



## **EU-Australia Leadership Forum: Roundtable on Defence, Security, Foreign Policy and Development**

### *Chair*

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### **Background**

In general, the mechanisms for deepening exchanges and cooperation and improving coordination between the EU and Australia are already in place. The new Framework Agreement will institutionalise this. However, there could be better communication to describe what already exists – within the EU as well as vis-à-vis member states. Here, the right balance has to be struck between confidential exchanges and better public diplomacy.

The challenge is to make the mechanisms work: to fill our like-minded approaches and shared values with practical substance and to translate them into shared intent and a common agenda. As has been the case at the Leadership Forum, business, think tanks and civil society should be involved.

Like-mindedness/shared values apply not only EU and Australia, but also New Zealand and Canada and to the broader American polity although there remain concerns about the approach of President Trump.

### **Defense cooperation**

Industry collaboration and skills requirements are core issues affecting both Australia and the EU. Defence cooperation can lead to an enhanced relationship overall with positive impact on other areas of the relationship. France-Australia is an example for this kind of deepened relationship.

The regulatory/legal framework has to be in place to encourage the movement of people and to make transfer of knowledge (IP!) possible. In Australia the prospect of long-term-stay or eventual residency can be an incentive for senior experts.

### ***Security***

Areas for 1.5 track dialogues:

1. Counter-terrorism (already ongoing organised by KAS office with ASPI in Canberra)
2. Cyber-security (will become more important)





Dialogue/exchanges on:

1. Regional cooperation (rise of nationalism and impact on security)
2. Concerning the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia: better coordination EU-AUS-NZ-CAN (e.g. advocacy) – join forces and share best practice (e.g. list of conditions for trade by EU vis-à-vis the Philippines could be joined by other countries)

Arms control (WMD, small arms, DPRK) – covered in Framework Agreement – but what does this mean in practice?

### ***Foreign policy***

Areas where coordination and cooperation can be deepened:

- Human rights, especially death penalty
- How to support ASEAN (coordinate to strengthen ASEAN) – 1.0 dialogue on Asia

Compare views on:

1. China (Belt and Road Initiative – procurement/competitive bidding) - AIIB
2. Russia
3. Middle East and Iran (support Iran deal)
4. How to manage the relationship with the U.S. – U.S. role in the Pacific

### ***Development assistance***

Better coordination in light of division of labour: EU in Africa – Australia in Pacific based on 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

Areas: environment, climate change, conflict prevention, legal systems and capacities

Shift from development assistance to a strategic framework (climate, environment, sustainability all have security implications)

### **Final round (additional points raised in strategy ‘speed dating’ à la ASPI):**

Several clusters of issues were raised:

#### ***EU-Australia relationship***

- EU crisis management missions can be joined by Australia (agreement is in place) – Mali, Libya: what would be necessary for Australia to take part?
- EU could open its electoral observation to Australia (and maybe other countries) – example: Fiji
- Australian participation in Eurovision contest as good Public Diplomacy/people-to-people
- More advertising needed of EU-Australia partnership / better communication with the public (especially in Australia: beyond single issue of agricultural policies) – e.g. briefings for civil society





- Australia and EU member states: how bilateral relations can feed better into EU-Australian partnership – example: France joining Pacific Island Forum; 2+2 format Australia-Germany
- EU should articulate its interest in Australia post-Brexit
- EU-Australia defense relationship beyond NATO and beyond Brexit

***EU-Australia and third countries***

- Potential partners for EU-AUS in Asia-Pacific: Japan and India
- Open EU-Australia relationship to other countries

***EU-Australia cooperation/coordination: topics and organizations/platforms***

- Energy security and resource security (e.g. rare earth)
- Defense industry cooperation beyond individual projects – technology transfers both ways
- New waves of immigrants related to climate change
- Trade between EU and Australia goes through third countries (SE Asia): resilience of supply chains – set up early warning system - Transport security (movement of people and goods)
- Food security/safety
- De-radicalisation schemes
- Find creative ways to use UN Human Rights Council
- Infrastructure investment – EU and AUS sit in working groups together in World Bank and ADB – several EU member states and AUS have joined AIIB
- Support for UN – how to make it more effective
- Develop common conditionalities
- Development agenda: include disaster risk reduction and inclusive growth agenda

***General points***

- How to set priorities
- Develop more holistic approach

