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THE ROMANIA-FRANCE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP IN THE CURRENT EUROPEAN CONTEXT

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Abstract

This study explores the provisions of the Partnership and of the Political Declaration of Renewal signed in 2018, analyses its strategic rationale, and situates it within two contexts: the internal changes in the EU that have occurred as a result of the accession of the post-communist countries in 2004 and 2007, followed by the context of the Russo-Ukrainian war. The objective of our research is to identify the core benefits for Romania that stem from the strategic partnership with France and to propose recommendations to consolidate bilateral cooperation. The recommendations are tailored to Romania's foreign policy objectives in the current context, based on the principle of diplomacy that transcends territorial boundaries and is grounded in historical continuity and each country's role within the European project. As a founding member of the European Union, France contributes to maintaining the vitality and cohesion of this project, and Romania assumes its strategic role as a frontline state through this long-standing bilateral cooperation.

Keywords: Romania, France, strategic partnership, European Union, NATO.

¹ This publication draws exclusively on open-source materials. The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the institution.

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INTRODUCTION. THE PREMISES OF ROMANIAN-FRENCH COOPERATION

The Strategic Partnership signed between Romania and France in February 2008 emerged at a time when the European political order was undergoing accelerated transformation. The Treaty of Nice, effective as of 2003, prepared the European Union (EU) for the accession of the former communist countries. Subsequently, their integration paved the way for a new reform of the European Union, with debates on this subject running concurrently with Romania's accession process and culminating in the adoption of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009.

Romania, only a year after its accession to the European Union, faced the objective of achieving strategic integration into the Union's political, economic, and administrative structures. In parallel, France had entered a new phase of proactive foreign policy under the initiative of President Nicolas Sarkozy, seeking to preserve its influence over both the EU's institutional reform and the geopolitics of the Union's neighborhood, particularly its eastern frontier. The 2008 partnership thus crystallized a convergence of interests: Romania's objective of securing the political support of a founding member of the European Union that constantly shapes common policies and France's ambition to embed Eastern Europe more securely within a reformed, post-Lisbon European architecture. This assessment explores the provisions of the partnership and of the Political Declaration of Renewal signed in 2018, analyses its strategic rationale and situates it within two contexts: the internal transformations of the EU that have occurred in the wake of the accession of the post-communist countries in 2004 and 2007 and, in turn, the context of the Russo-Ukrainian war.

The aim of our analysis is to identify the key benefits for Romania that stem from the strategic partnership with France and to propose recommendations to consolidate bilateral cooperation. The recommendations are tailored to Romania's foreign policy objectives in the current context, based on the principle of diplomacy that transcends territorial boundaries and is grounded in historical continuity and each country's role within the European project. As a founding member of the European Union, France contributes to maintaining the vitality and

cohesion of this project, while Romania assumes its strategic role as a frontline state through this long-standing bilateral cooperation.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT. FRANCE, A RELIABLE ALLY OF ROMANIA

Romania is the only Black Sea country with which France has a special relationship, a fact that justifies strengthening bilateral cooperation through concrete, achievable objectives that benefit both countries.

The French Republic has been an ally at the main turning points in Romania's foreign policy. Romanian-French relations began with Napoleon III's support for the union of Wallachia and Moldavia in 1859 and for the establishment of the Romanian national state ([France Diplomatie](#) - Relations bilatérales, 2025). In the mid-nineteenth century, during the early period of nation-state formation, France was one of the major geopolitical actors in Europe, taking part in shaping the continental order. The goodwill Romanians hold towards France dates from this same period.

The next decisive moment in France's support for Romania was their military cooperation during the First World War, as a result of which Romania was able to convert the setbacks of 1916 into the victories of the summer of 1918, which made possible the union of the Old Kingdom of Romania with Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania. Furthermore, this military support was matched by diplomatic support at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919-1920.

Under the communist regime, diplomatic relations were maintained at a high level. President Charles de Gaulle's visit to Bucharest in May 1968 played a particular role in preserving contact with the West ([France Diplomatie](#) - Relations bilatérales, 2025). French efforts were compounded by the Bucharest communist regime's strategy of convenience, opening towards the West in order to maximize its position of independence from the Soviet Union. Bucharest's lack of flexibility, which accompanied the economic and political collapse of Eastern European communism, led to a temporary curtailment of cooperation until the fall of the totalitarian regimes.

The reset of relations took place after Romania's return to democracy in 1989. Once Romania established NATO and European Union accession as its main foreign policy objectives, political dialogue with France intensified progressively, culminating in the signing



of the bilateral Strategic Partnership in February 2008 and its updating in 2018 through a Joint Political Declaration by the two presidents, Klaus Iohannis and Emmanuel Macron ([Calea Europeană](#), 2018).

AREAS OF STRATEGIC COOPERATION

The 2008 Joint Declaration on the Strategic Partnership

The document signed in 2008 underpins the Romanian-French Strategic Partnership. It covers a wide range of cooperation, and the implementation of projects is carried out through a roadmap established periodically by mutual agreement, a document that includes the priorities of bilateral cooperation at the European and international levels ([Ministerul Afacerilor Externe](#), 2025). These roadmaps were signed in 2008, 2013, 2016, and 2020.

The Joint Declaration established a multidimensional framework of cooperation, rooted in shared historical ties and convergent strategic interests. Politically, France affirmed its support for Romania's integration into the European Union's central decision-making process and emphasized coordination on foreign policy matters, particularly regarding the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, and the Black Sea Region ([France Diplomatie](#), Roumanie - Communiqué conjoint, 2023). This political dimension was closely linked to the ongoing process of EU reform, particularly the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon.

In the field of security and defense, the partnership highlighted Romania's increasingly necessary role within NATO and encouraged strengthened military cooperation. Joint military exercises within NATO, cooperation in the defense and industrial sectors, and enhanced interoperability were considered crucial for addressing emerging regional threats. Particular attention was given to the Black Sea, an area of strategic importance for both EU and NATO security interests ([France Diplomatie](#), Roumanie - Communiqué conjoint, 2023).

From an economic standpoint, the partnership sought to deepen bilateral trade, investment, and industrial collaboration. France, already one of Romania's principal economic partners, ought to expand cooperation in sectors such as automobile manufacturing, energy, infrastructure development, and nuclear energy. Energy security, in particular, emerged as a central theme. The Declaration emphasized the need to diversify Europe's energy sources and

supply routes, reflecting shared concerns about dependence on Russian natural gas ([France Diplomatie](#), Roumanie - Communiqué conjoint, 2023).

The partnership also prioritized cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs. France expressed its support for Romania's progress towards Schengen accession and encouraged the continuation of reforms in border security and anti-corruption measures. In addition, enhanced collaboration between police structures and the judicial system targeted cross-border crime, particularly human trafficking.

A cultural and scientific dimension complemented these strategic objectives, with Romania playing an active role in promoting the French language and francophone cultural ties in the region. The partnership encouraged academic exchanges, joint research projects, and cultural programs, consolidating the long-standing relations in this field.

The significance of the signing of the Strategic Partnership must be understood in the context of Europe in the late 2000s. Romania had acceded to the European Union only a year earlier and was in the post-enlargement consolidation phase (Börzel & Risse, 2010). However, following the 2004 and 2007 enlargements, the EU faced challenges related to administrative capacity, corruption, and economic disparities between existing members and the new states that had begun the integration process (Cihelková & Staněk, 2008). Western European governments, including France, were interested in strengthening institutional mechanisms in order to ensure the cohesion and stability of the enlarged Union.

This period also coincided with the EU's search for institutional solutions following the rejection of the Constitutional Treaty in 2005 (European Commission, 2007). The Treaty of Lisbon, signed in 2007 and entering into force in 2009, aimed to streamline decision-making and strengthen the Union's global role. France, under the presidency of Nicolas Sarkozy, played a central role in promoting these reforms and closer ties with the new member states, including Romania, and supported this broader political vision.

Security concerns also shaped the European environment. The Russian Federation's return to the international stage following its internal recovery under the presidency of Vladimir Putin, coupled with the 2008 Russo-Georgian War, which heightened tensions in the geopolitical environment, amplified NATO's strategic focus on the eastern flank. Romania's geographical position at the intersection of the Balkans and the Black Sea made it extremely important for European security planning.

On the economic front, the first signs of the global financial crisis were becoming visible. The financial crisis triggered in 2008 rapidly turned into an economic crisis, severely affecting the labor market and, in turn, political stability in many states. While Romania was experiencing rapid economic growth, structural imbalances and market vulnerabilities were simultaneously intensifying. France regarded Romania both as a commercial partner with promising prospects and as a strategic partner whose stability was important for the Central and Eastern European region as a whole.

The 2018 Joint Political Declaration – a renewed framework for cooperation

In November 2018, cooperation was adapted to new realities through the signing of a Joint Political Declaration. The signing of the Declaration coincided with the launch of the France-Romania Cultural Season, a wide-ranging public and cultural diplomacy project carried out in both states, the timing of which also corresponded with Romania holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the celebration of the Centenary of the Great Union ([Ministerul Afacerilor Externe](#), 2021).

The joint political declaration updated the Strategic Partnership originally agreed in 2008 and reaffirmed the political, security, economic, cultural, and European cooperation priorities between a founding Western European power of the European Union and an Eastern European member of the EU and NATO in the midst of the integration process.

The Declaration was signed as a result of an intensified Franco-Romanian bilateral dialogue. It coincided with state visits and cultural diplomacy activities that provided a public platform for the two countries' presidents to reaffirm shared objectives. The document anticipated the challenges of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, noting that it would take place at a pivotal moment for the EU's future, shaped by the reform of European institutions, progress on the next multiannual financial framework, the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union and the informal Sibiu Summit, which was to set the guidelines for the EU's strategic agenda for 2019–2024 (La Maison Élysée, [Déclaration politique entre la France et la Roumanie](#), 2018).

The Declaration served two complementary political purposes. Firstly, it reaffirmed France's support for Romania's full integration into European decision-making processes and its role within the EU and NATO; secondly, it updated cooperation priorities to reflect the

evolving regional security concerns (particularly in Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region), the challenges of energy security, and the need for stronger defense collaboration within the EU and NATO.

Although the 2018 Declaration is a political instrument rather than a bilateral treaty and therefore does not carry the same legal force, it covers the same broad range of areas as the 2008 bilateral document. The provisions of the Declaration can be grouped around five main pillars: political coordination and European affairs; security and defense; economic and energy cooperation; dialogue on justice, home affairs and the rule of law; and cultural and scientific relations.

Political Coordination and European Affairs: The text reiterates the mutual commitment to a stronger European Union, capable of acting strategically in the fields of security, defense, migration, and economic governance. It emphasizes the need for coordinated positions on enlargement in Eastern Europe and the Western Balkans and signals France's support for Romania's active role within the EU's institutions and political fora. The Declaration therefore functions both as a bilateral reassurance and as a contribution to shaping the EU's internal debates.

Security and Defense: A major aspect of the 2018 Declaration is defense cooperation. The document reiterates the objectives of interoperability, the intensification of bilateral military exercises, collaboration between military equipment manufacturers and defense ministries, and shared attention to the Black Sea security environment, a region of renewed strategic importance following the Russian Federation's annexation of Crimea in 2014. The two parties proceed from the premise that closer cooperation and coordination with NATO are essential to the development of the common security and defense policy. Accordingly, Romania and France will respond appropriately to the deteriorating security environment in the East and South through the effective and consistent implementation of the Alliance's new enhanced deterrence and defense posture, agreed at the Wales and Warsaw Summits and reaffirmed at the Brussels Summit, as well as through the Alliance's overall approach of projecting stability (La Maison Élysée, [Déclaration politique entre la France et la Roumanie](#), 2018).

The Declaration contains practical measures to enhance joint capacity-building and contributions to collective NATO missions, reflecting both Romania's desire for stronger allied

commitments on the eastern frontier and France's interest in a credible European defense posture.

Since the outbreak of full-scale war in Ukraine in 2022, following the Russian invasion, the security environment in Eastern Europe has changed dramatically, prompting allied states to adjust their defense postures. In this context, Romania, owing to its geographical position, NATO membership, and access to the Black Sea, has become a geopolitical outpost of defense against Russian aggression. France, seeking to reaffirm its role as a European security actor, responded by deepening bilateral military cooperation with Romania. This cooperation has taken multiple forms: the deployment of troops and equipment under NATO auspices, strengthened cooperation in naval and air defense, and coordination in collective defense missions.

Joint military exercises have been organized in cooperation with France to increase interoperability. In 2024, it was decided to increase the presence, to brigade level, of the NATO Battlegroup under French command, part of Mission Aigle and stationed at the Cincu Military Base ([Defense Romania](#), 2024). The multinational exercise Dacian Fall 2025 (hosted by Romania and Bulgaria) demonstrated the growing scale of this cooperation ([Mediafax](#), 2025). Thus, the presence of French-led NATO forces in Romania underscores the central feature of post-2022 cooperation: rotation under the forward-tailored format, aimed at deterring the enemy and strengthening defense.

Progress has also been made in naval defense. In April 2024, a French Atlantic 2 maritime patrol aircraft was redeployed to Romania (Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base) for anti-submarine and mine-detection missions in the Black Sea ([Defense Romania](#), 2024). This deployment forms part of broader multinational efforts to monitor and secure the Black Sea region, whose strategic importance has increased owing to the war in Ukraine, threats to maritime navigation and the need to secure shipping routes.

During the visit of the French Minister of Defense, Catherine Vautrin, to Romania in autumn 2025, France reaffirmed its commitment to the country's security. The presence of French forces in Romania was described as a firm alliance and essential to the security of NATO's eastern flank. Romania's Ministry of National Defense presented the multinational battlegroup stationed at Cincu (with France as the framework nation) as a solid guarantee of allied cooperation in the Black Sea region ([Ministerul Apărării Naționale](#), 2025).

Economic and Energy Cooperation: The Declaration updates the commitments to deepening economic ties and explicitly identifies energy as an area for intensified cooperation. France and Romania signaled diplomatic and industrial interest in collaborating on nuclear energy projects, diversifying supply routes, and cooperating within the European Union's energy markets. This reflected a shared European concern about energy security and acknowledged Romania's role as both a potential transit country and a participant in regional energy initiatives. Accordingly, in 2020, a Joint Declaration of Intent was signed for the construction of Reactors 3 and 4 at Cernavodă and the modernization of Reactor 1, with the French company Orano, whose activities include uranium mining for energy purposes, taking part on France's side ([Le Petit Journal](#), 2020).

Justice, Home Affairs and the Rule of Law: The 2018 Declaration pushes back against the concept and practices of illiberal democracy and against tendencies to challenge the EU's legal values from within, reaffirming that the functioning of the European Union is based in particular on the defense of the rule of law at the national level, in Europe and in the world (La Maison Élysée, [Déclaration politique entre la France et la Roumanie](#), 2018). It reaffirms cooperation in the field of justice and internal security, including police cooperation against transnational organized crime and human trafficking, as well as a high-level dialogue on rule-of-law issues. Although France has publicly supported Romania's progress within the EU, it has also signaled the need for continued institutional consolidation, a diplomatic balance intended to support Romania's institutional progress without overlooking governance concerns.

Cultural, Educational and Scientific Cooperation: Finally, the Declaration places strong emphasis on cultural diplomacy and non-coercive foreign policy, or soft power: the promotion of Francophone heritage in Romania, the expansion of university and research partnerships, and the programming of the Cultural Season, which formed the public backdrop for the high-level meeting in France. These elements served a dual diplomatic purpose: strengthening social ties and creating durable channels for political affinity. On 27 January 2023, during talks between the Romanian and French foreign ministers, Bogdan Aurescu and Catherine Colonna, cooperation within the francophone space was reaffirmed as a reference area of the strategic partnership ([France Diplomatie](#), Roumanie – Communiqué conjoint, 2023).

A STRATEGIC ANALYSIS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION

The 2018 Joint Political Declaration can be interpreted from two mutually reinforcing perspectives: (1) as a bilateral instrument of reassurance and deepening, primarily for Romania, and (2) as an instrument within France's broader European strategy under the presidency of Emmanuel Macron.

From Bucharest's perspective, the declaration reaffirmed allied solidarity at a time of regional uncertainty – marked in particular by the ongoing consequences of the Russian Federation's 2014 annexation of Crimea, growing pressures from uncontrolled immigration, and the shifting dynamics of transatlantic relations. For Paris, the declaration promoted a vision of a politically committed and strategically capable European Union, which includes Eastern European partners acting as reliable contributors to shared European security and economic objectives.

In this regard, the declaration sought to align Romania's ambitions (gaining greater influence within the EU/NATO) with France's desire to institutionalize a coherent European response to economic and strategic security challenges. The text underscores that "Romania and France will seek to propose joint initiatives to strengthen the European project, convergence, and socio-economic cohesion, as well as to deepen integration within the European Union. Romania and France will support initiatives at the European level that can contribute to strengthening unity among EU member states and overcoming differences between East and West, and between North and South, for the benefit of all European citizens" (La Maison Élysée, [Déclaration politique entre la France et la Roumanie](#), 2018).

At an operational level, the focus on defense cooperation and energy projects constituted a pragmatic alignment of mutual interests: Romania benefited from France's industrial capacity and diplomatic influence, while France secured an active partner in the Black Sea and the Balkans. Finally, the cultural and academic dimensions consolidated political convergence by deepening long-term social ties that support diplomatic trust.

Since 2022, military cooperation between Romania and France has entered a new, deeper phase, shifting from periodic cooperation to sustained, structured, and diversified collaboration. Through permanent or semi-permanent troop deployments, maritime and air defense cooperation, institutional integration, and large-scale exercises, France reaffirms its role as a key guarantor of security on NATO's eastern border, while Romania consolidates its

role as a strategic border outpost. This cooperation serves not only bilateral interests but also the broader security imperatives of NATO and Europe: deterrence, defense, burden-sharing and greater European strategic autonomy. As long as security challenges in the Black Sea and Eastern Europe remain acute, Franco-Romanian cooperation is bound to grow in importance, although its success will depend on sustained political will, resources and alliance cohesion.

Regarding the accuracy of predictions about European Union objectives and their bilateral support, the 2008 and 2018 Joint Declarations remain highly topical. The Union's challenges and objectives mentioned in the 2018 Declaration remained the same after February 24, 2022, though the framework for action was profoundly transformed: "In the current context, marked by a period of complex challenges for the European Union, Romania and France will seek to propose joint initiatives to strengthen the European project, convergence, and socio-economic cohesion, as well as to deepen integration within the European Union" (La Maison Élysée, [Déclaration politique entre la France et la Roumanie](#), 2018).

After 2018, in line with the Declaration's anticipations, the importance given by both states, but particularly by Romania, to interconnectivity with European countries across all geographical axes grew substantially: "Romania and France will support initiatives at the European level that can contribute to strengthening unity among EU member states and overcoming differences between East and West, North and South, for the benefit of all European citizens" (La Maison Élysée, 2018). Concretely, Romania participates in regional formats aimed at deepening logistical interconnectivity between European states, a prime example being the Three Seas Initiative, which enjoys political backing from France as well.

In the post-2018 period, the Joint Declaration materialized into a set of measurable results: extensive military exercises, memorandums for industrial projects, and cultural programs, though not all ambitions were fully realized immediately. Constraints included budget limits regarding defense procurement, the complex multilateral nature of energy projects (involving EU, regional, and private actors), and domestic political changes in both countries, which occasionally slowed implementation. Nevertheless, the Declaration served as a flexible political tool that enabled both parties to coordinate on multiple dossiers and to renew bilateral dialogue at the highest level.

A sensitive topic involves the differing approaches toward EU enlargement. France does not support Türkiye's EU accession, citing the country's authoritarian regime ([BBC](#), 2018). Romania, on the other hand, has maintained a strategic partnership with Türkiye since

2011, and the full potential of this cooperation is still far from being reached. Conversely, the support shown by Romania and France, alongside Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Poland, for the European future of the Republic of Moldova is highly significant. This declaration was communicated during the European Political Community meeting in Tirana on May 16, 2025 (European Council, [Joint Statement](#), 2025).

The operationalization of projects and the achievement of objectives were made possible through diplomatic planning. The constant frequency of diplomatic dialogue between France and Romania, focused on foreign policy and defense, demonstrates that the bilateral relationship has, since 2022, bypassed symbolic diplomacy to achieve tangible cooperation. France confirms its commitment to maintaining security on NATO's eastern border, and Romania, as the host nation for the French armed forces, uses these diplomatic meetings to consolidate its strategic value, deepen interoperability, and integrate more fully into NATO structures.

The long-term benefits accruing to Romania from this Partnership can be outlined as follows:

1. *Consolidation of the partnership in Romania's security and defense planning:* Since the start of the Russo-Ukrainian war, France and Romania have transitioned from a long-standing strategic partnership to an operational security partnership, consisting of frequent meetings between defense ministers, concrete discussions on troop deployments and integration into NATO strategies.

2. *France as a security anchor for the southern flank of NATO's eastern border:* At these high-level talks, France positions itself as a guarantor of stability in Eastern Europe through the NATO Battlegroup, commitments expressed at NATO summits and concrete support for Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

3. *Romania's strategic relevance:* Bucharest leverages diplomatic contacts to justify and consolidate its centrality in NATO's eastern defense, attract allied resources and ensure that its geographical and strategic role is recognized and supported by European actors with whom it shares historic diplomatic ties. In this context, the partnership with France serves to project foreign policy at the European level – joint support for the European accession of the Republic of Moldova and for Ukraine's resilience in the war against Russia (territorial integrity and post-conflict reconstruction); additionally, collaborating with France provides Bucharest with a

solution for a calculated repositioning in the event of a highly possible reduction of security guarantees provided by the US.

4. *Hybrid diplomacy*, which includes security and defense commitments, cultural projects, and European integration. This model of cooperation showcases two tiers of diplomacy: high-stakes security cooperation alongside the parallel cultivation of cultural, educational, and European-level ties. This approach reinforces a comprehensive strategic partnership.

5. *Bilateral dialogue integrated into multilateral processes*: Bilateral meetings often take place on the sidelines of NATO summits or European Councils, demonstrating that Franco-Romanian diplomacy is not isolated from international developments. It aligns with NATO and EU agendas regarding the war in Ukraine, the European integration of the Republic of Moldova, Black Sea security and EU enlargement.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the current moment, relations with major state actors in Europe need to be revitalized. A major decision-making power within the European Union, France pursues an active foreign policy and proposes strategic bilateral cooperation initiatives. The competition between France and Germany for the position of European leader in defense and security will clarify Romania's order of priorities in its relations with them, but France brings advantages that are impossible to overlook, especially those resulting from the implementation of the provisions within the strategic partnership.

The Romania-France Strategic Partnership represented a crucial moment in the evolution of bilateral relations between the two states and a key step in consolidating Romania's position as a member of the European Union and NATO. The areas of the partnership, political, security, economic, judicial cooperation, and cultural projects, are interconnected with the European dynamics of institutional reform, but also with the shared perception of geopolitical uncertainty and the growing need for energy security. France has aimed to stabilize and shape the trajectory of an enlarged European Union, while Romania has sought to increase its strategic relevance, modernize its institutions and secure its position as an actor within the Euro-Atlantic community. Thus, the partnership serves as a mechanism for both states to address common concerns and leverage complementary strengths. Its lasting relevance reflects

the persistent importance of Franco-Romanian cooperation within a rapidly evolving European order.

However, in the diplomatic dialogue, there is a need for a new roadmap that includes an updated common approach to the crisis in Ukraine, Black Sea security, and the consolidation of the Romanian armed forces, based on NATO's collective security strategies and the European Union's, and reinforced by bilateral interests. This way, the partnership's applicability can be reconfirmed. It is recommended to draft a roadmap for each area of cooperation, with achievable objectives and established deadlines.

Ways to strengthen the strategic partnership could include: Romania's intensive use of diplomatic instruments to benefit from French support in participating in EU and NATO activities; attracting foreign direct investment and technology transfers from France; strengthening resilience through cooperation projects in strategic public services: cybersecurity, critical infrastructure protection, and countering disinformation; and leveraging hybrid diplomacy instruments to deepen cultural ties at the societal level.

The Romanian-French political-diplomatic dialogue, the main instrument for developing strategic cooperation initiatives, can be deepened to enhance the strategic dimension. A recommendation in this regard is the organization of an annual bilateral summit to evaluate progress in implementing joint projects and to formulate adjustments and cooperation initiatives. It is also recommended to establish an intergovernmental cooperation structure that includes departments for each major area of the partnership, political coordination and European affairs, security and defense, economy and trade, justice and home affairs, and culture and linguistic heritage. In this manner, the strategic dimension of the cooperation becomes effective and deepens.

In conclusion, the strategic partnership between Romania and France may be regarded as setting a benchmark against which few of Bucharest's comparable bilateral relations, European or otherwise, can be measured. France has demonstrated that it is a strategic ally in crisis situations, intervening with proposals to adjust military support in the Black Sea region, thus offering a positive response to Romania's requests to react effectively to the negative consequences of the Russo-Ukrainian war. In addition, the historical argument helps deepen strategic relations: the French political and institutional model was largely adopted by Romania, and cultural ties remain very close. Economic cooperation has contributed to Romania's development after 1989 due to French investments. As far as military and security

cooperation is concerned, it produces results because France has proven to be a trusted ally by fulfilling the commitments assumed in the Joint Declarations of 2008 and 2018.

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