambitious one as soon as possible utilizing political high-level meetings of both organisations.

- **Common Foreign and Security Policy / Common Security and Defence Policy:** We strive for ongoing integration in the fields of CFSP / CSDP of the EU. We are committed to fully implementing the Strategic Compass to leverage cooperation and strengthen efficiency in European security and defence. The EU Rapid Deployment Capacity is crucial to become a stronger security provider. The instruments we agreed on require appropriate structures, as well as political mechanisms to ease its effective employment. In this vein, it is of utmost importance to enable the Military Planning and Conduct Capability in its Command and Control (C2) capabilities and to use achievements of the common PESCO project (Strategic C2 for CSDP Operations) to enable the EU with regard to necessary command and control aspects. As the project coordinator, Spain has an important role to play concerning the management, progress, and implementation of this project and thus the establishment of this EU C2 capability. We will continue to work closely together on relevant issues of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, in particular through relevant consultations at the level of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Political Directors. We will aim to deepen our cooperation on the use of CFSP instruments, also at expert level. This will include coordination of positions regarding the adoption and implementation of EU restrictive measures to achieve EU foreign policy objectives. We also intend to implement Strategic Compact lines on the new Pact on Civilian CSPD (Compact 2.0), building on the experience and lessons learnt from the 2018 Compact.

- **Defence cooperation:** In order to foster NATO and CSDP as well as our commitment to international crisis management, we will strengthen our already intensive and trustful defence and armament cooperation ranging from common exercises and military training to important projects to foster European industrial defence capabilities such as the Next Generation Weapon System/Future Combat Air System (NGWS/FCAS) development program, as well as the ongoing arms programs EUROFIGHTER, A400M, European MALE RPAS and some others. To enhance coordination in capability planning and development in order to develop a more coherent European defence landscape, Germany and Spain are supporting the implementation of PESCO. We will continue the exchange of personnel ranging from Ministry of Defence's General Staff to Armed Forces to strengthen our common understanding. To further strengthen exchange and cooperation, we will implement a Structured Dialogue of Political Directors of our Ministries of Defence.
- **Arms export control:** Building on the spirit of the tripartite agreement with France, we continue to further our cooperation in the field of arms export control. Germany and Spain intend to enhance the harmonization of Member States' arms export control practices and to look into possibilities of further strengthening the regulatory framework in the EU.
- **Feminist Foreign Policy:** Spain and Germany are both following a feminist foreign and development cooperation policy. We will exchange knowledge and best practises on how to strengthen rights, representation and resources for women and marginalized groups in order to foster a more inclusive foreign policy approach, including through a feminist cooperation for development. By committing to feminist foreign policies and remembering that without women there is no peace, we emphasize the importance of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. We strive to anchor the Women, Peace and Security agenda in foreign and gender policy and will underline the importance of follow-up Resolution 2467, which calls for support for survivors of sexualized violence and for holding perpetrators accountable.

3. Fostering a resilient and geopolitical European Union.

Spain and Germany share a common vision for the future of Europe. A resilient, modern, social, competitive, and sustainable EU that can effectively address the various internal and external challenges it faces, in full coherence with the fundamental democratic and legal principles that underpin the project as a whole. We are committed to protecting democracy, human rights and the rule of law as an indispensable foundation of the EU. We want to take joint initiatives for strengthening EU's strategic sovereignty. Therefore, we want to enable constructive solutions by trying to dissolve blockades, improving the EU's capacity to act. In this sense, both countries are willing to work together - in light of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2023 and beyond - in strengthening the internal cohesion of the EU and making it a truly geopolitical actor. We deem it crucial to continue our structured dialogue and strengthen our exchanges on EU policies in various matters.

Areas of cooperation

- **Spanish Council Presidency 2023:** In the run-up to and in preparation for the Spanish Council Presidency in the second half of 2023, we will step up our exchange, for example on best practices dating from the recent German Council Presidency.
- **Conference on the Future of Europe:** The proposals of the Conference on the Future of Europe provide important impulses on how to further develop the EU, how to bring it closer to its citizens, how to increase its capacity to act effectively and how to strengthen our European values and solidarity. Our countries want to seize this opportunity and work together in an ambitious follow-up process with a strong involvement of citizens. In particular we intend to promote the extension of qualified majority voting in the Council, e.g. on EU foreign affairs. We will strive to build consensus among EU institutions and with all Member States to enable necessary reforms for a more effective and transparent EU, able to respond to the future challenges of an enlarged membership and to the challenges ahead of it.
- **Rule of Law:** Safeguarding the principle of Rule of Law is an essential precondition for the functioning of our democracy and union of values. Our societies and economies are based on effective legal protection, which can only be guaranteed by an independent, highly qualified and efficient judiciary. In order to protect and promote the Rule of Law, Spain and Germany seek the full use of the EU's existing instruments on safeguarding the Rule of Law, and strive to further strengthen and expand these instruments in the near future. In order to be able to address and respond to possible threats to the Rule of Law at an early stage and with foresight, our countries will view the Rule of Law Report published annually by the Commission as an opportunity to assess the situation in the EU, including our own shortcomings, and act accordingly. In this regard, we will continue to work together even more closely.
- **Police cooperation/Border Management:** We aim to expand and intensify police cooperation between the German Federal Police and Spanish Law Enforcement Agencies. We aim to strengthen cooperation on the fight against terrorism, radicalization and organised crime, with a special focus on cybercrime and on-line child sex-abuse.
- **Disinformation: Disinformation and foreign manipulation** are a threat to our open societies and democracy. Strategic communication to detect and actively counter propaganda and disinformation is an important tool to counter these strategies of foreign actors. We need to strengthen and revamp our EU-wide efforts in this regard. Spain and Germany have therefore started a fruitful process of consultations on disinformation. We want to enhance our knowledge and continue those consultations, including the exchange of information with experts e.g. within the framework of conferences or common studies.

4. Increasing cooperation for innovation, trade, industry, entrepreneurship, fair and sustainable economic growth, climate, energy, biodiversity, environment, and fisheries.

Considering the high-level of exchanges between our economies and the complementarity of industries and value chains, Spain and Germany will have to work closely together in order to achieve a real and just transition towards a digital and green economy. We aim at ensuring diversified, resilient, climate-neutral and reliable value chains. Furthermore, we want to intensify our cooperation in the transformation of our social economies into green and circular economies. To this extent, we should use the potential for synergies by identifying concrete projects in the fields of climate action, biodiversity and restoration, Earth monitoring, environment, energy transition, critical raw materials, innovation, social economy, as well as trade, industrial policy, and entrepreneurship.

Germany and Spain will work together to strengthen relations between their respective business networks, facilitating closer cooperation between companies, business associations and chambers of commerce.

A secure, affordable and sustainable energy supply is in our common interest: potential lies above all in the development of a European hydrogen infrastructure and a scaled up hydrogen market, as well as in further research in maximizing the potential of green hydrogen produced through renewable-powered electrolysis. Germany and Spain will collaborate in order to tap opportunities regarding the energy cooperation with the third countries. By doing so, we will always keep in mind the need to diversify energy imports and supply chains. Besides a climate neutral and resilient energy supply, resource efficiency is crucial for creating a planet globally worth living. Saving both, energy and resources, light weighting pushes the frontiers of sustainability towards a green future. The entities of the social economy, such as social enterprises, social start-ups or energy-cooperatives will play an important role for the necessary societal change processes needed for the transformation.

We aim to cooperate more closely and maintain consultation formats in the following areas:

Areas of cooperation

- **Climate diplomacy:** Spain and Germany are committed to both an ambitious European climate policy as well as to promoting further global climate action at the international level, in line with the Paris Agreement goals. In this context, both countries highlight the importance of the Spanish support to the Climate Club and its participation in the Petersberg Climate Dialogues as relevant international initiatives that aim at promoting international cooperation and further action on climate change. We will work closely together, in particular during Spain's EU Council Presidency with regard to the upcoming UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 28, not only on the promotion of further efforts on mitigation and adaptation but also with regards to the enhancement of global resilience, in particular of those most vulnerable. Furthermore, we aim to cooperate closely to support climate action in third countries in the global South, for example within the framework of plurilateral climate and energy partnerships, or other initiatives aimed at enhancing the resilience of countries to the impact of climate change while accelerating their green economic development. We also acknowledge the strong connection between climate change and biodiversity loss and commit to promote climate solutions that build on healthy ecosystems.

- **Climate change and energy transition:** On the backdrop of the urgency of the climate and the energy security crisis, we intend to further intensify our collective engagement in Brussels in the relevant dossiers (especially Fit for 55, RePowerEU, the Gas Decarbonisation Package, and the upcoming review of the Electricity Market) with a view to ensuring an ambitious and robust policy which allows the EU to achieve its climate and energy goals and fulfil its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement in line with EU environment and biodiversity objectives. Accelerating the energy transition is key to foster a resilient EU. Our countries will continue to be among the biggest advocates of the EU's need to accelerate its transition to a carbon-neutral economy. Both countries will strengthen the cooperation in this regard and will ensure that the transition happens in a just way, leaving no one behind.

- **Energy Infrastructure:** We will intensify bilateral cooperation on energy and climate related aspects, particularly on energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage and green hydrogen and its derivatives in order to explore the opportunities for accelerating the expansion of the green hydrogen industry, the improvement of infrastructure and supply chains as well as establishing a trade relationship, also for hydrogen-related technologies. We will make the geopolitical implications of the global energy transformation a regular part of our dialogue. We will both continue to lobby for a higher interconnection capacity of the Iberian Peninsula in order to enhance its contribution to the security of supply to the whole of EU. This is relevant for both electricity interconnections and, specially, through the development of the hydrogen corridor across the Pyrenees, identified by the RepowerEU Plan, to supply gas to Central Europe, and which in the future will have to carry renewable hydrogen. Thus, the construction of a sufficiently big hydrogen-ready gas pipeline across the Pyrenees to be operative by 2025 is of paramount importance in order to achieve a truly robust internal energy market within the EU, accelerate the green transition and reinforce EU's strategic autonomy. Necessary talks should include all parties involved as well as the European Commission.

- **Climate Protection, environment, forests:** Our countries share views on issues such as biodiversity and protected areas, international marine protection, plastic pollution, combating deforestation and sustainable forest management and drought resilience. We will collaborate in order to integrate our common climate and biodiversity concerns in other relevant policies in the EU and we aim to cooperate more closely in relevant international fora. Furthermore, we will promote the exchange of technical expertise and relevant information concerning biosphere reserves and national parks. Another concrete example is the use of peat in horticulture, an area in which we strive to set off a study on possible substitutes for the peat and their agronomic and economic viability in an evolving global environment. In addition, we acknowledge the need to examine ways in which an International Drought Resilience Alliance could provide a more coordinated, collaborative and effective global response to drought mitigation and resilience. We furthermore acknowledge the role of Nature-based Solutions for tackling the climate and biodiversity crises and will promote exchange on the implementation and scaling-up of Nature-based Solutions.

- **Oceanographic Research:** We are aware of the central role of the ocean for the climate system and therefore aim at deepening our research connections within the area of oceanographic

research. Relationships already exist within multilateral cooperation in the framework of Europe's leading oceanographic research organisations OFEG (Ocean Facilities Exchange Group), within JPI Oceans (Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans) and the German research vessel SONNE to contribute to keeping the oceans cleaner from micro plastics, aquatic pollutants and underwater noise in the marine environment.

- **International Ocean and fisheries governance:** As part of our commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, our countries will work closely together on knowledge exchange, scientific research and international cooperation to achieve an efficient ocean governance.
- **Earth Observation:** Our countries have important Space Geodetic infrastructures, driven by IGN and BKG. We aim at intensifying our scientific and technological cooperation in that field.
- **Trade:** Spain and Germany support an active and ambitious EU trade policy. Thus, we aim to diversify supply chains, contribute to inclusive growth and job creation, innovation and shared prosperity of EU Member States and our international partners, and to promote international social, ecological, climate and human rights standards. We want to accelerate the negotiation of trade agreements with partners such as Australia, India, Indonesia, and other global partners with robust and enforceable sustainability commitments, and seek to adopt and begin implementing trade agreements negotiated with New Zealand, Chile, Mexico, and MERCOSUR, reflecting the specific circumstances of our partners.
- **Industrial Cooperation:** Our countries aim at enhancing their already existing industrial cooperation in semiconductors to achieve the common goal of locating 20% of the world's semiconductor production in Europe. We aim at increasing cooperation on supply chains and on investments throughout Europe which can be supported notably by the European Chips Act, the IPCEI (Important Project of Common European Interest) on Microelectronics and Communication Technologies, and the IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud infrastructure and services (IPCEI-CIS). We will continue the already existing industrial cooperation in aviation together with France and UK (Airbus). An increased German-Spanish industrial cooperation will help working towards the technological and strategic sovereignty of the EU. As an example of this scenario, the recent trilateral agreement, together with France, on the coordination of defence export controls for jointly developed industrial cooperation programs, ensures the economic and political success of industrial and governmental cooperation projects. Developing German-Spanish Research and Innovation cooperation (e.g. through the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking/EuroHPC JU) will accelerate the green and digital transition, as well as create new market opportunities for European companies.
- **Social economy:** Our countries pursue the same aim: making the social economy with its special impact-oriented business models or corporate forms (e.g. cooperatives) more resilient to crises and boosting its visibility. Germany will therefore elaborate a national strategy for social enterprises to strengthen their driving force for transformation. As Spain has already implemented a suchlike strategy, Germany and Spain aim at extending the cooperation between social enterprises, regional initiatives or special cooperatives. We will contribute our

common understanding of the importance of social economy for the green and digital transformation to the negotiation process of the upcoming Luxembourg declaration.

- **Economic Governance:** We will discuss financial and economic matters including means to promote sustainable growth, resilience, strengthen productivity growth, competitiveness, convergence, investments and fiscal sustainability, including building on the successful implementation of our joint response to the COVID 19 crisis.
- **Fair taxation:** Spain and Germany will strengthen our cooperation in the fight against tax fraud through close cooperation between our tax administrations. Moreover, both countries reaffirm our strengthened commitment to swiftly implement the two-pillar solution on the taxation of the digitalized economy, including the global minimum effective corporate taxation. It is a key lever for further tax justice through a more efficient fight against tax optimization and evasion.
- **Entrepreneurship:** We aim at developing German-Spanish cooperation in this field, in order to promote the creation and growth of dynamic and innovative start-ups and scale ups, that will allow us to address the new challenges faced by both countries in areas such as digitalization, health, mobility, energy or social entrepreneurship. Spain has approved in 2022 the “Spain Entrepreneurial Nation Strategy”, including 50 measures to transform the production base of the Spanish economy. This Strategy aims to generate a new economic model based on innovative entrepreneurship, on the sectors driving Spain's production, and on inclusive development to leave no one behind.
- **Spanish-German Forum:** Within the framework of the close and trusting relations between our countries, the German-Spanish Forum is intended to be an active and attractive platform for economic exchange. The Forum's prominent position is underscored by the patronage of the two heads of state. Representatives from business, major German and Spanish companies, are invited. The forum is to be aligned with European topics of the future.
- **Cooperation of Research Entities:** We aim at fostering the cooperation of research entities, including in the field of health research, also on the European level. This concerns among others rare diseases, neurosciences, cancer, personalised medicine or nutritional research. German and Spanish research entities have signed MoUs in order to promote scientific cooperation between researchers and research institutions. Our two countries recognise Research Infrastructures (RIs) as a priority for the development of the European Research Area (ERA) and, in this sense, we are strongly committed to work actively on the implementation of Action 8 of the ERA Policy Agenda for the period 2022-2024, through the European Research Infrastructures Forum (ESFRI). Long-term sustainability of RIs should be ensured through strategic investments and intense collaboration between Member States. While our countries have shared, for several years now, a strong commitment to multilateral cooperation in the field of RIs, we recognise the importance of promoting mutual support to those infrastructures based in our territories. Thus, we aim to establish a Spanish-German Forum on RIs, with the objective of establishing an ongoing dialogue on strategic aspects of their participation in the European RIs at large, and specially for monitoring and strengthening their participation in the infrastructures based in Germany or Spain in which both countries participate (i.e., XFEL, CTA,

EU-SOLARIS), as well as to seek to extend this collaboration to new RIs of interest for any of our countries, such as IFMIF-DONES (nuclear fusion research), EST (the European Solar Telescope project) and LIFEWATCH ERIC (biodiversity and ecosystem research) hosted by Spain or FAIR (Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research) hosted by Germany, with the aim to establish a strategic partnership. Furthermore, the EU Programme for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), participated by both our countries, contributes to sustainable use of natural resources, economic growth and stability in the Mediterranean. We need to keep the legal framework of PRIMA as an institutionalised partnership, with the potential of broadening its scope. We are committed to secure the future of PRIMA through the most robust political bond. That is why PRIMA will be one of the essential items on the agenda during the Spanish Presidency of the Council in the second semester of 2023.

5. Ensuring social cohesion: enhancing cultural and academic exchange and strengthening cooperation for employment, vocational training, higher education, and social inclusion.

Equality of opportunities and social cohesion are fundamental for the future of both our countries and the EU. Our societies hold immense potential for the future and together, we can better meet the significant social challenges of our time: inequality, social inclusion, demographic change, the transformation of structurally weak regions, youth unemployment, transformation of the world of work, and gender inequality. To leave no one behind, we will actively work towards just social participation and better general living conditions.

Culture is also of central importance. We want to promote a profound debate on social issues through cultural exchange. We need to give a new impetus to the discussion amongst academics and, at the same time, promote cooperation between universities, think tanks and research incubators. We intend to further develop encounters and exchange between the citizens of our two countries, with a special emphasis on youth and young adults from disadvantaged sectors of society.

We will strive for closer cooperation in the following areas:

Areas of cooperation

- **Protection of Children, Families and People in need:** In our strive for strengthening our commitment to the leave no one behind principle and intensifying our cooperation on social rights, we will work together with the aim of achieving mutual understanding in the field of protecting children and families (for example by designing social and legal measures, which guarantee their rights and protection) as well as people in need of long-term care, as pillars of the Welfare State. We want to make it easier for people to balance work and private life, including caring responsibilities, and reduce the risk of poverty and social exclusion for children (for example by exchanging information about the implementation of the European Child Guarantee in Spain and Germany). We are committed to finding measures aimed at alleviating homelessness and defending the rights of persons with disabilities, in line with the mandates of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- **Skills on the Clean Energy Transition Sector:** The energy transition sector represents a great opportunity for quality employment. Therefore, our countries will cooperate and exchange best practices to strengthen their reskilling and upskilling programmes in the area of energy transition.
- **Combating Violence against Women:** The equality ministers of our countries will work together with the aim of achieving mutual understanding in the field of combating violence against women, as stipulated in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, signed in Istanbul in 2011. We will work together in the fight against sexual violence and to guarantee sexual freedom. In particular, the Equality Ministers will work towards a Feminist Europe, putting women's right at the centre of the European project by way of addressing other fundamental rights such as sexual and reproductive rights or care and reconciliation policies. The Equality Ministers will also work to fight discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and sex characteristics, in line with the European Commission's LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025.
- **Employment, Social issues and Labour market:** We aim to exchange information and experience on employment, social and labour market inclusion issues and social dialogue within the framework of the Joint Declarations of Intent of the Spanish and German ministries of labour and social affairs.
- **Social Inclusion:** In a context of increasing inequality, poverty and risk of exclusion, Germany and Spain will strengthen the exchange of experiences and share best practices in areas related to the minimum income policy and inclusion policies based on the Joint Declaration of Intent signed by the Spanish ministry of inclusion, social security and migration and the German ministry of labour and social affairs.
- **Vocational education and training (VET):** We aim at exploiting jointly the European VET process and particularly the European Commission's governance bodies to strengthen the implementation of work-based learning across Europe. Additionally, we strive to help the EU VET policy to overcome the challenges of the digital and ecological transition in the light of the National Implementation Plans of the Osnabrück Declaration and the VET Recommendation of 24 November 2020.
- **Higher education:** Of all Erasmus Plus-countries, Spain is destination number one for Erasmus-students from Germany. In addition, the other way round Spanish students are highly interested in staying in an entity of higher education in Germany. We want to foster the joint work between our respective agencies for the internationalization of education. Likewise, we will promote the consolidation of alliances between educational institutions of both countries. We intend to have an exchange of civil servants lasting from some weeks up to several months. By this, the Spanish side can get a deep insight for instance into the German Nationale Weiterbildungsstrategie and lifelong learning in Germany as well as getting into contact with German entities dealing with dual studies. The exchange gives the opportunity to discover the way of working in the partner Ministry and to deepen the bilateral understanding; all this with the aim of developing skills and moving towards shared transformation and innovation.

- **Frankfurt Book Fair:** Spain as Guest of Honour of 2022 Frankfurt Book Fair: Under the motto “Creatividad Desbordante”, this year’s Guest of Honour, Spain, will be presenting developments and trends in its literary and cultural life and, especially, its current literary and creative industry. One of the main objectives of the project has been to establish lasting links of collaboration between Spanish and German institutions, beyond the presence of Spain as Guest of Honour. A fundamental tool for this is the endowment for the promotion of translation, whose objective is to promote the sale of rights to Spanish titles in Germany and, also, worldwide.
- **German-Spanish Cultural Encounters:** The format of German-Spanish Cultural Encounters was established in 2002. The eighth edition took place in Berlin on June 23rd and 24th 2022. This event bears testimony to the benefit we draw from the cooperation of our cultural networks, i.e. the Goethe and Cervantes Institutes.
- **Language learning:** The knowledge of the partner’s language contributes to bringing citizens together. We want to encourage the teaching of Spanish in Germany and of German in Spain.
- **Academic Networks:** Germany and Spain welcome the intensified academic networking structures and intend to deepen our exchange in the areas of research and education.
- **Democratic Memory:** The Rosenberg Project addresses continuities following on from the dictatorships in our countries in the justice departments and the judiciary to gain findings that may be of benefit for democratic memory in the future. The German Federal Ministry of Justice’s “Rosenburg Project” researches the motives for cooperation by public officials in the Ministry of Justice with former Nazi leaders and highlights continuities in terms of both personnel and policy in the Federal Republic of Germany. The findings of the “Rosenburg Project” are summarised and illustrated in a touring exhibition in English.

6. Plan of Action Follow-up

This Joint Plan of Action lays testimony of our close cooperation and is a first step of the new enhanced bilateral cooperation between our countries: it transcends a specific moment in time or some particular circumstances. Partner Ministries will be responsible for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the action plan. The JPA is a living document that will be revised and updated regularly. In order to do so, Germany and Spain target a yearly consultation at the technical level (Director General) or higher – if deemed necessary. We will update the JPA in light of its purposefulness, new priorities and challenges including new and streamlined existing projects, also considering relevant input arising from parliamentary dialogue or exchanges with representatives of Spanish-German civil society.

ANNEX: GERMAN-SPANISH PLANNED AND ACTIVE PROJECTS

<i>Responsible Ministries</i>	<i>Project/Platform</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Progress/Results</i>
<i>German Ministry of Finance / Spanish Ministry of Finance and Civil Service</i>	<i>Intensify the cooperation in the field of coordinated external tax audits and intelligence sharing as opportunities to clarify cases mutual and to prevent disputes of taxation, and tax losses due to non-compliance and tax fraud.</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
<i>German Ministry of Finance / Aduanas Servicio Vigilancia Aduanera Agencia Tributaria Guardia Civil Policía Nacional</i>	<i>Customs Liaison Office at the German Embassy in Madrid (Customs Liaison Officer, established in 2004). The aim is to promote, maintain and accelerate strategic and operational cooperation (within the framework of administrative & legal assistance).</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	
<i>German Ministry of the Interior and Community / Spanish Ministry of Interior</i>	<i>Implementing projects in countries of origin and transit of irregular migration flows, strengthening their capacities to fight against smuggling networks, with a focus on North and West Africa.</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
<i>German Ministry of Finance / Spanish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation</i>	<i>Exchange on upcoming National Risk Assessments regarding AML/CFT/CFP. The aim is to exchange international expertise on risk assessments in the areas of AML/CFT/CFP, to strengthen global cooperation on new trends and thus to take more targeted actions against money laundering and terrorist financing in order to provide a more secure framework for Europe.</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
<i>AA, Embassies</i>	<i>Fostering contacts between Spanish and German think-tanks</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	
<i>AA</i>	<i>Consultations on National Security Strategy</i>	<i>Planned for 17 October</i>	
<i>AA / Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (MAEUEC)</i>	<i>Consultations on European enlargement</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
<i>AA/ MAEUEC</i>	<i>Consultations on CFSP matters (Political Directors and also at expert level)</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
<i>AA / MAEUEC</i>	<i>Consultations on Indo-Pacific</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
<i>AA / MAEUEC</i>	<i>In the Middle East Peace Process, Spain and Germany are part of the Quad with France and Italy. In this framework, joint demarches to ISR take place and joint statements on current issues</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	

	<i>are coordinated. Involving ad hoc other European partners if necessary.</i>		
AA / MAEUEC	<i>Occasional Consultations on Iran</i>	<i>Ad hoc</i>	
BMZ, AA / MAEUEC	<i>UfM Hub for Jobs, Trade and Investment</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
BMZ / MAEUEC	<i>Team Europe Initiative for good Jobs through Trade and Investment in the Southern Neighbourhood</i>		
AA / MAEUEC	<i>Joint report on ECOWAS</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
AA / MAEUEC	<i>Civilian Crisis Management, mediation and stabilization</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
AA / MAEUEC	<i>Peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
AA, German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development / MAEUEC	<i>Consultations on UN and UN-lead processes, initiatives, etc. for example on Agenda 2030</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
AA / MAEUEC	<i>Exchange on Candidatures</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
AA / MAEUEC	<i>Within the Human Rights council and the UNGA, we will continue to table the resolution “the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation” and will engage actively to further strengthen and develop these rights.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
AA, German Ministry of Defence / MAEUEC Spanish Ministry of Defence	<i>Non-proliferation and disarmament (e.g. Stockholm Initiative)</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
AA / German Ministry of Defence / OSCE Representation / Spanish Ministry of Defence, MAEUEC	<i>OSCE Structured Dialogue</i>		
AA / MAEUEC	<i>„ECFR Task Force for Strengthening Europe against Economic Coercion”</i>	<i>Currently completed - new phase/follow-up project conceivable.</i>	
AA / MAEUEC	<i>The existing network of schools in the "Schools: Partners for the Future" initiative should be strengthened and, if possible, expanded.</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
AA / MAEUEC	<i>Cultural and linguistic cooperation, including collaboration in the frame of EUNIC</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
AA / MAEUEC	<i>Cooperation in science and academia</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
AA / MAEUEC	<i>Network of German schools in Spain</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	

AA / MAEUEC	Civil society networks	t.b.c.	
AA / MAEUEC	Both sides should, together with the Goethe and Cervantes Institutes, look into the possible benefits of an increased cooperation of our cultural networks in third countries, with a particular emphasis on Africa and Latin America.	t.b.c.	
AA / MAEUEC Embassies	Regular contacts and cooperation between Spanish and German Embassies	Ongoing	
AA / MAEUEC Embassies	Science network on energy, medicine, nutrition, poverty reduction	t.b.c.	
German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) / Sociedad Estatal de Participaciones Industriales	Shareholding management in Airbus SE, where Germany holds a blocking minority together with France and Spain to protect Airbus as a strategic important European aerospace group from undesired influence or takeover attempts.	Ongoing	
BMWK / Spanish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation	Planned IPCEI Microelectronics and Communication Technologies: Development of most advanced microelectronic and connectivity solutions that enable digital transformation and support the Green Deal; increase of data and cybersecurity; achieving EU sovereignty and resilience by increasing the share of manufacturing for innovative products in Europe.		
BMWK/ Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographical Challenge	IPCEI hydrogen: Development of a European hydrogen infrastructure.		
BMWK / Spanish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transition	IPCEI-CIS: Building the next generation cloud infrastructure and services across Europe according to European values.		
BMWK	European Lightweighting Network (ELN): European exchange platform enhancing -border cooperation in climate action, utilizing the entire potential of the key technology lightweighting.		
BMWK / Gaia-X AISBL / Spanish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transition	Gaia-X: Spain has established a national Gaia-X Hub and is part of the Governmental Advisory Board, of which it currently holds the Chair.	Ongoing	
BMWK / ACCIO (Generalitat Catalonia), AIF Projekt GmbH	MOU ZIM (Central Innovation Program) - Bilateral cooperation with the Spanish province of Catalonia for cross-border R&D projects, funded by ZIM in Germany and Accio in Catalonia		

<i>BMWK/AA, German Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Agreement on Export Controls in the Arms Sector - Rules and procedures for export controls of military equipment for governmental joint projects, industrial cooperation and de minimis supplies (with France)</i>		
<i>BMWK / Spanish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transition</i>	<i>European High Performance Computing / World Class Supercomputing Ecosystem in Europe (EU HPC)</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Justice / Spanish Ministry of Justice</i>	<i>Audio-visual documentation of the main hearing in criminal proceedings (Germany plans to introduce the recording of the main hearing which Spain has introduced many years ago).</i>		<i>So far, there has been an exchange via informal contacts and via the hardware and software developer (ARCONTE / Fujitsu).</i>
<i>German Ministry of Justice / Spanish Ministry of Justice</i>	<i>Exchange on a technical level regarding possible upcoming reforms in the law of parentage and the law of the child)</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Structured Security and Defence Dialogue of MoDs.</i>	<i>Annual</i>	<i>Establishment at DPD level after Governmen tal consultatio ns on major security and defence cooperation projects</i>
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Exchange of personnel between Political Directorates of Ministries of Defence.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Armaments Commission Talks of National Armaments Directors</i>	<i>Annual</i>	<i>Armaments talks on ongoing GER-ESP armaments cooperation and possible future</i>

			<i>armaments cooperation</i>
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Contract for open skies, potentially future renting A 319 OH by Spain</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Joint Training Eurofighter</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>EUROCORPS, joint participation as a framework nation</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Participation with Personnel in NATO Rapid Deployable Corps SPAIN</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Cooperation in the framework of the NATO Response Force (NRF) (not permanent, for 2023: Spanish participation in NRF with Navy forces, special forces, land/air forces).</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Framework Nations Concept (FNC) Activity Multinational Medical Coordination Centre/ European Medical Command (MMCC/EMC)</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>Participation in PESCO Projects ESP is involved in 5 DEU coordinated PESCO projects (European Medical Command, Network of Logistic Hubs, EUFOR CROC, European MALE RPAS, Common Hub for Governmental Imagery). DEU participates in 2 ESP coordinated PESCO projects (Strategic C2 System for CSDP Missions and Operations, Small Next Generation RPAS) In addition, DEU and ESP participate in 9 other PESCO projects (Integrated Unmanned Ground System, European Secure Software defined Radio, EU Radionavigation Solution, Tiger Mk III, Co-basing, Timely Warning and Interception with Space-based Theater surveillance, Materials and components for technological EU competitiveness, Defence of Space Assets, Military Mobility).</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
<i>German Ministry of Defence / Spanish Ministry of Defence</i>	<i>EDA (European Defence Agency): out of 230 ongoing EDA activities, Germany and Spain are jointly represented in 114 of them.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry</i>	<i>Animal disease control and zoonotic diseases</i>		

<i>of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>			
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>	<i>One Health European Joint Programming (OHEJP)*, Reintroduction of the topic is expected in the EU partnership Animal Health & Welfare</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>	<i>VetBioNet (Veterinary Biocontained facility Network for excellence in animal infectiology research and experimentation)</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>	<i>European Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (EURCAW): Welfare of poultry and other small farmed animals (EURCAW-Poultry-SFA): Welfare of ruminants and equines (EURCAW-Ruminants) Welfare of pigs (EURCAW-Pigs)</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>	<i>Cooperation on the implementation of the European framework for data collection in the fisheries sector, with respect to regional coordination of sampling programs for stocks of mutual interest and encouraging the implementation of regional multidisciplinary campaigns and the application of an ecosystem approach.</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographical Challenge</i>	<i>Cooperation on deforestation-free supply chains of agricultural products and sustainable palm-oil under the Amsterdam Partnership (Roadmap until 2025)</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>	<i>Scientific cooperation under the auspices of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, ICES, in all areas related to sustainable use of marine living resources</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>	<i>Cooperation in the frame of EFARO, the association of European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations to enhance to cross European coordination of scientific research</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture /</i>	<i>Multiple joint research projects under the Horizon Europe in the fields of marine and fisheries science</i>		

<i>Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>			
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>	<i>Cooperation in the framework of the INTERREG Atlantic Area Program in areas of seafood authenticity and consumer protection</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>	<i>Cooperation in the framework of the HORIZON program in the field of European eel ecology</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Food and Agriculture / Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food</i>	<i>Cooperation in the framework of the FishGenome program in the area of stock assessment methods</i>		
<i>German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth / Spanish Ministry of Equality</i>	<i>Exchange/best practices on gender equality (especially combating violence against women and protecting/reinforcing rights of LGBTIQ* persons).</i>	<i>Annual meeting</i>	<i>Memorandum of Understanding Signed (PAUS/MONTERO): 05.09.2022</i>
<i>German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth / Spanish Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda</i>	<i>Exchange/best practices on protecting children and families as well as people in need of long-term care (especially better reconciliation of work, life and care responsibilities) and reducing the risk of poverty and social exclusion for children (especially European Child Guarantee).</i>	<i>Annual meeting</i>	<i>Memorandum of Understanding Signed (PAUS/BELARRA): 06.10.2022</i>
<i>German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth / Manuel Montero Rey, Instituto de Mayores y Servicios Sociales (Imsero)</i>	<i>Exchange within the framework of the UNECE SWGA and the UNECE SWGA Bureau on the topic of aging society, implementation of MIPAA and RIS in the UNECE region and activities concerning older people.</i>		
<i>German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth</i>	<i>Exchange/best practices on palliative and hospice work and euthanasia.</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	

<i>/ Spanish Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda</i>			
<i>German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth / Spanish Ministry of Equality</i>	<i>Exchange/best practices on gender equality policy initiatives for both men and women.</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
<i>German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth / Spanish Ministry of Equality</i>	<i>Exchange/best practices on gender equality policy initiatives for both boys and men.</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
<i>German Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth / Spanish Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda</i>	<i>Exchange/best practices on Persons with disabilities</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Health / Spanish Ministry of Health</i>	<i>Health issues</i>	<i>t.b.c. On national level, ad hoc</i>	
<i>German Ministry of Education and Research / Spanish Ministry of Universities</i>	<i>Intensifying the cooperation in research (including climate and energy research) as well as education issues (including exchanges on dual and vocational training). Willing to have an exchange of civil servants in order to deepen the understanding of bilateral cooperation.</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Education and Research / Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation</i>	<i>Fostering the health research also on European level (for ex. rare diseases, neurosciences, cancer, personalised medicine or nutritional research)</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Education and Research / Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation</i>	<i>Cooperation in the framework of OFEG (Ocean Facilities Exchange Group)</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	<i>OFEG represents Europe's leading oceanographic research organisations and provides a forum to consider better exchange and co-</i>

			<i>operation opportunities for the Global and Ocean Class research fleet.</i>
<i>German Ministry of Education and Research / Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation</i>	<i>Cooperation in the framework of JPI Oceans (Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans): Ecological Aspects of Microplastics, Aquatic Pollutants, Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	<i>Spain is a member state of JPI Oceans.</i>
<i>German Ministry of Education and Research / Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation</i>	<i>Cooperation in ocean research on the German research vessel SONNE</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	
<i>Ministry of Building, Housing, Urban development</i>		<i>Open to suggestions</i>	
<i>BMWK / Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographical Challenge</i>	<i>Collaboration to improve energy interconnections between Spain and central Europe: Accelerate electricity interconnections and foster hydrogen-ready gas interconnections.</i>		
<i>BMWK / Spanish Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographical Challenge</i>	<i>Structured dialogue on accelerating the energy transition: European legislative proposals, RES and EE financing mechanisms, etc.</i>		
<i>BMWK/Spanish Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism</i>	<i>Bilateral Cooperation with the Spanish Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (MINCOTUR) for cross-border R&D-projects, funded by ZIM in Germany and MINCOTUR in Spain.</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
<i>BMWK/Spanish Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism</i>	<i>Increasing commercial policy cooperation: structured dialogue; Regular contacts and cooperation between Spanish and German authorities</i>		
<i>BMWK/Spanish Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism</i>	<i>Increasing industrial policy cooperation: structured dialogue; Regular contacts and cooperation between Spanish and German authorities</i>		

<i>German Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs/ Spanish Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration</i>	<i>Joint Declaration of intent on inclusion between the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration of the Kingdom of Spain and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
<i>German Ministry of Interior and Community / Spanish Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda</i>	<i>Intensify the joint activities on Earth Observation (technological and scientific) between IGN and BKG</i>	<i>t. b. c</i>	
<i>German Ministry of Health / Spanish Ministry of Health</i>	<i>Exchange/best practices on public health surveillance systems, preparedness and response to health alerts, digital health and use of data, prevention and health promotion (mental health) International Health Regulations (IHR) implementation, healthcare professional's mobility and training</i>	<i>t.b.c. On national level, ad hoc</i>	
<i>BMWK / Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Economy</i>	<i>Demarches and joint work on Social and Solidarity Economy with the European Commission on the follow up of the EU Action Plan on Social Economy</i>	<i>2022-2023</i>	
<i>Spanish Ministry of Labour and Social Economy / BMAS</i>	<i>Joint Seminar on democracy at work, employment for vulnerable groups and coordination on EU affairs (as a follow-up to the Declaration of Intent signed in April in Berlin by both Ministers)</i>	<i>November 2022, Madrid</i>	<i>Exchange and increased cooperation between ministries</i>
<i>Ministry of Labour and Social Economy / Ministry for Family Affairs</i>	<i>Virtual exchange on employability for LGTBIQ+ people</i>	<i>September / October 2022</i>	<i>Exchange and increased cooperation between ministries</i>
<i>German Ministry of Science and Research / Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation</i>	<i>Strengthen mutual collaboration between main research funding organisations.</i>	<i>ongoing</i>	<i>Memorandum of Understanding signed between DFG and AEI in 2021 and DFG and ISCIII on September 8, 2022</i>
<i>German Ministry of Science and Research / Spanish Ministry</i>	<i>Stimulate the cooperation between research centres in areas of common interest such as Animal Health and Sustainable production (OH</i>		

<i>of Science and Innovation</i>	<i>EJP and European Partnership on Animal Health & Welfare) and Social Sciences and Humanities.</i>		
<i>German Ministry of Science and Research / Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation</i>	<i>Intensifying the collaboration in the framework of European Research Infrastructures (RIs). Proposals by the Spanish side include IFMIF-DONES, the EST project and LifeWatch ERIC.</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	
<i>German Ministry of Science and Research / Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation</i>	<i>Cooperation in the framework of PRIMA by supporting its continuity and potentially broadening the scope and ambition and integrating the blue economy of the Mediterranean as well as other areas such as renewable energies, health or climate change.</i>		<i>PRIMA is an Article 185 and therefore needs co-decision process. It will be part of the political agenda for the Spanish Presidency of the Council in the second semester of 2023.</i>
<i>German Ministry of Science and Research / Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation</i>	<i>Continuing our cooperation in the framework of the Ocean Facilities Exchange Group, with the German research vessel SONEE and the Spanish vessels Sarmiento de Gamboa, García del Cid and Hespérides.</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
<i>German Ministry of Science and Research / Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation</i>	<i>Cooperation in the framework of the EuroHPC JU in areas of common interest such as Open Hardware and Software.</i>	<i>t.b.c.</i>	