RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF EU-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

developed by representatives of the 2018 EU-Australia Emerging Leaders
Produced by the representatives of the 2018 EU-Australia Emerging Leaders.

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Between 18 - 22 November 2018, Emerging Leaders from the EU and Australia, representing a broad spectrum of government, business, media, academia and civil society, gathered in Brussels to take part in the 2018 EU-Australia Emerging & Senior Leaders Forum.

This document has been created to ensure that their core observations and recommendations are consolidated, recorded and made available to relevant stakeholders as a standalone document.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document contains 46 recommendations addressing the span of issues discussed at the 2018 EU-Australia Emerging & Senior Leaders Forum.

Those recommendations cover the eight key Forum topics of movement of people; the future of industry; environment, climate change and energy transition; women’s leadership in the EU and Australia; the risk of war; digitalisation, with a focus on privacy and data-protection; space cooperation; and the role of civil society in the EU-Australia relationship.

Though the Forum was held against the backdrop of ongoing negotiations towards the adoption of a fair EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement, these recommendations are not confined to that aspect of the EU-Australia relationship and are intended, more broadly, to promote long-term, mutually beneficial, close relations between the EU and Australia.

They reflect common core principles, which surfaced during the Emerging Leaders’ discussions, and place emphasis on sustainability, ethical and responsible governance, inclusiveness, knowledge-sharing, innovation, fact and research based policy approaches, and a firm commitment to the multilateral rules-based international order.
The 2018 EU-Australia Emerging Leaders, having met in Brussels, Belgium, between 18 and 22 November 2018, to discuss:

- Movement of People: EU and Australian perspectives
- Industry 4.0
- Environment, Climate Change and Energy Transition
- Women’s Leadership in the EU and Australia
- Risk of War – the View from the Indo-Pacific and the EU
- Digitalisation with a Focus on Privacy and Data Protection
- Space Cooperation - the Next Frontier
- Civil Society in the EU-Australia Relationship

Advance the following recommendations:
**MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE**

*Emphasising* the personal, social and economic benefits of humane and managed migration to social and economic development;

*Stressing* that commitment to shared fundamental values imposes a duty to develop policies that emphasise human dignity and responsibly and transparently promote the interests of non-migrant and migrant communities alike;

*Cognisant* that responsible and sustainable strategies relating to the (regular and irregular) movement of people must be sufficiently flexible to respond to changing conditions;

*Calling for* collaborative, responsible and sustainable approaches to managing the movement of people;

*Recognising* the movement of people between the EU and Australia as fundamental to the success of any meaningful future Fair Trade Agreement (FTA) and broader economic cooperation between the EU and Australia;

*Acknowledging* the opportunity for knowledge-sharing in relation to public discourse in the EU and Australia;

We recommend that the EU and Australia:

1. **Foster strategies to utilise existing significant untapped potential for creating stronger EU-Australian relations**

   Despite European influences in shaping contemporary Australia, shared values and overlapping histories, the EU and Australia fail to fully capitalise on existing informal connections. Communities of Australian-based diasporas from EU Member States and European-based Australian diasporas,
Australian and EU returnees from working holidays and temporary residences, and dual nationals of Australia and EU Member States represent an untapped potential to bridge closer informal connections between the EU and Australia.

2 **Loosen restrictions on the movement of skilled and essential workers/labourers to promote equitable opportunities for migration**

The migratory benefits of closer EU-Australian relations should be shared equitably between a broad spectrum of citizens. In the future of EU-Australia relations, the movement of persons between the EU and Australia should not be restricted to only skilled or high-income workers. Sustainable migration between the EU and Australia demands that essential workers and non-study related long term exchanges are also promoted and responsibly managed.

3 **Launch a joint EU-Australia migration portal**

In order to facilitate easier access for migrants, potential migrants, and returned migrants, in the context of the movement of people between EU Member States and Australia, the EU and Australia should develop a joint online portal to centralise practical information on all aspects of the migration process for citizens to access. This should include, for example, information on available visa types, conditions, restrictions, quotas and application processes; support services and integration support.

4 **Negotiate a special visa to support innovation and entrepreneurial connections**

The E-3 working visa, created as a result of the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement, should serve as inspiration for a special working visa to encourage the mobility of persons in speciality occupations between the EU and Australia. Visas granted to spouses and children of such special working visa holders should not be included in any quota for such visas.
5 Coordinate low-key ongoing networks of EU-Australian connections

The benefits of sustainably regulated migration should be promoted and supported by the government, in the EU and Australia, through low-key events in order to foster and maintain beneficial person-to-person relationships. Such initiatives could include, for example, alumni networks and events for Working Holiday Maker returnees in Europe, hosted with the support of Australia.

6 Promote responsible public discourse on migration management, including irregular migration

All levels of government share a responsibility to promote grounded, fact-based discussion on migration. Doing so ethically requires: clear distinctions to be drawn in the public discourse between the legal categories of migrants; honest representation of existing international obligations; and transparency regarding the personal, social and economic benefits of migration.

7 Prioritise integration policies that foster positive experiences

Existing integration policies targeted at individual migrants alone are to be lauded as successful and have achieved sustainable integration. However, they have proven insufficient to promote positive attitudes to sustainable migration, to fully recognise its benefits and to combat xenophobia.

The EU and Australia must make greater efforts to promote, to existing communities and new/recent migrants alike, the benefits of migration and the role of communities, including new/recent migrants, in fostering sustainable integration. Civil society organisations should be engaged as key partners.
Investigate the potential to target the root causes of irregular migratory flows

The EU and Australia should leverage existing knowledge to develop long-term, sustainable, and effective strategies for alleviating the root-causes of irregular migration. This should include pursuing and supporting political solutions to conflict and unrest, and strengthening countries of origin’s resilience to climate change, and capacity to address issues stemming from poverty, discrimination, and inequality.

The EU and Australia should draw upon their joint experience in overseas development assistance and humanitarian relief, and cooperate with partners to support in-country and regional solutions, where necessary, exerting diplomatic pressure to promote adherence to international laws and norms to address the root causes of irregular migratory flows.

Reaffirming the importance of a multilateral rules-based international order for fostering industry in an increasingly globalised and interconnected world;

Considering the future roles of complex cyber-physical systems characterised by sensors, automated processes and machine learning systems that have the ability to make their own decisions, i.e. automation and artificial intelligence (AI);
Cognisant of the potential positive and negative impacts of increased automation and AI in industry;

Recognising that the nature of the industrial future is not inevitable and that the opportunity exists to mould that future to match political, social, and environmental priorities;

Conscious of the need to balance consumer protection and public interest with policies that foster growth, new enterprise, innovators, and entrepreneurs;

Favouring policy approaches that utilise existing EU-Australia academic and research networks and that address skills shortages;

Believing that business leaders and policy makers need to address the ethical issues arising from the use of automation, AI and the Internet of Things;

Highlighting the role of industry in promoting shared political, societal and environmental values.

We recommend that the EU and Australia:

9 Commission a joint White Paper on the fourth industrial revolution

The EU and Australia should jointly facilitate comprehensive research into the various issues arising from the fourth industrial revolution, including the associated risks, impacts and opportunities, so as to leverage expertise in shaping responses based in their shared values underpinning free market economies and rules-based international trade.
Research should address areas such as: including the role of government in regulating AI and automation, mitigating the potential risks of disruption and start-up economies on established industry, and methods for maximising the economic potential of the fourth industrial revolution in a manner that protects and promotes political, societal and environmental values.

10  **Prioritise STEAM skills training for students and entrepreneurs**

Skills such as complex problem solving, critical thinking, creativity and emotional intelligence will become increasingly important to obtain and maintain employment during the fourth industrial revolution. The EU and Australia should develop and promote programs to increase opportunities in education and training across STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) disciplines.

11  **Leverage existing resources by promoting mentoring programs and knowledge-sharing**

The EU and Australia should expand upon existing successful initiatives to provide access to networks and resources, such as Landing Pads, so as to support entrepreneurs and start-ups looking to establish opportunities in new territories. In addition, further consideration should be given to encouraging cooperation between universities, corporations and government entities to develop knowledge-sharing platforms.

12  **Facilitate collaboration between Chambers of Commerce from a business-to-business perspective**

Chambers of Commerce in the EU and Australia should take a leading role in facilitating collaboration between EU and Australian businesses and ensuring the continued involvement of companies who are likely to be shaping the future EU-Australia collaborations, including through new technologies.
This could include supporting international fora for organisations to come together and share ideas and plan initiatives to develop and use new technologies. Specialized desks within the Chambers of Commerce dedicated to taking into account the needs of businesses operating in the technology sector should also be prioritised.

13 **Strengthen opportunities to study and research ethics of automation, AI and the future of industry**

There is an opportunity for Australian and the EU to develop standards relating to the future of industry and an ethical vision for the future, as well as a need, highlighted by recent high-profile data leaks. This, in combination with a need for providing different skill-sets to those currently delivered, provides opportunity for innovative new university courses based on ethics, pragmatism, and inter EU-Australia collaboration and innovation.

14 **Leverage existing resources by promoting mentoring programs and knowledge-sharing**

As demonstrated by the recent high-profile data leaks and scandals, the EU and Australia have a responsibility to build ethical frameworks on digital reinvention. The EU and Australia should be proactive in seeking to develop a common ethical framework to guide the development and application of new technologies, through collaboration between government, industry, academia and civil society, with a view to promoting sustainable and ethical social and economic development. It should consider ways to incentivise commercial competitors to tackle ethical issues collaboratively in spite of their commercial interests in preserving ownership of intellectual property.
Recognising that action on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and protection of the environment has been too slow, and that continuing on the current path will lead to irreversible damage to biodiversity and ecosystem services;

Conscious that the current course of action reinforces and compounds inequities and compromises the rights and opportunities of future generations;

Reaffirming the need to act upon the best available scientific advice, and the need to invest in supporting the research required to guide mitigation and adaptation strategies;

Demanding urgent action to intensify collective efforts to address environmental challenges and develop science-based, long-term approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable use of natural resources, and the conservation of biodiversity;

We recommend that the EU and Australia:

15 Future-proof EU-Australia agreements with respect to biodiversity, the environment and climate change

Considering the urgency of increased global efforts to address environment and climate-related challenges, paramount importance must be placed on ensuring that future agreements—including those relating to any FTA—protect and promote existing commitments with respect to climate change mitigation, environmental protection and biodiversity conservation.
16  **Jointly develop long-term, evidence and science-based strategies and capacity building to understand and manage environmental, climate and energy-transition related risks**

The EU and Australia should strive to ensure science is incorporated into policy and, in particular, to proactively evaluate the environmental impact of socio-economic development strategies in order to promote and support the sustainable use of natural resources. A shared EU-Australia vision of the future should be developed to strengthen relationships based on shared views, though practicalities and implementation of such a shared vision will necessarily differ between the EU and Australia.

17  **Jointly invest in research, development and innovation**

The EU and Australia should support enhanced collaborative research, innovation and transposition of science into policy. Science should be promoted to underpin the continued ecosystem services provision and the conservation of biodiversity. The EU should prioritise encouraging Australia’s participation in Horizon Europe and like initiatives that include strong provisions for environmental research.

18  **Lead the protection of multilateralism and environmental responsibility, both domestically and internationally**

The EU and Australia should jointly lead the way in climate change advocacy globally, and continue to support a multilateral approach to address biodiversity, environmental and climate-related issues. In doing so, the EU and Australia should also support outreach and public education initiatives based on their respective best practices and experiences, commit to the use of sustainably sourced materials from third countries and sustainable global supply chains, and account for environmental impacts that the EU and Australia generate in third countries (from national consumption).
Noting that women are still underrepresented in leadership roles across business and public life in the EU and Australia;

Recognising that gender equality is associated with improved national productivity and economic growth.

Emphasising that a more equal division of caregiving duties is essential to increase women’s participation in leadership roles;

Underlining that flexible approaches and equitable access to fulfilling caregiving duties is essential to achieving gender equality in the workplace and the home;

Highlighting that deep cultural change is needed at the highest levels of our organisations and public institutions to achieve gender equality;

We recommend that the EU and Australia:

19  **Incentivise and promote the implementation of shared and equal parental leave**

The EU and Australia should cooperate to promote the implementation of comprehensive shared parental leave schemes, inclusive of mandatory minimum leave allowances for each parent. Such policies are associated with increasing gender equality in leadership positions and overcoming the “mid-career trap” experienced by women, by facilitating the return of new mothers to the workforce, and providing for more equitable divisions of parenting responsibilities in the long term.
Increase awareness of the achievements of women in leadership positions in all fields

Role models play an essential role in setting society’s perceptions and expectations. Awareness of the achievements of women in leadership roles has been low, with individuals struggling to identify eminent women in proportion to their male counterparts in STEM and many other fields. Female role models inspire other women and normalise female leadership, with the retention of junior-level female employees highly correlated with the number of female supervisors. The EU and Australia should promote education on the achievements of women throughout the primary and secondary school curricula to foster knowledge of women’s leadership potential and successes.

Create professional development and mentoring opportunities

Women should be provided with the knowledge of how to best develop professional networks, seek out mentors and to position themselves as mentors for others, as a means to combat barriers to women’s involvement in leadership roles such as confidence issues and a lack of information on pursuing leadership pathways. The public and private sectors should support the use of alumni networks, coaching and mentoring to address information gaps, for example, through: (i) programs enabling accomplished alumni women, particularly those from fields where women are underrepresented, to attend their own primary and secondary schools to provide exposure regarding the opportunities available to girls; and (ii) mentoring and coaching to empower women with the confidence to take on additional responsibilities, throughout tertiary education and in the workplace.

Support and fund research to further develop best practices for fostering women’s participation in leadership

Greater investment should be made in research to support women’s participation in leadership, including: (i) how to better articulate and promote the value proposition of increased women’s
leadership; (ii) understanding how to incentivise workplace behaviour and culture that supports women’s leadership pathways; (iii) understanding when, where, and how quotas work, understanding mechanisms, such as blind resumes, that assist in advancing women equitably through recruitment processes; and (iv) exploration of mechanisms under the Sustainable Development Goals for prioritising greater participation of women in leadership positions.

23 Ensure women’s perspectives are represented during the FTA negotiations between the EU and Australia

Meaningful engagement of women leaders in the future of EU and Australia relations should be reflected in both formal and informal exchanges on the FTA between the EU and Australia. Due consideration must be given to the representation of women and their perspectives throughout official negotiations, side events, and programs related to the development of stronger ties between the EU and Australia.

Highlighting Australia and the EU’s shared values of democracy, human rights, good governance, the rule of law, and rules-based trade;

Noting that risks to Australian and EU security emanate from inter-state conflicts (including various territorial disputes); intra-state and civil conflicts; asymmetric, cyber, and hybrid threats; resource disputes; arms and nuclear proliferation; extreme weather events, natural disasters, and the impact of climate change; economic inequalities; and societal disharmony;
Acknowledging the vulnerability of the EU and Australia to threats posed by individuals, movements, and groups inspired by, for example, extreme political and religious ideologies, including penetration from regional, international and transnational terrorist networks, which use violence to achieve their political goals;

Emphasising the importance of the 2030 Sustainability Development Goals as a tool to address many of the root causes of war and promote international peace and security;

We recommend that the EU and Australia:

24 **Enhance their understandings of shared security challenges, including through parallel and coordinated analyses on mutual geographic areas of interest**

Though the EU and Australia share a common set of values, they do not share a common geography, providing an opportunity for both Parties to enhance their understanding of each other’s respective regions, including in a security context. Coordinated efforts to promote knowledge-sharing should be developed to capitalise upon the EU’s long-standing role in promoting peace and stability in the European neighbourhood and Australia’s unique insight to the Indo-Pacific.

25 **Enhance strategic coordination of development, humanitarian, and disaster assistance**

The EU is the world’s leading donor of development assistance and its projects span the globe, forming a core component of the EU’s efforts to promote peace, stability and security. Likewise, Australia is a major aid donor in the Indo-Pacific region, and supports programs in the Middle East and Africa.
Given the significant crossover in development priorities it is essential that the EU and Australia coordinate their assistance to avoid duplication and maximise efficacy, particularly in Belt and Road Initiative countries and the Pacific region.

26 **Strengthen regional and international platforms and mechanisms for conflict resolution and crisis management.**

As the international system goes through a period of intense change and faces challenges to the multilateral rules based-order, the EU and Australia should leverage respective diplomatic power to promote robust regional and international architecture, to facilitate open and meaningful dialogue on potential sources of tension and the peaceful resolution of disputes.

27 **Identify strategic defence priorities and conduct joint exercises**

The EU and Australia stand to improve their defence strategy by joining efforts to pre-empt and respond to address challenges and crises. Resources should be committed to identifying further priorities and strategies for co-operation, which may include, responses to cyber, disease and food security threats. For example, joint civil-military exercises to respond to risks of extreme weather events and natural disasters should be prioritised for greater EU-Australian co-operation, given the strong link between climate change and security, and the impact of climate change in areas of joint strategic interest in the Indo-Pacific and Middle East.
28 Account for and address evolving forms of terrorism, with particular focus on the stable, developed, non-conflict states of the EU and Australia

Homegrown and domestic terrorism should be viewed as symptomatic of wider social dissonance, arising from root-causes including social-isolation and polarisation, a lack of economic opportunities, and the influence of external conflicts. The EU and Australia should share best practices and strengthen co-operation to address terrorism and violent extremism with a focus on: tackling the root-causes; adopting a comprehensive, research-based approach to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism (including to address the issue of foreign fighters); addressing the cyber element of terrorism, including enhancing cyber security, and responding to and removing terrorist propaganda content; combating radicalisation, by facilitating Australian co-ordination or participation in the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network; and implementing the Financial Action Task Force standards to address terrorism financing and money laundering.

Cooperation should ensure that counterterrorism measures comply with international law, emphasising that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law serves to enhance the success of counterterrorism efforts, whereas the failure to comply contributes to increasing the terrorism threat.

29 Coordinate efforts to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325)

EU Member States and Australia should exchange lessons learned from each States’ National Action Plans (NAPs) developed pursuant to UN SRC1325 and establish the means for providing assistance to draft NAPs at the request of Third States. In facilitating such exchanges, the EU and Australia
Australia should seek to implement the provisions of 1325 comprehensively. In particular, the EU and Australia should leverage their diplomatic influence to ensure regular and systematic review of the Security Council’s work in the field of Women, Peace and Security. The EU and Australia should promote greater linkages between regional women’s mediation groups, including among others, Nordic Women Mediation (NWM), Mediterranean Women Mediators Network (MWMN) and the new Commonwealth Network of Women Mediators, to connect, develop and strengthen expertise in this area.

30 Jointly develop efforts to promote trust and security in cyberspace

The EU and Australia should develop and promote common understandings of cyber norms based on an appropriate legal and politically binding framework to counter the weaponisation of cyberspace. Efforts in this area should seek to include the Digital Geneva Convention as part of a more inclusive public-private partnership and seek to strengthen such initiatives through multilateral commitments reaffirming the application of international law, including human rights, to cyberspace as a means to progress its protection and regulation. In this context, the EU and Australia should ensure full participation in, and promote wider support for, the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace, in relation to supporting States, private sector and civil society organisations.

31 Expand investment and engagement in fisheries organisations and scientific collaboration as part of a broader strategy for building friendly relations in the Indo-Pacific region

Key geopolitical and security issues in the Indo-Pacific have parallels in the Southern Ocean and Antarctica, notably sovereignty and food security (from fisheries). While the governance and international legal context of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean is very different to that in the Indo-Pacific, it nevertheless provides a valuable example of how scientific collaboration and joint
engagement in relevant governance and management fora can strengthen diplomatic ties, cement commitments to a rules-based international order, and encourage good State behaviour, particularly by China and Russia.

The EU and Australia should seek to jointly leverage their capacity in terms of scientific leadership to collaborate and contribute to the strengthening of regional fisheries management organisations in the Indo-Pacific (for fisheries extending beyond national jurisdictions). As China and India continue to invest heavily in expanding national marine science programs, and given their dependence on wild fisheries for food security, the EU and Australia should seek to proactively provide leadership in addressing extra-territorial fisheries management issues in the Indo-Pacific, drawing upon lessons learned from engagement in other international management/governance fora, as a means of relationship-building and diplomacy, helping to cement rules-based international order and encourage good behaviour.

DIGITALISATION WITH A FOCUS ON PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

*Considering* that digitalisation is simply the process of creating, processing and managing information in a digital format, which affects the way the private sector, government, civil society organisations and the public work and interact across Australia and the EU;

*Acknowledging* that data is a form of property with inherent value and that standards ought to be defined around its use, ownership and privacy;
Conscious of the risks associated with cross-border data flows and digitalisation, including infringing upon rights to personal privacy, and uncontrolled dissemination of commercially sensitive information and intelligence;

Acknowledging that Australian and EU data and digitalisation policies are based on different manifestations of shared interests in the value of innovation, free market economics and consumer protection;

Recognising that the EU’s General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and EU policy on digitalisation generally, grounded in an individual rights-based approach, a represents stricter regulatory practice than is traditionally familiar to Australia;

Aspiring to enhance shared learning between regulators in the EU and Australia;

We recommend that the EU and Australia:

32 Harmonise regulations and policy to facilitate data sharing between the EU and Australia, with a particular focus on enabling instruments for cross-border cooperation and data flows

EU and Australian experiences and values underpinning the intersect between business and individual privacy rights are common but not identical, particularly in their implementation. The EU and Australia should seek to share relevant knowledge in this area and, mindful of the differences between them, seek to develop harmonious regulatory regimes to facilitate data transactions between the EU and Australia.

In support of this aim, the EU and Australia should support opportunities to strengthen networking initiatives and promote knowledge transfer, in particular, at the level of policy makers in priority areas of data security.
The current range of enabling instruments in the EU-Australia relationship should be expanded in the area of data protection for personal data flows. The Tax Information Exchange Arrangements (TIEA) between non-OECD European jurisdictions and Australia could serve as inspiration for such EU-Australian cross-border cooperation.

**33 Promote data exchange processes that are consistent with citizens’ rights through stakeholder consultation**

In parallel with efforts to harmonise EU and Australian approaches to data regulation, the EU and Australia should seek to foster genuine consultation with stakeholders, including regulated parties, to gain further understanding of the benefits and pitfalls of the different data privacy and protection approaches in the EU and Australia.

Considering the significance of EU-sponsored developments in the field of data regulation, Australian tertiary institutions should seek to develop modules focused on comparative data/privacy law and policy with a particular focus on the EU’s approaches.

**34 Encourage preferential third-party status of Australia vis-à-vis the EU for data storage and processing**

FTA negotiations should aspire to Australia meeting the requirements for an EU Commission adequacy decision on protection of personal data on the basis of Regulation (EU) 2016/697. Learning from the successes of the EU Commission’s adequacy decision with respect to New Zealand, a similar decision for Australia would allow inter EU-Australia personal data flow, facilitating deeper cooperation and relationships. FTA negotiations should ensure that the EU regulations are recognised as adequate and/or equivalent to any future data protection regulations in Australia without a gap.
35 **Explore mutual risks and opportunities for EU-Australia cooperation in relation to intelligence sharing for the purposes of national security and counterterrorism**

Historically, London has been used as the proxy in relations between the EU and Australia for the transfer of intelligence and information relating to: international organised crime, especially terrorism; trade in human beings and illegal immigrant smuggling; unlawful drug trafficking; and other serious forms of international crime, such as tax evasion. In light of the potential gap in intelligence sharing between the EU and Australia (and other members of the Five Eyes security alliance) potentially resulting from Brexit; Australia and the EU should explore and develop additional opportunities for intelligence sharing and national security cooperation in order to minimise any negative consequences of the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the EU.

36 **Champion joint frameworks for maximising potential public benefits for the use of data driven approaches to health and other key sectors**

The EU and Australia should establish dialogue between government, academia and industry on the use of data in support of key sectors, such as healthcare. These efforts could promote the sharing of knowledge and, in particular, address common topics such as data transfer processes and best practice.
Recognising the myriad benefits for the EU and Australia in promoting greater financial and intellectual collaboration, knowledge-sharing and joint activities in space-related fields;

Conscious of the need to overcome hurdles to cooperation caused by the geographic distance between the EU and Australian space industries;

Calling for sustainable increases in financial and political support from government to foster development and advances in space-related fields;

We recommend that the EU and Australia:

37 Promote an import and export agreement for space hardware and services

An import and export agreement focussing on the exchange of space hardware and services is essential for the success of future EU-Australia space cooperation and should be prioritised as part of FTA negotiations.

38 Facilitate Australian participation in European missions

In anticipation of broader frameworks for collaboration between European and Australian space missions in the future, the European States and Australia should immediately prioritise exploring possibilities for Australian participation in European missions while discussions on future broader cooperation takes place and develops.
39 Establish models for shared funding for space research and knowledge exchange for industry, academia, and government, with a focus on enabling mobility for this purpose

The success of international cooperation in the context of the European Space Agency (ESA) has been underpinned by European States' efforts to promote, for exclusively peaceful purposes, cooperation in space research and technology and their space applications, with a view to their use for scientific purposes and for operational space applications systems. Underpinned by the coordination of financial and intellectual resources of the ESA’s members, that cooperation has allowed ESA to undertake programmes and activities in excess of the capacities of any individual member state.

The EU should play a role in leveraging its relationship with the ESA, its member states and cooperating states, to promote cooperation between Australian and European missions, in particular, through the pooling and sharing of intellectual and financial resources in the industrial, academic and government sectors. Enabling the mobility of persons working across these sectors, as part of any FTA, will be indispensable for the success of intellectual and financial collaboration.

40 Establish access and sharing agreements for Earth Observation (EO) data with a focus on joint data projects and utilisation

Considering the interdisciplinary value of access to EO data, the EU and Australia should seek to foster greater collaboration in providing access to, sharing, and utilising EO data, in accordance with the FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable). In this context, interagency and international partnerships should be prioritised.
Establish shared infrastructure projects for crisis management

The EU and Australia’s parallel economic, diplomatic and security interests, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region provides impetus for the EU and Australia to establish shared infrastructure projects for environmental and man-made crisis management. Focus should be given, in particular to the development of shared infrastructure and capacities on issues surrounding communication and coordination of crisis management responses.

CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE EU-AUSTRALIA RELATIONSHIP

*Emphasising* the importance of free and open access to information, free and open debate, the engagement of citizens and their participation in public life as essential to the maintenance of sustainable good governance;

*Noting* that civil society encompasses a wide range of actors including communities, non-governmental organisations, the not-for-profit sector (including foundations and philanthropic organisations), social enterprises, and other formal and informal networks, lobbies, social movements, or individuals, and is characterised by people organising to influence their world;

*Acknowledging* that civil society and civic engagement is critically important to EU and Australian societies, playing a key role in promoting and reinforcing democracy and the rule of law, and promoting the accountability and efficacy of public institutions and government;
Recognising that civil society plays various, important functions in society, including: promoting the representation of citizens in public affairs, filling the gaps between public and private sector services, as drivers of innovation, empowering citizens and promoting dialogue, promoting transparency and accountability, and facilitating genuine civic engagement;

We recommend that the EU and Australia:

42 Develop a Framework or Toolkit of best practices and initiatives to facilitate genuine civic engagement with feedback loops to both private and public sectors

The EU and Australia should seek to share relevant knowledge in this area and learn from common experiences. Australia has made significant progress in terms of volunteerism and language on donations and contributions, while the EU’s strengths lay in the level and scale of civic engagement in government decision-making processes.

It is important that there are avenues for civil society to interact with all layers of government, as well as business and academia. For example, energy transition is an area where Australian and Polish societies could work together to address shared reluctance to implement change.

EU and Australian governments should play a coordinating role in facilitating knowledge-sharing, especially in an international context.

As feedback is provided by civil society actors, governments must ensure there is a feedback loop that outlines how the information submitted was considered in government decision-making processes.
This 360-degree feedback loop will increase transparency, and therefore bolster public confidence in the workings of government. Australia and EU have the potential to be leaders in this area, in the face of growing distrust of public institutions worldwide.

43 Promote funding models and institutional governance models that are policy based

The EU and Australia should endeavour to strengthen the effectiveness of the regulation of civil society, with the aim of ensuring that institutional governance models are appropriate to enable, rather than constrain, civil society functions. This may include an analysis to map the existing landscape, identifying the current regulatory and or legal approaches that restrict civil society organisations through the classification of organisations for tax and other purposes.

44 Promote civil society as a policy portfolio with ministerial responsibility

EU and Australian governments should prioritise the promotion of civil society engagement through dedicated policy portfolios with ministerial responsibilities. A Minister for Civil Society or Civic Participation should be responsible for driving change and removing barriers to well-functioning, responsible and sustainable civil society engagement in public affairs.

45 Promote diverse and innovative funding models to safeguard civil society’s independence

Civil society should engage with both the public and private sectors for funding. Historically, civil society has found it difficult to seek funding from the private sector due to a lack of innovation. However, there are independence risks associated with overreliance on public funding.
Include information on civil society as an integral part of a strong democracy in the high school curriculum on politics and law

In order for civil society to play a critical role in reinforcing democracy and enabling better governance, this role must first be recognised by society. Education that highlights the benefits of civic engagement and the role of civil society will support civil society to play this role and be the continual voice of the people beyond the electoral cycle.
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