

FOUR MOTORS FOR EUROPE



VIER MOTOREN FÜR EUROPA
QUATRE MOTORS PER A EUROPA
QUATTRO MOTORI PER L'EUROPA
QUATRE MOTEURS POUR L'EUROPE

Programme of action for the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes presidency

2026-2027

“Bolstering the industrial sovereignty
of the Four Motors for Europe”



The Four Motors for Europe: building sovereignty in a changing world

The Four Motors for Europe network has been in existence for nearly forty years and is built on a solid base of economic and scientific excellence. A pioneer of European integration at territorial level, it has successfully leveraged its complementary assets to become a benchmark in the fields of **innovation, research and business**.

Today, the network is taking on a new strategic dimension in response to the changes which are redefining global relations. Carbon neutrality remains of the essence, but geopolitical tensions have led to the emergence of new imperatives in relation to **energy and industrial sovereignty**. The challenge facing the Four Motors is to **achieve secure supply chains, stabilise production costs and integrate artificial intelligence and digital technology**.

As veritable industrial powerhouses, these four regions are in the frontline of change yet, at the same time, are well placed to seize opportunities for growth.

The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region aims to transform this network into a model which can drive Europe' shift towards strategic autonomy.



4 REGIONS

Baden-Württemberg
Catalonia, Lombardy
and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes



A POPULATION OF 37 MILLION

A pool of skills
and talents



10% OF EU GDP

Four major European
industrial powers

2 ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

Flanders and Wales

The thematic and strategic framework of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes' presidency

The priority chosen by the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region for its presidency is to bolster the economic and industrial sovereignty of the Four Motors for Europe.

This goal is rooted in the belief that the prosperity and strategic autonomy of Europe are conditioned by its ability to **manufacture goods within its own territory, reindustrialise and innovate in key sectors** such as AI, semi-conductors and hydrogen.

The presidency intends to harness the cooperative potential of the network to unite and promote regions with strong economies in order to **build sovereign industrial sectors and accelerate reshoring**.

The presidency will take into account the requirements of the Clean Industrial Deal designed to ensure businesses remain competitive during the energy transition phase as well as the “Competitiveness compass” intended to reduce strategic dependencies and stimulate European innovation, via a two-pronged approach:

- **One voice in Brussels:** targeted action to encourage the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028–2034 to give preference to regional production capabilities,
- **Technology rollout:** greater support for disruptive technologies, AI, semi-conductors and hydrogen.



The 7 key priorities of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes presidency

1

Support industrial innovation and European competitiveness via an offensive economic strategy

To counter the slowdown in productivity and fight increasing competition from across the globe, it is vital to drive progress in high-tech fields to underpin the technological sovereignty of Europe. This 2026-2027 programme of action is designed to **build an offensive economy capable of converting the challenges of digital and environmental transition into opportunities.**

The presidency will implement tangible actions to **encourage reindustrialisation and reshoring** in line with the EU agenda (the Competitiveness Compass, the Industrial Accelerator Act, the Omnibus Simplification Package).

Concrete tools to boost industrial sovereignty

The presidency will revamp the “**Business Passport**” **scheme** to ensure tangible outcomes. An important milestone will be crossed on 11 June 2026 in Barcelona with the **signature of a new letter of intent between the four regional economic development agencies.** This renewed commitment will make it possible to enhance the initiative after three years in existence via a number of concrete measures. This approach will consolidate the collective action of the trade agencies by harmonising processes and speaking as one on the international stage.



In parallel, reindustrialisation will require tangible solutions to land issues. A **conference on areas which qualify as “Regional Industrial Parks”** will be organised in September 2026. This event will provide an opportunity to share best practices in territorial development and in mobilising ecosystems to facilitate reshoring.

Technological synergy to promote sectors of excellence

Active cooperation will continue in two strategic sectors:

- **advanced materials**, with the inclusion of Baden-Württemberg on the AFIL/POLYMERIS stand at the 11th Smart Polymers Congress in Milan in November 2026,
- **semi-conductors** by ramping up participation in the European Semiconductor Regions Alliance (ESRA) which Catalonia will preside in 2026.

Support the transition and future-proof industry

The quest for autonomy will inevitably involve strategic sectors such as the automotive industry as proposed by the Industrial Accelerator Act. The presidency undertakes to support the automotive sector's journey to low-carbon energy by stepping up the **visibility of hydrogen and electricity ecosystems** in the Automotive Regions Alliance (ARA).

This competitiveness cycle will culminate with an economic mission on the margins of the Global Industry trade show in Lyon in March 2027.

2

Stimulate industry and consolidate strategic partnerships in the defence and security sectors

In view of the volatile global situation, the Region is making **secure value chains** and **defence innovation** an absolute priority. In line with its support plan for the sector, the aim is clear: to **make local technological excellence a cornerstone of European strategic autonomy**.

The Region will coordinate the **joint participation of its competitiveness clusters and enterprises at the main trade shows** to ensure it plays a key role in major EU research and equipment programmes. Industrial power will be showcased in close collaboration with the Four Motors partners by means of the Business Passport scheme. By partnering with regional clusters, it will help SMEs and mid-sized companies gain access to strategic defence trade shows.



3

Accelerate industrial innovation and the development of green hydrogen in Europe

By making **energy transition** one of its main priorities, the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes presidency intends to transform environmental requirements into a competitive advantage.

This will be achieved by promoting the **hydrogen sector at the Business-oriented Forum**, an event designed to foster business partnerships in low-carbon hydrogen attended by the main industrial clients and the Four Motors partners, to be held in November 2026. To give this movement a more tangible dimension, the forum will be accompanied by a **territorial hydrogen mission** including visits to centres of excellence to share technological solutions and clean mobility pilot initiatives.



4

Obtain gains in productivity, support regional produce and foster generational renewal in agriculture

Food sovereignty is a pillar of European autonomy and will be central for the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes presidency with a view to fostering agricultural innovation.



The Region will carry out two flagship actions in line with the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

- **Foster generational renewal** by organising discussions with young farmers about setting up in business as part of the Young Farmers Dialogue initiative;
- **Expand the Rural Development Observatory** to create a laboratory devoted to sharing data and expertise on water management and regulatory compliance.

5

Promote a sustainable approach to mountain areas, tourism and major events

The Four Motors will build a **sustainable tourism model based on innovation and local heritage**.



AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES - LYON



BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG - FRIBOURG-EN-BRISGAU



CATALONIA - GERONA



LOMBARDY - BERGAMO

2026 will see two major events: the **Tourism Summit** in Lyon in September will focus on resource conservation while the **Europe week of Regions and Cities** in Brussels in October will highlight sustainable tourism and publicise the IndusTour industrial tourism project.

In February 2027, an official event, the **inauguration of France's presidency of EUSALP – the EU strategy for the Alpine Region** – will provide a fantastic opportunity to highlight mountain issues, address economic and environmental challenges and promote the European Mountain Pact.

The presidency of the Four Motors for Europe will strive to encourage the participation of young people and persons with disabilities in major events. A case in point will be the upcoming **2030 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games**, where it will support the inclusion of young people and people with intellectual disabilities in sporting events.

6

Drive skills and training to achieve industrial transformation

Talent development will be a crucial component of industrial and digital transition and will thus be a particular focus of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes presidency for the 2026-2030 period. This will initially take the form of joint participation in the **2026 Mondial des Métiers career fair** with a shared stand showcasing apprenticeship and recruitment, in particular in the hydrogen sector.

For higher education, a memorandum of understanding will formalise the **creation of a European university network** bringing together the Université Catholique de Lyon and Milan, Mannheim and Ramon Llull universities with a view to co-developing training courses.



In terms of innovative learning, the Region will be leading the **Digital Industrial Training Lab Erasmus+ project** in conjunction with Baden-Württemberg and Lombardy to **modernise training in industrial maintenance** while identifying future EU calls for projects related to artificial intelligence and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).



7

Boost European visibility and exercise influence in Brussels

To tackle the challenges of a global economy in constant flux, the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes presidency will be working with the **Regional Delegations in Brussels** to ensure the specific requirements of the Four Motors are factored into EU programmes and policies. The purpose of this action is to **build stronger links between regional ecosystems and EU institutions** to address strategic priorities such as the reshoring of manufacturing, European preference, simplification and the funding of disruptive projects.

Moreover, 2026 will be a decisive year in which the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2028-2034 will take its future shape. The partners will speak with one voice to **underline the crucial role played by regional authorities in the cohesion policy** and advocate on behalf of sectors of excellence with the European Competitiveness Fund. They will identify opportunities for EU funding so as to launch joint actions.

Lastly, the presidency will coordinate the **drafting of joint positions in Brussels to advocate for European preference** in terms of advanced materials, the “right to stay” strategy and alignment with the Clean Industrial Deal.



The 2026-2027 Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes presidency intends to harness the main European strategies so as to serve the regions by transposing them into actionable outcomes.

Baden-Württemberg will take over the presidency from Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes in June 2027.



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Presidency of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region
2026-2027