



From Sovereignty to Action: Building Europe's Resilient Future

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Europe has entered a decisive decade. Our ability to remain open, innovative and secure hinges on our ability to collaborate across borders, sectors and systems. As **Martin Hullin** has put it, *"Europe's chance is not to be first to the market, but first to be trusted."* In an age where trust is becoming a currency of innovation, this distinction could well define Europe's global role.

Recent years have shown that sovereignty, or control, often produces anxiety: the sense that we are exposed unless we dominate every layer of technology. Resilience, by contrast, alleviates this anxiety. It shifts the focus to what we can achieve collectively, such as building strength in networks, fostering trust in partnerships, and enhancing our capabilities in times of crisis. This is why we launched the European Resilience Summit (ERS) series. In five cities: Berlin, Paris, London, The Hague and Vienna. We are bringing together leaders from government, industry and civil society to explore how Europe can turn the concept of sovereignty into a reality of resilience. Each summit adds a new perspective to this shared endeavour. Berlin set the intellectual foundation, and now Paris is turning it into action.

Why we are doing it

Europe has always been strongest when it has managed processes together rather than defended borders separately. The European Union itself is proof of this: by establishing shared standards, i.e. the *acquis communautaire*, and practising smart decentralisation through subsidiarity, it has transformed diversity into stability.

Today, as technology, data and security converge to create a single geopolitical space, this same approach must inform our digital future. We cannot build firewalls high enough to keep disruption out; we must design flexible systems that can withstand it. It is resilience, not isolation, that will preserve Europe's freedom to act.

What we are doing

The European Resilience Summit is not just another conference series. It is an evolving learning network that links local ecosystems, translates national strengths into European capacity and connects people who usually operate in separate policy, industrial and academic spheres.

In Berlin, we started with **four key questions** that should underpin any meaningful discussion about Europe's digital future:

1. How can we strengthen organisations against digital and systemic threats?
2. How can we build resilient industries in Europe's critical sectors?
3. How can we integrate global platforms without losing sovereignty?
4. How can we foster a shared European culture of resilience?





These questions became our compass. They helped participants, ranging from cloud architects to parliamentarians, understand that resilience is not a single policy or technology, but rather a discipline operating across multiple layers: human, organisational, industrial and societal.

How we are doing it

The Summit Series moves deliberately from capital to capital because resilience is local before it becomes European. Each city contributes its own distinct ecosystem and institutional memory. Berlin provided the analytical framework; Paris will contribute statecraft and strategic autonomy; London will add financial and technological dynamism; The Hague will focus on governance and international law; and Vienna will combine diplomacy and neutrality.

As we move through these capitals, we are building a network of practice: each summit learns from and contributes to the others. Local panels connect to European processes and national debates are reframed through shared questions. Participants leave with immediate actionable partnerships, prototypes and policies.

Paris: From Sovereignty to Action

The Paris edition (9 December 2025) carries the subtitle “From Sovereignty to Action: France’s Role in Europe’s Resilient Future.” It is where the four Berlin questions become tangible.

- **Strengthening organisations:** France’s leadership in Defence / Cybersecurity & Artificial Intelligence will be on full display, with discussions led by former military intelligence chiefs, industry experts, and national agencies. Together, they will explore how to harden institutions, public and private, without closing them off, building what might be called “open fortresses.”
- **Building resilient industries:** Panels on AI, cloud, and critical infrastructure will show how Europe can turn its industrial base into an ecosystem of resilience: diverse, innovative, and strategically redundant. The French energy and aerospace sectors, represented by EDF, Dassault, and Airbus, provide living laboratories for how resilience and competitiveness reinforce each other.
- **Integrating global platforms:** From OVHcloud to AWS and Microsoft, the Paris program engages both European champions and global partners. The question is no longer whether Europe should rely on global platforms, but under what standards, governance models, and accountability frameworks. Resilience here means designing interdependence, not denying it.
- **Fostering a shared culture:** Across sessions on open source, cities, and public-private alliances, the Summit will highlight that resilience ultimately depends on people. Networks of trust must be built in calm times so they can function in crises. France’s civic and technological communities, spanning government, academia, and startups, offer exactly that connective tissue.





The intellectual anchor: Sergei Medvedev's keynote

At the heart of the Paris Summit is Sergei Medvedev's keynote speech, 'Lessons (Un)learned'. Medvedev argues that the 21st century is mirroring the 20th in that each surge of openness is giving rise to a backlash of nationalism and control. He warns that Putinism and Trumpism are not anomalies, but rather reflections of a global order that has forgotten how to balance interdependence with identity.

By applying this historical perspective to a digital summit, Medvedev redefines Europe's dilemma. The issue is not only geopolitical, but also structural. The internet, supply chains and AI ecosystems are the modern-day equivalents of old empires and alliances. The same forces that once shaped Europe's borders now shape its data flows and cloud architectures.

His argument deeply resonates with our theme: to preserve openness, Europe must build resilience. In the 21st century, sovereignty will not be defined by walls, but by the ability to act under pressure. With its tradition of strategic autonomy and leadership in defence and digital transformation, France is uniquely positioned to turn this vision into reality.

Toward a resilient Europe

By the end of the Paris Summit, we hope to have achieved more than just declarations. Our aim is to compile the most valuable insights into a European Resilience Manifesto, the Paris Edition: a living document designed to facilitate practical cooperation across the continent.

Drawing on the strengths of cities such as Berlin, Paris, London, The Hague and Vienna, the European Resilience Summit series is building a network of trust and capability, one process and partnership at a time.

Resilience cannot be decreed; it must be practised. This series is about turning Europe's anxieties into agency and its sovereignty into action.

