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EU-Australia Leadership Forum

Forum Report

Second EU-Australia Leadership Forum

Brussels – November 2018



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1. INTRODUCTION

The EU-Australia Leadership Forum is a three-year project funded by the European Union (EU) to broaden and deepen the existing ties between the European Union and Australia.

The second EU-Australia Emerging Leaders Forum was held in Brussels from 18-20 November and a joint Senior and Emerging Leaders Forum from 20-22 November 2018. For five days, senior and emerging leaders from the EU and Australia shared their expertise on topics such as trade, environment, data protection, space cooperation, women in leadership, civil society, migration and other international challenges and opportunities. Participants also discussed ideas for deepening the already strong bilateral EU-Australia relationship.

This report covers the joint Senior and Emerging Leaders Forum and includes the Summary Recommendations from the Senior Leaders Forum Roundtables (Annex 1).

2. CONTEXT

The EU-Australia Leadership Forum brings together emerging and senior leaders from a variety of fields to discuss issues of common interest. The forum is particularly significant in light of substantial developments in the relationship between the EU and Australia that have taken place over the past three years. It provides a platform to continue this development and to provide insights into the implementation of the EU-Australia Framework Agreement. Furthermore, as negotiations towards a European Union-Australia Free Trade Agreement (EU-Australia FTA) gain momentum, the forum provides a platform to discuss the broader bilateral relationship and to demonstrate the benefits for both parties.

Ultimately, the forum provides an opportunity for leaders from both Australia and the EU to gather in one place to collaborate, share ideas and tackle common challenges as well as take advantage of common opportunities integral to the continued development of the relationship.

3. EMERGING LEADERS FORUM

On November 18-20, the Emerging Leaders Forum brought together a group of leaders under 35 years of age from Australia and the EU (selected through a competitive selection process) to broaden and share their knowledge and ideas about EU-Australia bilateral relations as well as forging new professional and personal ties for the future.

Following a welcome reception on Sunday 18, and the opening speeches on Monday 19 by EU Ambassador Michael Pulch and Australian Ambassador Justin Brown, the emerging leaders attended two panel discussions during which guest speakers shared their expertise on different dimensions of the EU-Australia relationship.

The importance of Australia for the EU was discussed during the first panel on **understanding the EU-Australia relationship**. Speakers and participants identified significant issues at play in the respective regions of Australia and the EU and it was agreed that while relations between the two countries are generally smooth, there are a number of areas that still require attention and where the EU and Australia could develop their relationship further.

Among the opportunities, it was noted that there are several sectoral agreements covering a wide range of issues, from denuclearisation to maritime security. Moreover, the European Union is increasingly active in Asia Pacific regional fora and participates in many of them, inter alia the East Asian Summit and the Asian Regional Forum. In general, EU-Australia trade relations, once acrimonious, have evolved to the point where an EU-Australia FTA is now under negotiation.

On the second panel, titled **tools for collaboration**, speakers focused on tradecraft in rapidly changing international environments. The Australian panellists were interested in the history, culture and institutions of the EU in order to engage with and influence the system. There was an understanding that the EU is more than the sum of its 28 Member States and Australians have to understand the complexities and workings of the EU if they want to engage successfully with the EU. In fields such as business and journalism, Australians should endeavour to establish themselves as part of their respective communities in Europe to be taken seriously. The focus for EU speakers on the panel was the international environment in which Australia was placed. Speakers on the panel noted that political and economic debates in Australia were framed around the issue of China's rise and some participants thought that China's expansion, which is raising similar concerns about issues like connectivity and democratic governance in the EU and Australia, was a major reason for the EU and Australia's closer relationship.

After the panel discussions, the emerging leaders had the opportunity to choose and join one of four workshops over the following two days to deepen the discussion on areas relevant to both Australia and the European Union and to the bilateral relationship and develop a set of recommendations for decision makers. Themes from the roundtables were the following:

Monday 19 November

- Migration and Movement of People;
- Environment, Climate Change and Energy Transition;
- Industry 4.0; and
- Women's Leadership in the EU and Australia

Tuesday 20 November

- Risk of War—Views from the Indo-Pacific and the EU;
- Digitalisation with a Focus on Privacy and Data Protection;
- Space Cooperation: The Next Frontier; and
- Civil Society in the EU-Australia Relationship.

After the conclusion of the various workshops, the emerging leaders convened again in a plenary session to present their thoughts and conclusions, which, on Thursday 22 were put before the senior leaders in the roundtable sessions. A summary of the roundtable sessions can be found as an annex to this report.

4. GALA DINNER

The Gala Dinner on 20 November brought together eminent political figures and a broad range of leading experts showing enthusiasm and support for the EU-Australia Leadership Forum and the growth of EU-Australia relations. Before the dinner, a reception was hosted by the Australian Ambassador to the European Union.

Emeritus President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy delivered the keynote speech at the dinner, emphasising the resilience of the European Union despite several contemporary challenges. He emphasised that, despite calls for protectionism around the world, Europe remained “a strong defender of open markets.” Indeed, he noted that EU Institutions have proved their relevance. For example, the European Union recently succeeded in negotiating with the United States to avoid an escalation of protectionist policies, a feat that had eluded even the most powerful EU Member States.

Europe matters even more today than yesterday. It is still a worthwhile ambition.
Emeritus President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy

President Emeritus van Rompuy was also frank about the challenges facing Europe and countries around the globe, highlighting in particular income inequality as a factor creating “huge tensions in society.” Nevertheless, he noted that the response to this problem in many countries, “to look for guilty parties outside the country,” was wholly inappropriate. Van Rompuy spoke strongly about the need for inclusivity in our political and economic systems, condemning a mindset that tried “to make their own economies stronger by weakening other ones” while attempting to “take away the uncertainty of their own people by blaming others.

“The European Union shouldn’t forget the reasons why it was founded, the stability and prosperity it brought to so many people. It is fully aware of the role it can play in the world, totally different from some of its member states’ past hegemonic ambitions.”
Emeritus President of the European Council Herman van Rompuy

5. OPENING SESSION

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP) Federica Mogherini delivered the keynote speech for the opening session of the forum on 21 November. HR/VP Mogherini strongly emphasised friendship as the basis of cooperation between countries and the importance of “investing in a new generation of Australian and European leaders who are friends” to take the relationship forward. She stressed “how much Europe and Australia have in common when it comes to our way of life, our societies, and our values” and noted that the “European Union and Australia today are close partners to build a more cooperative and just global order.” Australians and Europeans share views on “democracy based on liberal values and social justice,” “international cooperation and multilateralism,” a belief that “international trade should be free and fair at the same time,” and strong support for international institutions.

Notably, HR/VP Mogherini underscored the importance that the European Union places on stability in the Indo-Pacific region, not as an abstract concept, but as “crucial to our own European security,” and highlighted the opportunities that Australia and the European Union have for working with other actors in the region, such as the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

“Friendship between countries is built first and foremost, I believe, on friendship between people. And this is why investing in a new generation of Australian and European leaders that are friends is today our choice. We invest in a new generation of leaders that are friends and in a renewed friendship between Europe and Australia.”

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP) Federica Mogherini

Europe’s growing emphasis on the Indo-Pacific was also a theme stressed by Australian Ambassador to the European Union Justin Brown in his speech to the opening session of the forum. Ambassador Brown noted that there were significant opportunities for Australia and the European Union to work together within the region.

Ambassador Brown outlined five key areas for greater cooperation: 1) cooperation on connectivity strategies to ensure that trade and other linkages between Europe and Australia remain open; 2) strategic partnership with ASEAN nations, where Australia can play a role in facilitating greater connections between the EU and nations in South East Asia; 3) cooperation within the World Trade Organisation on WTO reform and to monitor compliance with WTO rules; 4) the conclusion of a high quality Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the EU; and 5) as the EU Member States and Australia are both allies of the United States through NATO and ANZUS, greater cooperation and partnership with the United States on regional initiatives.

The opening session concluded with remarks from Hilde Hardeman, head of the European Commission’s Service for Foreign Policy Instruments and Catherine Raper, first assistant secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and a member of the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee for the EU-Australia Leadership Forum.

After the opening session, distinguished members of the government, business, academe and media communities came together for four panel discussions which were held under the Chatham House Rule.

6. CHALLENGES TO THE RULES BASED INTERNATIONAL ORDER

Speakers on the first panel, focused on Challenges to the Rules-Based International Order, acknowledged that the system of international rules that had developed in the wake of World War II had been instrumental to regional peace and prosperity in Europe and the Indo-Pacific. They also acknowledged, however, that rising and traditional great powers, notably China and Russia, were challenging long-established international rules, while the United States was stepping back from its traditional role as guarantor of the system. Indeed, most panellists noted that the current US leadership, as well as populist movements in the United States and Europe, were stoking scepticism about the rules-based international order in countries where it had previously been accepted.

Panellists noted that it was necessary for actors like Australia and the European Union, which are heavily invested in the current system, to continue to discuss ways to raise the costs of non-compliance with international law and unwelcome behaviour in international forums. Participants also noted Australia should help Europe engage with nations, particularly the Pacific and ASEAN states, in order to help them meet their commitments to international law and to show that global powers were invested in the rules-based international order.

7. CHALLENGES AND CURRENT DYNAMICS IN WESTERN DEMOCRACY

On the panel on Western democracy, speakers noted their concern at the hollowing out of democratic practices at the local level around the world. Rising income inequality is undermining citizens’ trust in one another and in elected institutions, which is a threat to democracy. Policies of austerity have meant that there are fewer resources available for local solutions, which are supposed to accompany greater democracy, to political problems. At the same time, political narratives in the media have focused on the role of particular leaders rather than the problems themselves, which has made local voters feel as though their concerns have been ignored. Brexit demonstrated that there was significant distrust in EU institutions in some Member States, with one speaker highlighting that European integration needed to take place along more democratic lines. It was noted that while political parties in the EU are elected on the basis of nation state representation, many of the challenges they face are common to the EU as a whole, meaning that there is a fundamental mismatch between representation and how issues affect voters.

It was noted that many austerity measures that negatively impact democracy also have harsh consequences for minorities and women. Indeed, the link between democratic development and women’s participation was a key topic of the panel. It was noted that “for democracy, the status of women is like a canary in a coalmine,” and that the EU has several programs, working with multilateral and bilateral partners, to ensure women’s participation in politics both in Europe and across the globe. Nevertheless, speakers were careful to note that gender equality in political representation was not “a focus on women for the benefit of women, but a focus on women’s participation for the benefit of all.”

Populism was also raised as an issue undermining democracy, but it was stressed that there was a clear need for scholars in democracies to develop a “sociology of populism,” as too many assumptions are made about the origins and goals of populist movements without sound evidence, which is a problem for governments that want to come up with clear solutions to counter populist movements.

8. ECONOMICS AND TRADE

Reform of multilateral institutions, particularly the World Trade Organization (WTO), was a key topic on the panel on economics and trade. Panellists noted that because of gridlock in WTO negotiations, many of the rules were out of date. Rules for small and medium enterprises, for example, dated from 1995 and WTO members needed to re-establish a consensus to devise new rules for such contemporary issues as technology transfer. The lack of movement in the WTO was leading key members to criticise the global trading regime as a whole. Notwithstanding a general consensus on the need for WTO reform, the members of the panel noted their concern that in promoting policies including punitive tariffs, the current president of the United States was acting in ways to undermine the authority of the WTO rather than improve it.

One of the areas where the playing level was most uneven in international trade was in subsidies. This was because a lot of nations who were nominally supportive of the global trading regime carved out small areas of sectoral interest where they applied subsidies. Collectively, however, these subsidies were significant and challenged a cohesive trading order. One speaker noted that such nations were missing a larger point: without multilateral cooperation on subsidies across the board, WTO Member States that are not as respectful of the organisation’s rules will find more areas to flout them. China, in particular, was mentioned in this regard, one speaker noting that it was highly unlikely for China and the United States to reach an amicable agreement on subsidy regulation, and such an agreement ought to be based on multilateral principles with significant input from states like the EU and Australia. Indeed, the panel broadly agreed that should another EU-Australia Leadership Forum be held next year, it should discuss how the EU and Australia could cooperate to address the disruptions to the trade regime in the wake of China’s rise.

Despite the supportive attitude of panellists towards trade liberalisation, there was recognition on the panel that governments needed to increase efforts to explain trade policies to the public and, in some cases, alter policies that did not serve the public interest.

These policies undermine trust in the free trade regime and lead to populist and nationalist movements that opposed free trade. One panellist noted, for example that intellectual property regulations and investor state dispute settlement clauses in free trade agreements appeared to benefit only large corporations.

9. FUTURE TRENDS

The panel on future trends largely focused on education, the future of work, and innovation within the EU and Australia. It was noted that there were going to be significant developments in the innovation sector, and the pace of technical change in the workplace would increase over time. This would lead to significant job disruption. It was noted that young people entering the workforce today would likely have multiple job changes over different career paths. That meant that the education sector would need to learn how to deal with job disruption. Governments would need to prioritise lifelong learning, as employees would need to learn transferrable skills and earn “microcredentials” as they constantly upskilled and reskilled themselves for new opportunities. The EU was investing significantly in research with €100 million set aside for research over the next seven years in its “Horizon Europe” program.

However, it was also necessary to maintain a sense of realism about the prospects of change. Change will come, but an examination of past conceptualisations of the future shows us that the predictions about future innovation can be fanciful. Also, automation is already shifting priorities in the workplace. Artificial intelligence may eradicate the need for certain professions, but the most valuable areas of education are those which nurture intuition and creativity, which automation cannot replace.

Like many of the panels above, the panel on future trends also considered broad geopolitical movements and emphasised the importance of Australia and the EU defending the rules based international order. One speaker, however, warned that while Australia and the EU should work together with other actors to balance China in the Indo-Pacific, they should also be careful to act in ways that did not aggravate Beijing. Containment of China is impossible and moves that would give China the impression that actors were containing it would be counterproductive. Also, Australia and the EU had to counteract efforts by foreign governments to use technology for espionage purposes and for disrupting democratic practices.

10. BREAKFAST AND ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

On the 22 November, senior and emerging leaders met for breakfast with a senior leader of the European Parliament providing keynote commentary on challenges to the European Union. The focus of the breakfast was on the challenges that Brexit posed to the European Union. There was a general feeling of sadness among European actors that Brexit was occurring and a notion that Brexit would not provide benefits for any actor. However, it was also noted that officials in Europe were tired of the

uncertainty surrounding the Brexit issue and wanted the government of the United Kingdom to come to a conclusion about the way forward so that the European Union could focus on other important issues.

Concern was raised about populist parties gaining strength in the upcoming European Parliament elections. Some participants claimed that as it appeared Brexit would not deliver the benefits its British proponents claimed, calls for national independence from nationalist actors within the rest of the European Union Member States had been softened or abandoned altogether. One member of the audience questioned whether the EU was taking an overly “hard line” on the United Kingdom in negotiations in order to prove the point that Member States must not leave. However, it was pointed out that Europe was merely protecting its interests. It was the United Kingdom that voluntarily joined the EU, voluntarily acceded to treaties with Brussels and now was voluntarily deciding to leave based on a conceptualisation of its own national interest. It would be illogical to assume that the European Union would fail to protect its own interests in negotiations with Britain through the Brexit process.

Following the breakfast, participants took part in eight roundtables mirroring those of the Emerging Leaders Forum where emerging leaders and senior leaders discussed areas of importance to Australia and the European Union and attempted to develop solutions to problems in those areas. Each roundtable was led by two experts, one Australian and one European, in the relevant field. The emerging leaders discussed their ideas with the relevant senior figures. This allowed for intergenerational perspectives to be shared.

A summary of recommendations and outcomes comprising the discussion among Senior and emerging leaders during these workshops is included in the following annex.

Annex 1: Summary Recommendations from the Senior Leaders Forum Roundtable

Migration and Movement of People

- The launch of a possible Joint EU-Australia campaign in the coming years – with specialist workshops or public events on the challenges of migration, along with a one-stop-shop portal to raise awareness and provide information on movement options (e.g. to increase the level of awareness of EU-visa options for Australians).
- Facilitate and streamline migration/movement avenues to realise benefit of official agreements. Collaboration on movement and migration is essential to future trade agreements and agreements on migration should be contained in an FTA between Australia and the EU.
- Loosen restrictions on both skilled and unskilled movement between the EU and Australia (age, duration, income requirements), and implement opportunities for non-study/professional exchanges: e.g. for artistic/cultural activities.
- Australia and the EU should negotiate E3-type special visas, to ensure the vitality of the EU-Australia relationship and to support innovation and entrepreneurship.
- The EU and Australia should seek to reconcile their differences on some form of UN-backed global migration compact.
- Both EU members and Australia can learn from each other about successful integration policies: better information exchange will help.
- What works now won't necessarily in future: concurrent short- and long-term planning is crucial.
- Political discourse and language matter: people want reassurance that governments are in control of immigration, but we should talk of “managed migration” rather than “controlled migration”.

Industry 4.0

While the Australia - Germany Advisory Group and the Prime Ministers Industry 4.0 Taskforce in Australia have made significant progress in recent years by developing cooperation and bilateral agreements with Germany to advance Industry 4.0 within the advanced manufacturing sector, there is a need to broaden this approach to other sectors and build similar collaborations across the EU, beyond Germany. The EU - Australia Leadership Forum can play an important role as a catalyst for this agenda, and there is further work required to achieve broader collaboration.

Key issues stemming from the Industry 4.0 Roundtable discussion are summarised as follows:

- Education (including workforce transformation)

Industry 4.0 has amplified the need for the development of new knowledge and skills if industries, businesses and societies are going to benefit from digitalisation. Currently there is a significant gap in workforce skills (in industries, businesses and public service) both in EU and in Australia that requires urgent and ongoing attention. Collaborations in curriculum innovation (including innovations in lifelong learning approaches and platforms, and innovations in private - public sector partnership models) between Australia and EU should be encouraged and supported, and equivalency of qualifications must be addressed as a matter of urgency. Mobility within the education systems and workforce environments of EU and Australia is limited due to these issues.

- Standards

Standards Australia has recently published a report on Industry 4.0 and its implications on standards, recognising that standards are a key enabler for Industry 4.0 developments and international collaborations. Accessing global value chains requires all stakeholders to work in line with common international standards. Standards Australia is actively involved with the International Standards Organisation (ISO) on Industry 4.0 agenda, and is making substantial contributions on a range of relevant working groups (blockchain, AI, etc.). Ongoing active collaboration is critical in this domain as new standards are evolving with new technologies and practices.

- Ethics

The ethics associated with the development and application of new digital technologies (Data, AI, etc.) is a critical issue. There is a broad recognition of the need to incorporate Ethics in all relevant university courses that deal with Industry 4.0 technologies and issues, including in engineering, computer science, social sciences, law and business. Collaboration in this domain to identify best practice and establish equivalency of approaches and resources would be beneficial.

- Innovation

Digitalisation demands innovation if industry and businesses are going to benefit from the opportunities that Industry 4.0 is offering. Furthermore, globalisation is changing global value chains, which with digitalisation are becoming more complex, requiring new radically different business models and system. This presents both challenges and opportunities for EU and Australia (including within the pending EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement). Incremental innovation vs radical innovation, Government regulations vs private sector regulations, open innovation frameworks vs over-regulated environments are some of the topics that require further discussion involving a wider range of stakeholders from both EU and Australia.

Environment, Climate Change and Energy Transition

- Future-proof EU-Australia agreements (including the FTA) with respect to environment and climate commitment. EU and Australia can jointly lead the way in connecting climate change commitment and economic relations to create a “ratchet effect” and as a way to ensure a stronger level of support for free trade agreements.
- Include as an explicit part of environmental commitments: biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources; sustainable land-use policies (especially preventing natural habitats loss); and energy efficiency commitments.
- EU and Australia can jointly engage to develop long-term, evidence- and science-based strategies and capacity for understanding future scenarios and managing risk.
- Ensure delivery of science into policymaking process. Proactively evaluate the environmental impact of socio-economic development strategies.
- Establish a strategy to support intergenerational equity.
- Jointly invest in cooperation and collaboration for research, development and innovation on the environment and climate. Encourage Australia’s participation in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects on environmental research.
- Australia and the EU can lead the way in climate change advocacy globally and continue to jointly support a multilateral approach to engage on climate change issues.
- Support outreach and public education initiatives based on best practices and experiences from Australia and the EU.
- Commit to the use of sustainably sourced materials from third countries.
- Account for environmental impacts that EU and Australia generate in third countries (from national consumptions).

Women’s Leadership in the EU and Australia

- While there is much criticism of targets and quotas, they are positive measures.
- Major attitudinal changes are needed to allow women to rise into positions of leadership, partly involving seeing issues such as flexible work arrangements as not just “women’s issues.”
- Policies are needed to eliminate stereotypes, particularly around older women. There are also stereotypes about what leadership looks like—the “man in the suit”—that need to be addressed. Policies could create awareness about casual or everyday sexism.

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- Ways should be sought to develop social media as a positive force for women’s empowerment rather than, as it often is, a medium where a lot of abuse take place.
 - Many women in leadership positions are not helpful to women below them, and there is a need to build networks of women of influence and ensure that there was a “pipeline” of women moving up behind women who were breaking new ground into areas of leadership so that they did not become ‘one offs’. The idea is of female leaders “putting the ladder down” for those who were coming behind them.
 - Meanwhile, females are not the only agents of change. Ways should be sought to encourage male or mixed gender groups that are proponents of women in leadership.
 - There is a need for proactive development and use of databases, building up logs of women with expertise. They are effective in gradually changing the “face” of expertise in the media.

Risks of War in Australia and the EU

- Australia and the EU must work to counter Russian threats, note that the “US is determined to up the ante with China” and work to offer infrastructure capacity building as an alternative to China’s “belt and road” strategy.
- Indeed, EU-Australia cooperation on infrastructure connectivity was integral to creating an cohesive Indo-Pacific region.
- The EU and Australia must ‘avoid the choice’ of having to pick between China and the US. If it can be persuaded to be more active in the region, the EU could act as ‘another adult in the room’ providing greater stability to the Indo-Pacific.
- Australia and the EU need to build more strategic dialogues, including at ministerial level.
- A clear method of evaluating joint activities also needs to be established.
- Other actors, for example, New Zealand, should be brought into the dialogue.
- Future military cooperation needs to be clearly formulated. Evaluation of potential joint activities should start with what the EU and Australia do best.
- Australia and the EU need to get their basic defence capabilities in order as a precursor to planning for closer cooperation.
- The EU should also be building bridges to China: to balance not to threaten Beijing.

Digitalisation with a Focus on Privacy and Data Protection

- Given Australia and the EU are leading democracies, one of the recommendations was to examine how we can restore faith in the use of data.

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- It was unclear why the decision had been taken to exempt intellectual property from FTA negotiations, but this was identified as a major concern, and it was recommended that this may need to be addressed in future.
 - It was recommended that there be close coordination between the EU and Australia to ensure seamless flow of data between jurisdictions. Attention to standards on intellectual property and data protection are particularly important.
 - There is an increasing need for policymakers to focus on ethical issues in artificial intelligence. It was recommended that an AI Joint Action Plan should be a focus for European and Australian policy makers in future.
 - The EU and Australia must be vigilant in identifying and, where possible, preventing cyber threats aimed at undermining democracy. This includes crime against individuals and corporate entities, but also against state systems.
 - Australia and the EU need to closely consider the impact of Brexit on intelligence sharing arrangements between Australia and the EU. This includes addressing what the impact of Britain's exit from the EU will have on the efficacy of Five Eyes, and possible shifts in attitude between the EU28 and EU27 vis à vis Australia as a Five Eyes partner.

Civil Society in the EU-Australia Relationship

- Investigate and explore lessons that Australia can learn from the EU regarding funding models and resilience
- The role of civil society in EU nations is generally more structured than in Australia, so it may be valuable for Australia to learn about these EU structures and their evolution
- Explore what EU models for civil society look like and what can be brought into Australia – how to rethink institutions
- Work to more directly engage civil society in both regions to impact Sustainable Development Goal 16, especially in terms of institutional strengthening
- More intentionally utilise the convening power of government to legitimise and strengthen civil society organisations
- Create a robust values framework for civil society in both regions, to underpin the policy framework
- Bring values to policy by establishing a toolkit with a range of options to advise countries on mechanisms for effective civil society engagement
- Create checks and balances so that government doesn't impose unnecessary barriers to civil society

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- Make government (policy and legislation, particularly) more enabling than constraining, and simplify bureaucratic processes, in order to allow civil society to more easily fill gaps where needed
 - Investigate how public institutions can effectively mobilise private donations
 - Share lessons from Australian experience and widespread success in private fundraising with the EU
 - Promote civil society values in schools and the education system, in order to legitimise the role of civil society and help it to be better understood by wider society
 - Consider embedding civil society more formally in the government agenda, perhaps by creating a dedicated ministerial position with a portfolio and clear accountability for specific targets and outcomes
 - Investigate the application of disruptive technologies, such as blockchain and other distributed ledger technology, to: reduce duplication of effort; create a platform for landscape analysis; and create transparency/trust in government's role(s)
 - Create an exchange for civil society between the EU and Australia, where leaders in the sector in each region are able to learn from one another's knowledge and experience
 - Explore new definitions and understandings of civil society in the rapidly changing modern world – i.e. what is the role of social entrepreneurship, purpose-driven for-profits, the 'social sector' and more – to understand whether the definition is being stretched too far and if the current boundaries are fit-for-purpose.
 - Following from the above, specifically consider the role of the private sector within civil society, and how these two areas overlap and are where they need to remain separate.

Space Cooperation: The Next Frontier

While the Australian space community has world-leading capability in several areas, as detailed in the Australian government's Expert Reference Group, from a holistic viewpoint it is lagging in sophistication, funding, and experience compared to parallel communities in Europe. Resource exchanges and transfer of knowledge are therefore tremendously valuable to the Australian community and easy to initiate by their European counterparts.

From an Australian space industry perspective, benefits can be had from access to the European export market. The Australian R&D community, including the industry sector, can accelerate by providing unique and/or innovative hardware, instrumentation and software to jointly funded Australian-EU science missions and initiatives.

The benefits are not just one way. Australia is a large continent, spanning several time zones, situated in a geographically relevant region in relation to the EU. Existing collaborations include deep space communications and earth observing data reduction techniques. With

increased funding for space capability growth in the Australian sector such collaborations can only increase. This includes low cost launch possibilities from Australia.

Risks and Hurdles

The nascent Australian space industry faces some important impediments to success.

In broad terms, the greatest risk to the Australian national space effort is the potential lack of ongoing funding at a suitable level provided by the Australian Federal government. Additional hurdles include the immediate availability of resourcing expertise within Australia to match the required space industry growth targets, especially with increased restrictions on Australian working visas in recent months.

Many of these risks can be mitigated through ongoing collaboration as envisioned here.

Recommendations

Strong collaborations exist between Australia and the EU in the areas of earth observing and deep space communications, for example, and we expect these areas to grow in the future.

To accelerate broader capability, the recommendations include:

- Shared funding for space research and knowledge exchange for industry, academia, and government, with a focus on enabling mobility of people.
- Facilitated access to the European markets for import/export for Australian space industry.
- Creating opportunities for Australian participation of European missions, especially when Australian innovation can be utilised.

Annex 2: List of Participants

	Name	Position	Organisation
EU	<i>ABRUZZINI Arnaldo</i>	CEO	Eurochambres
AUS	<i>AMES Elizabeth</i>	Executive Director	Australian UK Chamber of Commerce
EU	<i>ANDREESCU Anca</i>	EUALF Senior Event Management Expert	Stantec Belgium
EU	<i>ANDREWS Barry Patrick</i>	Director General	Institute of International and European Affairs
AUS	<i>ANTENUCCI Andrew</i>	Communications, policy and strategy professional	Freelance
AUS	<i>ASLANIDIS Jane</i>	Consultant	United Nations World Food Programme
AUS	<i>AYRE Keeya-Lee</i>	Marketing Manager	GSMA
EU	<i>BALFOUR Rosa</i>	Senior Transatlantic Fellow	German Marshall Fund of the United States
EU	<i>BARTOLUCCI Chiara</i>	EUALF Junior Event Management Expert	Stantec Belgium
EU	<i>BATISTA Jose</i>	Lecturer	The University of Melbourne
EU	<i>BEREZAY Kathleen</i>	Abroad Coordinator (Europe)	Macquarie University, Sydney
EU	<i>BISCOP Sven</i>	Director	Egmont, Royal Institute for International Relations
EU	<i>BLOCH Natanael</i>	Strategic communication professional	Freelance
EU	<i>BOCCABELLA Ermenegilda</i>	Director	Caelex
EU	<i>BOECKELER Joerg Thomas</i>	Managing Director	Dorint
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