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## Macron Champions Franco–British Unity in Forefront of Security, Migration, and Global Strategy

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French President Emmanuel Macron delivered a powerful address to the UK Parliament, emphasising the need for renewed cooperation with the UK on defence, migration, technological sovereignty, and international diplomacy. His message struck a balance between recognising shared history and calling for practical, future-focused partnership.

During his address to both Houses of Parliament, the first by a European leader since Brexit, President Emmanuel Macron reaffirmed France and the UK's enduring alliance in defence and security. He noted that while Brexit reshaped ties, "we cannot stay on the sidelines" when confronting global challenges. Macron urged the restoration of youth mobility programmes and stronger cultural exchanges to preserve the vitality of bilateral relations.

Migration was a central theme. Macron acknowledged that many seeking refuge are legitimately pursuing better lives, but he denounced organised smuggling networks exploiting dangerous Channel crossings. He called for "humane, fair, and collaborative" border enforcement, signalling his willingness to step up cooperation with the UK to tackle irregular migration.

In Ukraine, Macron delivered a resolute message: the conflict remains "central to Europe's future," and France and the UK, as the continent's two nuclear powers, must lead a "coalition of the willing." He stressed that sustained military and diplomatic support is vital to deter continued Russian aggression.

Macron also addressed economic sovereignty. He cautioned Europe against becoming overly reliant on the US and China, advocating instead for strategic autonomy. He called for enhanced Franco-British collaboration in trade and innovation, including developing high-tech industries like semiconductors and renewable energy.

Turning to the Middle East, Macron voiced urgent concern over the Gaza conflict, calling for an immediate ceasefire and emphasising the imperative of humanitarian access. He reiterated support for a two-state

solution and pressed for the release of hostages, warning that regional stability depends on both decency and decisive diplomacy.

Overall, Macron's address combined a broad diplomatic vision with concrete proposals. His tone struck a rare chord of unity in Westminster, backed by MPs across the political spectrum, and marked a pivotal moment in post-Brexit alliance-building.