

Joint Declaration

for cooperation over Science, Innovation and Technology

between

the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK),

and

the Ministry for Higher Education and Research (MESR) and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) of France

Context

DSIT, MESR and MEAE have decided that excellence-based international collaboration is essential to remain a key player in the global science and innovation environment. At the 36th Franco-British Summit held in Paris on 10 March 2023, a joint leaders' declaration announced the creation of a bilateral committee for science, innovation and technology. The aim of this committee is to help intensify scientific collaboration between our two countries by mobilising stakeholders in areas identified as priorities.

Purpose

This declaration confirms the intention of the British Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research (MESR), and the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) to encourage cooperation between their respective research and innovation communities through a bilateral committee for science, innovation and technology.

The declaration outlines the principles of the bilateral relationship and forms of cooperation.

Principles of the relationship

The participants will work together to support their respective research and innovation communities in bilateral and multilateral activities that strengthen excellence, research security, and impact of research and innovation, notably to advance on solutions to global issues.

The participants will meet at regular intervals to review and discuss past, current and future cooperation and address any concerns. The meetings should be comprised of representatives of the corresponding ministries, forming a committee. If appropriate, relevant national partners and experts may be asked to attend individual meetings.

The committee will meet once every two years, alternating between the UK and France, with the first committee taking place in London on 29th February 2024.

Both embassies, the French Embassy in London and the British Embassy in Paris, actively participate in the organisation of the bilateral joint committee alongside MEAE, MESR and DSIT.

Nature and implementation of this cooperation

This cooperation may include, but is not limited to, the following types of activity in the areas of research and innovation:

- coordinated or joint initiatives, programmes or projects;
- meetings, workshops, conferences or symposia;
- exchange of information and documentation;
- mobility, visits and delegations;
- strategy and coordination meetings.

Funding will be dedicated on both sides to support selected priorities.

The activities will foster applications for Horizon Europe and further framework programmes of the European Union as often as possible.

This cooperation is developed while respecting the status and autonomy of the bodies and institutions in the UK and in France.

London, 29 February 2024