BERLIN—The leaders of Germany and France said they will present a "comprehensive package" of measures against the crisis in euro-zone banking and government bonds by the end of this month but they gave few details, suggesting that Europe's two top economies continue to spar over the plan's specifics.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, meeting in Berlin on Sunday, told reporters that the measures will include a plan for recapitalizing euro-zone banks where necessary, as well as proposals for deepening the coordination of national budget policies between the euro zone's 17 members.

Despite signs of convergence between Berlin and Paris, the euro zone's most powerful nations have yet to resolve differences over who will pay for banks' capital needs and over how deeply to restructure Greece's teetering debts, according to people familiar the talks.

"We are determined to do what is necessary to guarantee the recapitalization of our banks," Ms. Merkel said. "We will make proposals in a comprehensive package that will enable closer cooperation between euro-zone countries," she said, reiterating her view that it would be necessary to make changes to European Union treaties to allow greater European control over nations' budget discipline.

Sunday's summit, the latest of several bilateral talks between Mrs. Merkel and Mr. Sarkozy, was scheduled to reduce the differences between the French and German positions ahead of the Oct. 17 summit of European Union leaders in Brussels. Both governments are conscious that no effective European action is possible unless Berlin and Paris reconcile their often-different approaches to the crisis.

Mr. Sarkozy said he and the chancellor were "determined to have a sustainable and comprehensive solution by the end of this month," but added, "It's not the moment to go into details."

Mr. Sarkozy said Europe should resolve its problems before the summit of the Group of 20 globally leading economies in Cannes, France, on Nov. 3-4.

The euro zone is under mounting pressure from financial markets and world governments to take more decisive steps against a debt crisis that threatens to spread financial and economic turmoil far beyond Europe. After months of inaction from euro-zone governments, investors are losing confidence in Europe's ability to control the crisis. Fear of bank failures and government defaults is already hurting consumer and business confidence in Europe.

Much is therefore riding on the promised Franco-German initiative, economists and European policy makers say.

The meeting's lack of specifics signaled that Germany and France still have work to do before they can present a
common solution for Greece’s unravelling finances and euro-zone banks’ worsening funding strains.

Ms. Merkel has said repeatedly in the past week that banks that need more capital should raise it from private investors or national authorities, and only in the last instance from the euro zone’s bailout fund. Germany is the biggest contributor to the bailout fund; Berlin fears a domestic political backlash if it is seen as using German taxpayers’ money to prop up French and Southern European banks.

France’s government, though, is pressing Berlin to let French banks have easier access to the bailout fund. French officials are worried that the country could lose its triple-A credit rating if it pledges large amounts of aid to banks from its national coffers.

Meanwhile, German officials are pushing for a much deeper restructuring of Greece’s debts than envisioned so far, a move that would involve steep write-downs for Greek bondholders. French officials fear that that could place heavy burdens on French banks, some of which have large Greek-bond holdings, and exacerbate the wider turmoil in European financial markets.

The package that Berlin and Paris are working on is expected to involve a compromise in which France agrees to reduce Greece’s crushing debts, and Germany agrees to pay more generously for measures to protect other euro-zone governments and banks from the financial-market reverberations of a Greek restructuring.

The latest international aid package from Greece was drawn up in July between euro-zone authorities, the International Monetary Fund and banks. Euro-zone countries are in the process of ratifying an expansion of the temporary bailout fund, the European Financial Stability Facility, or EFSF, which would have lending capacity of €440 billion ($589 billion), and which could act as a backstop for European banks in the event of a liquidity squeeze that could result from Greece defaulting on its debt.

But Greece’s bigger-than-expected budget deficit means the funding outlined in the July deal is no longer sufficient. IMF and EU inspectors are working out the size of Greece’s latest funding shortfall. German officials believe the July agreement did too little to bring Greece’s debts down to a sustainable level.

Critics say the Franco-German effort to repair confidence in banks by boosting their capital is missing the real source of the problem: Investors’ fears that banks could suffer massive losses on their holdings of Italian and Spanish government debt.

Italy and Spain have come under heightened pressure in bond markets since the summer, and only European Central Bank intervention in the market has prevented the two countries’ borrowing costs from rising to unaffordable levels. Many economists say confidence in euro-zone banks will only be restored when Europe acts to dispel fears of a government debt crisis in Italy and Spain.

—William Horobin contributed to this article.