It is an honour for me to speak before you on France’s behalf.

As I do so, I realize how important our common Assembly is, this Assembly of all our nations, who have freely decided to unite their destinies and act for the common good. That is the spirit in which I speak before you. The spirit of those who, almost eight decades ago, surrounded by the ruins of the world, wanted to bring relations between States into a new era. An era where everyone understands that the defence of their interests relies on respect of common principles. An era in which everyone understands that today’s strong may be tomorrow’s weak, and that the enemies of yesterday can be today’s friends. That is the path that France and Germany have taken. An era in which power is governed by law. An era in which humankind’s common challenges are at last addressed together, and it is no longer “every man for himself”.

That is what we have learned to do in Europe, overcoming centuries of conflict through cooperation and trust. It is this care for the common good, this spirit of the United Nations, that governs France’s international action. It is the spirit of a power that is confident in its principles, acting in solidarity and, always, collectively, for the common good.