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# Speech delivered by M. Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, to the diplomatic community in Biarritz

Mr. Mayor,

Madam Minister, dear Nathalie,

Mr. Apostolic Nuncio,

Distinguished Ambassadors,

Ladies and gentlemen, elected representatives and representatives of the "living forces" of the region,

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

In a few months' time, here in Biarritz, the heads of state and government of this forum – the G7, created 43 years ago – will be meeting here on France's initiative. (...)

Since the first informal meetings of the White House "Library Group" following the first oil shock, the G7 has always been about avant-garde thinking. Formalized on the initiative of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the G7 – initially dedicated solely to economic issues – gradually embraced all areas of cooperation, acting as a genuine laboratory of ideas in the face of major changes in the international situation.

Many innovative and concrete mechanisms have emerged from its discussions. To it we owe the creation of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and with it the huge momentum that changed the face of Central and Eastern Europe as the Cold War ended. To it we owe the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which today enables us to combat money laundering and terrorism funding. To it we partly owe the crucial Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which has already allowed millions of lives to be saved worldwide and