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## **FRENCH AND GERMAN LAWMAKERS PUSH FOR JOINT BORDER CONTROLS**

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French and German lawmakers have devised a joint plan to cooperate on checks along the border between their countries in a bid to defuse tensions over Berlin's recent move to bolster controls.

The proposal, drafted by key lawmakers from the Franco-German Parliamentary Assembly, a joint body of the German Bundestag and the French National Assembly, comes after Germanys new government led by conservative Chancellor Friedrich Merz initiated stepped-up checks on all national borders as part of a wider migration crackdown.

That move, criticized as largely symbolic by migration experts, sparked an angry reaction from leaders of countries bordering Germany, including France, with many arguing the unilateral German measures were impeding free movement within the Schengen area and creating traffic headaches.

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