



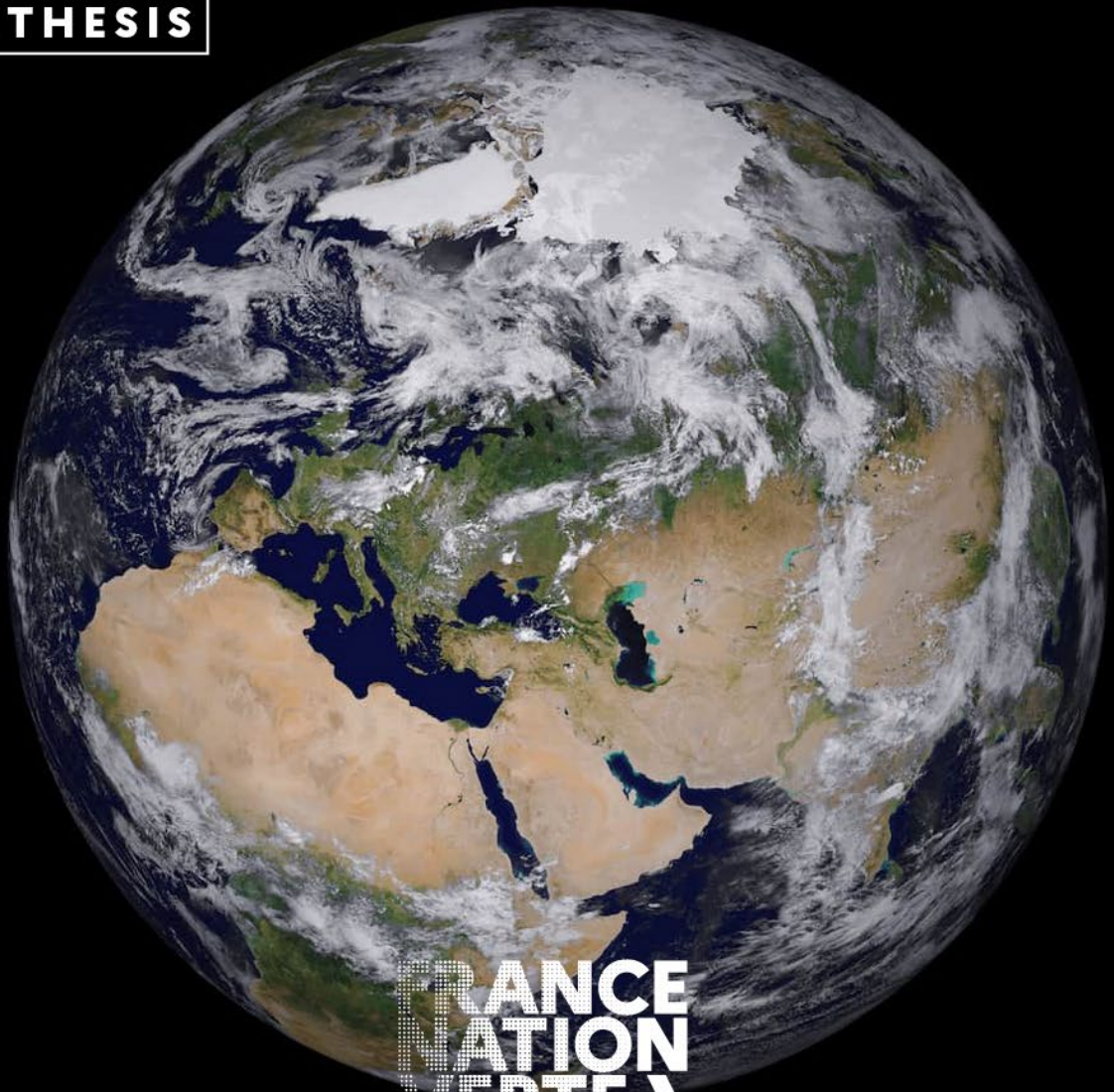
**GOUVERNEMENT**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

# European and international strategy 2023-2027

of the French Ministry of Ecological Transition  
and Territorial Cohesion, Ministry of Energy  
Transition and the State Secretary for the Sea

**SYNTHESIS**



**FRANCE  
NATION  
VERTE >**

Agir · Mobiliser · Accélérer



# Foreword

Our ministries must take into consideration the European and international scope if they want to successfully introduce public policies. Taking ministerial priorities to the international sphere involves harnessing a wide-ranging framework for action and mobilising multiple players and tools that can sometimes be difficult to access. In order to succeed, our initiatives should be coordinated, understandable and in keeping with priorities that are shared between administration and the body politic to ensure they are more efficient and meaningful.

The aim of this strategy is therefore to establish a common framework for our three ministries, in line with the skills and prerogatives of each one, in order to move away from the 'tyranny of the urgent' approach and together define a goal over the medium term in which we can invest our resources and our efforts. The purpose of this document is therefore to guide our work on a daily basis, while adapting over time to the new issues to face and new government policy guidelines.

This strategy is the result of collaborative work between the ministries, along with input from a wide variety of stakeholders. It also serves as a means of presenting our vision of the world, our ambitions and our commitments, with transparency and responsibility.

Finally, this strategy shows the full extent of the issues we are faced with today, and the existential challenges lying ahead. In that respect, it includes a motivational dimension which characterises the way our ministries work and that we would like to share with as many people as possible, through this document.



**Christophe Béchu**

Minister for Ecological  
Transition and Territorial  
Cohesion



**Agnès Pannier-Runacher**

Minister for Energy Transition



**Hervé Berville**

Secretary of State for the  
Sea



# Summary

The work of the French Ministry of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, Ministry of Energy Transition and the State Secretary for the Sea (hereafter known as ‘the ministries’), shows a very strong European and international dimension. This broad scope is essential, particularly due to the impact of the regulations and standards developed, that serve as a framework for any ministerial action (environment, transport, energy, etc.). It also offers a major opportunity to showcase France’s vision, help it thrive, for it to be known and shared by as many partners as possible.

This strategy aims to define a shared vision over the medium term (2023-2027) for these ‘ministries’ and to identify the priorities and initiatives that need to be introduced in Europe and in the world, to implement the strategy. It is organised around four topical chapters that describe the shared goals, and two cross-disciplinary chapters that present the courses of action involved in the strategy, as well as governance and steering.

During the design phase, this strategy involved extensive consultation to discern the expectations and suggestions of the ministries’ main partners, across all categories.

## **Combat climate change, decarbonise the economy and strengthen sovereignty**

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), we are now certain that climate change is due to human activity, and that it is progressing at an unprecedented pace. The resulting natural disasters are becoming increasingly common. According to the ‘ministries’, combating climate change is concerned with addressing the causes of global warming by drastically reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and also addressing the consequences by developing adaptation policies. The difficulties encountered by the most vulnerable partners must be taken into consideration and supported so that everyone can benefit from the transition.

With that in mind, the European Union and France are committed to reaching climate neutrality by 2050, and to respecting an ambitious trajectory for reducing emissions, thus fully implementing the Paris Agreement.

This requires several strategic measures to reduce the impact of consumption on the climate, the most important being energy consumption, which will be addressed through energy savings and energy efficiency measures. The ‘ministries’ also promote initiatives that aim to decarbonise energy

sources, particularly by increasing the production of renewable and nuclear energy sources and by replacing fossil fuels with alternative fuels, using electricity wherever possible and by promoting sustainable transport solutions. The 'ministries' also encourage the development and strengthening of pricing policies with regards greenhouse gas emissions. This will also apply to imported products to boost and encourage low-carbon production. They also support measures that aim to preserve and strengthen natural habitats that absorb greenhouse gases ('carbon sinks'), in particular by combating deforestation and fostering better management of forests and soils, and also by protecting the ocean.

This transformation of society is an opportunity to strengthen France and the European Union's energy sovereignty and therefore make them more independent. To ensure this transformation is understood and in everyone's interests, it needs to be socially just and benefit everyone. Consequently, the 'ministries' support the implementation of accompanying policies, especially for the benefit of the most vulnerable, fostering the development of knowledge, initial and continuous training for new professions and encouraging innovation in new processes and industrialisation of key facilities for the transition in Europe and in France, all with a dual objective in mind: development and economic sovereignty. They also aim to safeguard the supply and transit of key materials needed to make low-carbon technologies accessible to as many people as possible.

Finally, to find a solution for the current and future consequences of climate change, the 'ministries' foster local adaptation initiatives, in keeping with the local context. Above all, they support the deployment of nature-based solutions, which have the advantage of

providing benefits for both climate and biodiversity.

### **Safeguard and restore biodiversity, prevent and combat pollution**

Just like for climate change, the loss of land and marine biodiversity and its harmful consequences on human life have been clearly established by the international scientific community, in particular the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). To address this, urgent action is needed on a European and global scale to protect, restore and create conditions for sustainable use of biodiversity, in particular by reducing stress factors on species and natural habitats, especially pollution.

This is why the 'ministries' promote, lead and support initiatives in both the public and private sphere, which aim to restore and protect species, their genetic diversity, to combat the risk of extinction for wild species and regulate the trade of such species. They encourage and support initiatives that play a role in enhancing the value of biodiversity services and taking into account the costs associated with the disappearance of species.

The 'ministries' also aim to protect and restore natural habitats. In particular, they promote the growth of protected species and connectivity between them, through a global and transboundary, territorial approach and by mobilising planning tools for territories at different scales.

Biodiversity is faced with numerous stress factors, such as the artificialisation of soils, non-sustainable economic activities such as intensive farming or illegal and unregulated fishing, and the growing scarcity of water and deterioration of water quality. To limit these factors, the 'ministries' are committed to



making sure the safeguarding of biodiversity is included in the many sectoral policies, by strengthening the measures of assessing impacts of projects that are likely to have significant consequences on the environment. They also support sustainable economic activities and foster an integrated approach to ensuring good health for people, animals and ecosystems on all levels.

To limit pollution, initiatives should be implemented at source as a priority. Therefore, the 'ministries' strive to tighten the standards in place to progressively reduce polluting emissions of various activities and implement the 'polluter pays' principle. They also foster an integrated view of chemicals, waste and pollution and pay particular attention to ensuring that the fight against plastic is waged using an approach based on the life cycle.

### **Ensure the transition towards a low-carbon and circular economy and sustainable patterns of consumption and production**

As underlined by the International Resource Panel (IRP), the triple global crisis of climate change, loss of biodiversity and pollution is also linked to the unsustainable management of resources.

To address this issue, the 'ministries' promote the transformation of the economic model, based on sobriety in the use of natural resources, on the development of the circular economy and on a reindustrialisation compliant with decarbonisation and sustainability targets, mobilizing public and private stakeholders.

In particular, they support sustainable production patterns to reconcile economic and social impact with environmental protection. This involves strengthening Corporate social and environmental responsibility policies, generalising eco-

design to all lines of business and strengthening the traceability of raw materials and products across the whole value chains. They also support life cycle analysis measures for imported products in order to combat unfair competition with other regions in the world.

The 'ministries' are also working on demand, by providing consumers and public authorities with the means to make their own economic choices. They provide support for the development of ecolabels and environmental product labelling, for the fight against fraudulent environmental claims and for the development of public procurement that includes environmental criteria.

Sobriety in the use of resources also involves the prevention and better management of waste across all sectors. The 'ministries' therefore aim to drastically reduce the export of waste outside the European Union and to make waste recycling an attractive trade for companies and a reflex for consumers.

### **Promote safe and fair development that respects human rights**

Sustainable development is only possible if everyone has fair access to certain services and infrastructures, such as water, energy, housing and transport. This access should be provided with a high level of security, safety and risk prevention, both for the infrastructures and services and for the users, taking into account environmental damage.

To achieve this, the 'ministries' are working to ensure that planning, construction, use and maintenance of the infrastructures and associated services, in particular public services, support the economy while improving the quality of life for citizens and territorial cohesion. They also ensure that social and environmental standards and the

conditions of fair competition are respected. The purpose here is also to instil the conditions for a transition to more sustainable cities thanks to ecological urbanism.

They also take into account the rapid progress of technological and digital innovation, while controlling its potential negative implications, both on an environmental and social level and in terms of sovereignty. The 'ministries' are also working on anticipating the natural and technological risks that populations and infrastructures may be exposed to. With that in mind, they are developing suitable legal and technical tools and expertise.

To guarantee sustainable development and use of infrastructures and services, the 'ministries' also strive to consolidate environmental democracy and ensure human and social rights are respected. Consequently, they support the right to be informed and the right to participate and have a role to play in combating environmental crime. They also foster equality, non-discrimination and the rights of minorities. Finally, they are working to combat unfair competition and regulations avoidance in order to improve employment and working conditions and to develop skills and know-how.

### **Maximise influence and develop effective courses of action**

To reach these goals, the 'ministries' have several courses of action at their disposal to implement. They play an active role in the various European and global dialogue and negotiation forums, and also call upon bilateral cooperation with non-member countries.

They also strive to increase the funding allocated to sustainable development issues

by public and private investments on a global scale, to put a stop to subsidies that are harmful to the environment and determine funding based on improving the sustainability of the activities in question.

They develop synergies with non-State actors in order to increase lobbying initiatives, calling upon multi-stakeholder coalitions, decentralised cooperation and scientific experts.

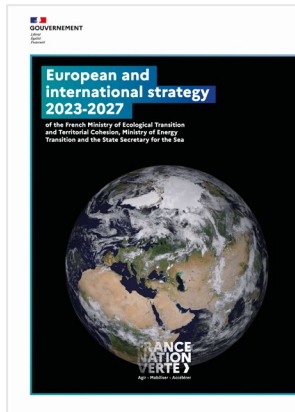
They are also working to develop European and international legal and regulatory frameworks to encourage changes in behaviour, by supporting reciprocity in the environmental standards of non-member countries for example.

In a highly competitive context globally, the 'ministries' are also providing support for French companies looking to conquer new markets to accelerate the ecological and energy transitions and deploy low-carbon technologies around the world. With this in mind, they promote French expertise, support projects and deploy economic intelligence measures to protect these projects.

To ensure that this effort from the 'ministries' is effective, the skills and missions are clearly distributed between departments. The 'ministries' work together with other State players, including establishments and schools under the authority of the ministries or other ministries, to guarantee effective dialogue which in turn ensures overall coherence and a pooling of resources.

### **Steer and implement the strategy**

To ensure that the strategy remains pertinent over time and to reach the objectives, a governance framework is established, as well as periodic assessments of the results obtained.



The European and International Strategy aims to outline the Ministry's vision of the world, its ambitions and its commitments for 2023-2027, in line with the Government's guidelines. It reflects the major issues and challenges we are facing. As explained in this summary, these are reflected in four main thematic areas and two cross-cutting chapters on the means of action to be mobilised and on the governance to steer the strategy. In order to achieve the goals set out in the document, the Strategy is completed by five appendices which define its scope and enable the monitoring of its implementation. You will find these documents in the *full version of the European and International Strategy.*

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Territorial Cohesion, Ministry of Energy Transition  
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