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## END OF 'MERKRON': EU'S POWER COUPLE PREPARES TO BOW OUT

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French President Emmanuel Macron hosted Angela Merkel in Paris on Thursday (16 September) for the last time before the German chancellor stands down, spelling the end of a partnership at the heart of the European Union for the last four years.

Merkel is to relinquish power after German elections on September 26, bringing an end to her 16 years in office that has seen her work with four different French leaders starting with Jacques Chirac.

Macron, 24 years her junior, has never hidden his admiration for Merkels longevity, but his sometimes abrasive style and pro-European activism has contrasted with the more cautious approach of his German partner.

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