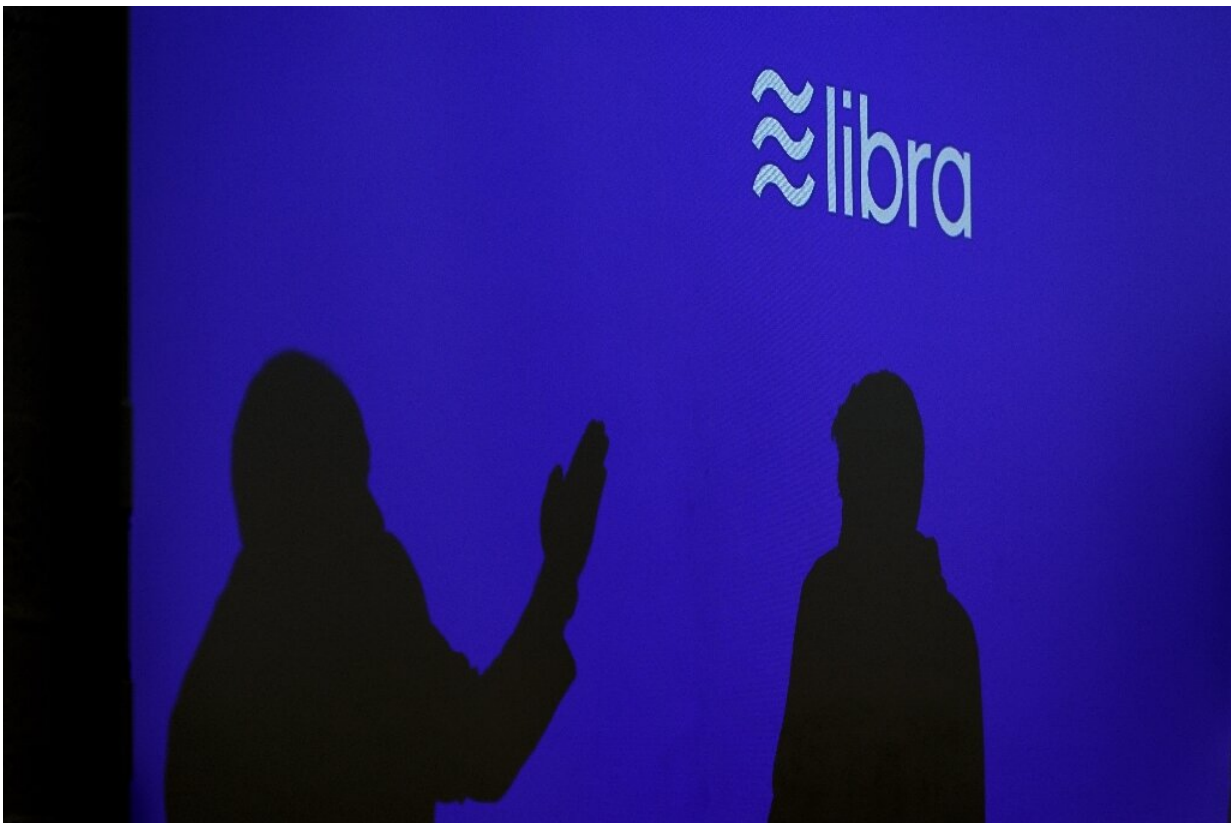


Paris, Rome, Berlin preparing to block Facebook's Libra in Europe: French minister

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The Libra Association launched this week in Geneva

France, Italy and Germany are together preparing measures to block Facebook's new Libra cryptocurrency from use in Europe, French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire announced Friday.

"Libra is not welcome on European soil," Le Maire told reporters the sidelines of the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

"We will take steps with the Italians and Germans because our sovereignty is at stake."

Le Maire offered few details even though Libra is expected to enter circulation next year.

"It's the [political message](#) which is important," he said.

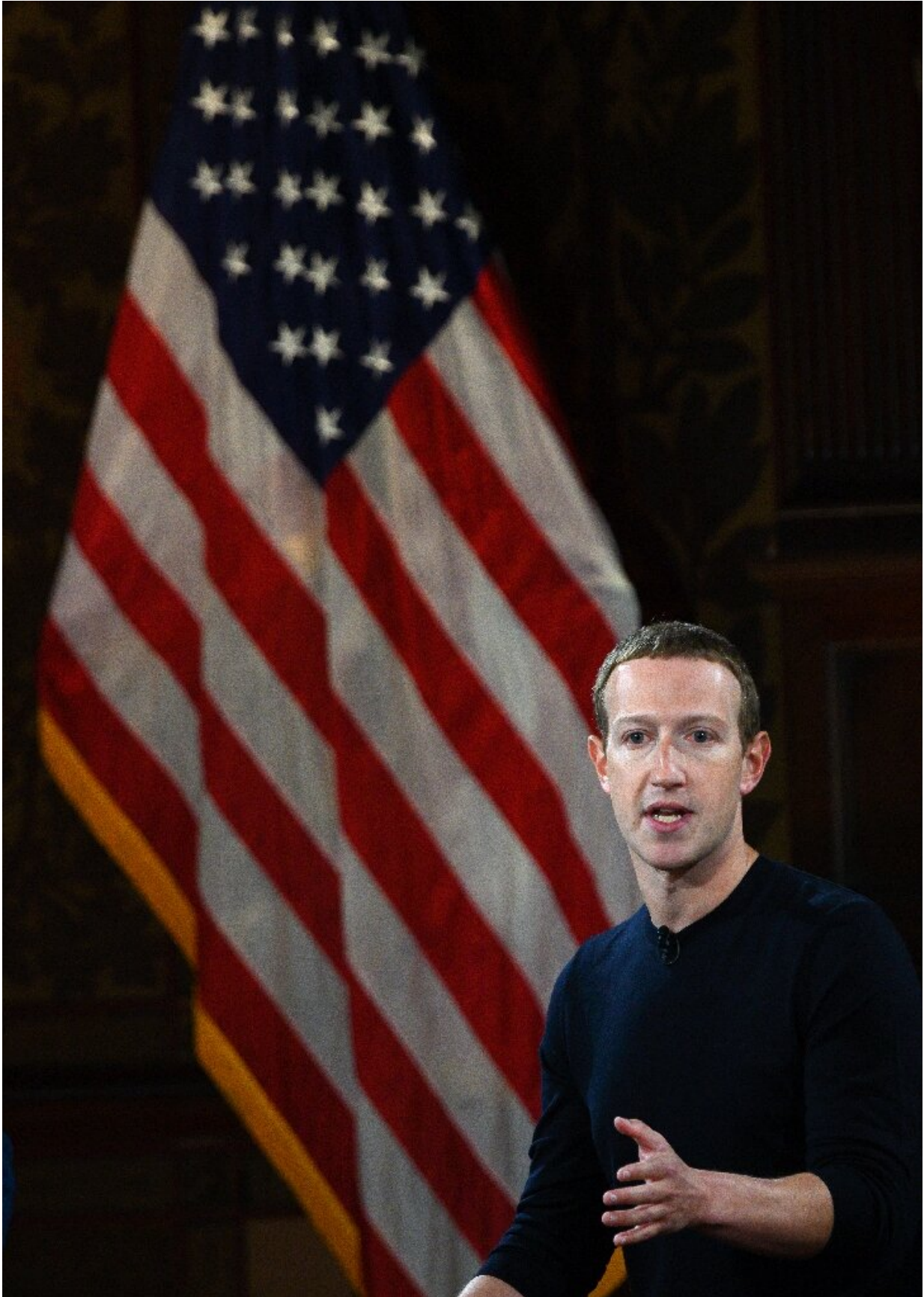
He noted that Libra was due to be backed by a basket of currencies and assets, a principal sticking point.

"All Facebook would have to do would be to decide to use more or fewer dollars or euros to affect the [exchange rate](#) between the euro and the dollar, and thus have a direct impact on trade, industry and nations which use the dollar or euro as their base currency," he said.

This could harm [monetary policy](#) and affect governments' efficiency, he added.

"Do we want to put monetary policy in the hands of a private company like Facebook? My answer is clearly no," he said.

Still, Le Maire said he was not opposed to the creation of a digital currency, which France could develop "in a European framework."



Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg was in Washington as G7 ministers prepare to release a report about the social network's plan to release a digital currency

"The right answer is not a private digital currency under the control of one of the largest multinationals on the planet," he said, referring to Facebook's more than two billion users.

The Group of Seven economies, which met in Washington on Thursday, announced that a [legal framework](#) was a non-negotiable condition for "stablecoin" cryptocurrencies, which are backed by other reserve assets.

So long as legal, regulatory and oversight risks have not been resolved to their satisfaction, the G7 will not permit stablecoins to enter circulation, the French G7 presidency said in a statement.

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