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QUANTUM STRATEGY: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS ON QUANTUM TECHNOLOGIES

Today President Macron and Prime Minister Rutte signed a declaration in France and the Netherlands intend to deepen and strengthen their bilateral relationship. One of the key priorities is to intensify the cooperation on Quantum Technologies. The French and Dutch quantum plans and the European framework program constitute opportunities to position Europe in the race to solve the major challenges of the coming decades thanks to quantum technologies: Energy transition,, decarbonization of the chemical industry, drug design, cyber security.

To meet the challenge of European strategic autonomy in this technology area and create the basis for future European leaders in quantum, Cedric O, the French Secretary of State for Digital and Electronic Communications, and Mona Keijzer, the Dutch Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, signed on August the 31st 2021, **a memorandum of understanding to strengthen bilateral cooperation in quantum technologies**. Its aim: to increase the natural synergies between the French and Dutch ecosystems and achieve the critical mass needed to help develop European leaders and attract the best international talents. To establish this cooperation on a long-term basis, the quantum strategy coordinators of both countries will set up a governance scheme and a framework for exchanges that will identify opportunities for co-financing and bilateral cooperation.

"Quantum technologies are among the few key digital technologies that have emerged in Europe and on which we must collectively give ourselves the means to be the leaders of tomorrow. Through the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Netherlands and France, two leading countries in quantum technologies, the French government wishes to consolidate a long-standing bilateral cooperation in academic research and accelerate private synergies that will lay the foundations for European quantum unicorns, especially in the universal quantum computer. Between the national quantum plans of France, the Netherlands and other European countries, and the programs of the European Commission, Europe is by far the world's leading investor in quantum. Cooperation between member states is the key to our collective success."

- **Cedric O**, Secretary of State for Digital Transition and Electronic Communications.

"Quantum is still in its early years, but all over the world companies and governments agree on the enormous promise it holds. The Netherlands and France have been leading the way for years, and in order to maintain this position in the world, it is now necessary to start working together at a European level. Our goal is a European Quantum ecosystem that brings jobs, income and innovation to our countries. We have laid the foundation for that today."

- **Mona Keijzer**, Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy

Already, **several areas of work are being considered:**

- Strengthening collaboration in research. **Planned topics** : The steering committee of the European QLSI project, co-piloted by France and the Netherlands, will decide in the coming weeks on the scientific orientations aimed at strengthening the potential for scaling up quantum computing on silicon;

- Facilitate research-industry collaboration: matchmaking between large tech companies and research clusters
- Coordinate efforts in education and awareness;
- Invest in the development of the ecosystem. **First action planned:** a joint working group on the exchange of best practices for the establishment of "quantum houses" and on increasing EU venture capital in the field;
- Accelerating European initiatives, including EUQCI, QIA and EuroHPC;
- Encouraging job creation. **First step:** a joint portal listing job opportunities in both the French and Dutch ecosystems has been created to contribute to the development of cross-disciplinary professional experience in quantum technologies (www.quantumjobs.fr and quantumjobs.nl).

Press contact: quantique.info@pm.gouv.fr