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European Commission 2010-2014

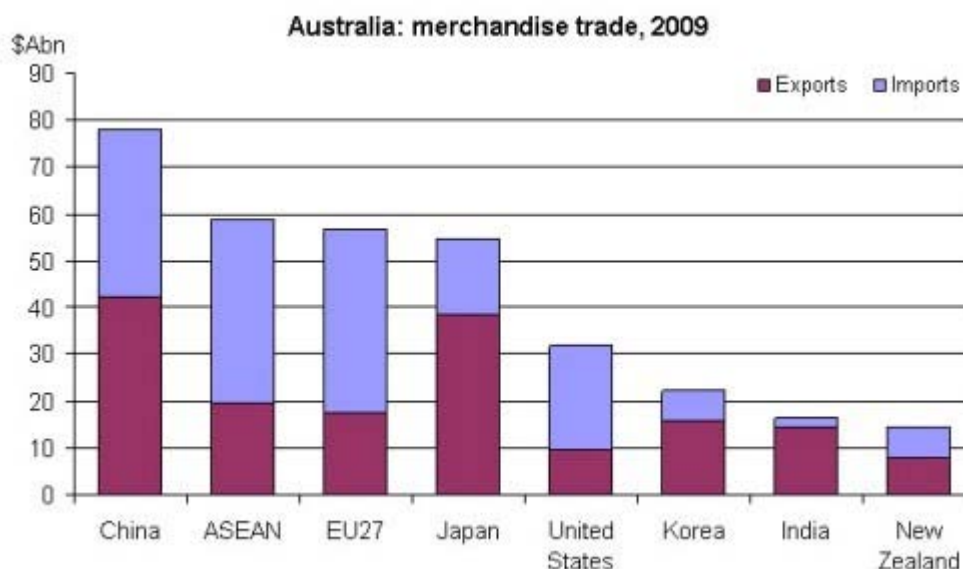
Following approval by the European Parliament on 9 February, the European Council (EU Heads of State and Government) formally appointed a new European Commission for the period of 10 February 2010 to 31 October 2014. This is the first European Commission under the Lisbon Treaty, which came into force on 1 December 2009.

During the debate in the leadup to the appointment, the Parliament's President, Jerzy Buzek said, "*This is the first time in our history that we are appointing the European Commission in our capacity as a real co-legislator. This is the dawn of a new decade, with a new way of working for the European institutions*".

Accountability to Parliament is "*crucially important for the Commission's democratic legitimacy*", stressed Commission President José Manuel Barroso. The present exceptional times, with the economic crisis, climate change and energy security issues, meant that now was "*a time for boldness*". We need "*strong European institutions*" to tackle these challenges, he argued, and it was up to the Commission and Parliament acting together "*to ensure that the EU is more than the sum of its parts*".

Names, countries of origin and responsibilities of the Commissioners can be found at <https://promo-manager.server-secure.com/em/message/email/view.php?id=128907&u=1002559>

EU retains strong trade relationship with Australia, despite impact of global recession



Preliminary monthly trade data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 3 February revealed that the EU was Australia's third largest merchandise trading partner in 2009 (after China and ASEAN), being its largest source of imports (19.7% of total Australian imports) and fourth largest market for exports (8.8%, after China, Japan and ASEAN). The EU accounted for \$A56.8 billion (or 14.3%) of Australia's total two-way merchandise trade in 2009, down 19.9% from the previous year, the substantial fall mirroring the decline in the value of Australia's trade with its other major partners, including ASEAN, Japan and the United States.

While EU-Australia trade was shown to be susceptible to the broader collapse in global trade flows in the wake of the global financial crisis, it can be seen from monthly figures that amid signs of recovery in their respective economies, the value of bilateral trade has again trended upwards over the second-half of 2009.

The EU remains Australia's largest trading partner in services, representing 19.0 per cent (\$A20.9bn) of Australia's total services trade in 2008-09 (July-June).

New Zealand – Waitangi Day



Together with other EU Heads of Mission, the Ambassador and Head of Delegation H.E. Mr. David Daly, attended the Waitangi Day official ceremonies held at Waitangi on 5 February. The diplomatic corps was invited to Waitangi for the first time after an interval of 15 years.

The ceremonies included a Maori marae, a town hall type meeting between Maori elders and the New Zealand government represented by Prime Minister John Key and colleagues. The Dean of the diplomatic corps expressed the appreciation of the corps at having been invited and this was followed by the corps singing a song of thanks in Maori – greatly appreciated.

Other events included the official diplomatic reception hosted by the Governor General H. E. Dr. Satyanand and the beating of the retreat on the lawns of the Treaty House.

In his various discussions H.E. Mr. Daly reiterated the excellent relations between the EU and New Zealand and the ongoing desire of both sides to develop these relations even further.

Waitangi Day commemorates the signing of the Waitangi Treaty in 1840 between the

British Crown and Maori leaders. Still today the Treaty plays an important role in New Zealand.

[Photo shows Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, Governor-General of NZ; and Ambassador David Daly]

European External Action Service

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission speaking at the Munich Security Conference on 7 February, said "*The creation of the European External Action Service is important to promote exactly the kind of joined up thinking and action we need. This is not just a bureaucratic exercise. It is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build something new. My aim and ambition is for a service fit to tackle the problems of the 21st century. One that adds real value to what our EU member-states are already doing. And that forms an integrated platform to project our values and interests in a fast-changing world.*"

Commissioner Ashton touched on world security matters including Iran, Somalia, Afghanistan and Indonesia, before concluding "*The days when EU foreign policy could be dismissed as all talk and no action are long over. To date, we have deployed 23 missions under what is now called the Common Security and Defence Policy. These missions are innovative, tailor-made solutions, mixing civil with military components. This is precisely what the EU's added value is – and what the complex security challenges of our world require. Of course there is a lot more work to be done.*"

[read more](#)

Human rights in Iran: Joint EU-US statement

On 8 February, the European Union and the United States issued a joint statement condemning the continuing human rights violations in Iran since the June 12 election, and called on the Government of Iran to live up to its international human rights obligations, to end its abuses against its own people, to hold accountable those who have committed the abuses and to release those who are exercising their rights. Full statement:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/misc/112804.pdf

EU concern on Iran's nuclear enrichment plans

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued a statement underlining the concern of the EU at the announcement by the Iranian President on 7 February and the notification made to the IAEA on 8 February of the Iranian plan to enrich uranium up to the level of 20%.

"Iran's enrichment activity is contrary to several Security Council Resolutions. Taking enrichment to the level of 20% adds to the deficit of confidence in the nature of Iran's nuclear programme. This has already been aggravated by Iran's unwillingness to engage in meaningful talks. Enriching uranium to the level of 20% does not in itself provide fuel for the Tehran Research Reactor. This requires construction of fuel assemblies for which we do not believe that Iran has either the technical knowledge or the intellectual property rights. As things stand it seems unlikely that on its own Iran will be able to refuel the Tehran Research Reactor and to continue production of medical isotopes for which, as Iran has insisted, there is an important need. We continue to find it difficult to understand why Iran has not taken up the proposed agreement with the IAEA which would have solved all these problems." said Commissioner Ashton.

The EU will continue to review all aspects of the Iranian nuclear issue on the basis of its dual-track approach and, as the European Council stated in its declaration of December 2009, stands ready to take the necessary steps to accompany the UNSC process.

[read more](#)

Body scanning at airports

The European Union this week released a set of frequently asked questions on aviation security and passenger screening technologies. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the EU established a common aviation security regime. The current legislation lists a number of methods which can be used for passenger screening – covered by EU standards and safeguards, but the use of body scanners is not currently regulated at EU level. Member States can therefore decide to implement this technology in airports, either on a trial basis or as an additional security measure.

Vice-President Siim Kallas, EU Commissioner for Transport, in setting out the timetable for the debate on the regulation of body scanning technology, underlined that "*to fight terrorism targeting civil aviation we need a variety of combined and coordinated measures – intelligence, profiling, different search methods and international cooperation.*" He stressed that "*body scanning technology is not a panacea,*" and said that questions relating to the value-added of this technology to airport security, as well as health and privacy issues, needed to be looked at very seriously.

Vice-President Kallas will in April present a detailed report to the European Parliament on the use of body scanning technology, examining security, as well as health and privacy issues. This report should provide a sound basis for a decision on whether to move ahead with EU-wide regulation on the use of body scanning technology, or to leave the regulation of the use of this technology in airport security to be decided at national level, as is currently the case.

[read more](#)

Europe Street at the National Multicultural Festival



Europe Street 2010 was again a major event in the National Multicultural Festival in Canberra in 6 February. Seventeen Member States and the European Union Delegation distributed a wide range of information on the specific Member States as well as the EU as a whole. The EU quiz proved enormously popular, with everyone coming away with more knowledge of the EU, even the quiz organisers! Children with EU 'tattoos' clutching EU balloons and their showbags of goodies were seen throughout the Festival area.

We will reveal next week the lucky winner of the balloon ride for two!

Delegation and Member State staff took part in the dragonboat festival as part of the Multicultural Events, and will be back next year in an attempt to beat the American Embassy, who had the added advantage of the newly-arrived Ambassador in their boat. Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich presented prizes to winners, and remarked that next time he'd like to have president Obama in the boat.

<http://www.delous.ec.europa.eu/News&events/Cultural/EuropeStreet2010.htm>

National Multicultural Festival 2010

Windows on Europe Film Festival



The 5th annual Windows on Europe Film Festival opened in Canberra last weekend, but you still have a chance to catch the seventeen award winning European films in Sydney, Brisbane, Auckland and Melbourne. For the full programme, and information on all films, please visit our website:

<http://www.delous.ec.europa.eu/News&events/Cultural/FilmFestival2010/index.htm>

European study on international mobility of researchers

The European Commission has launched a study to improve knowledge of mobility patterns and career paths of researchers. A consortium led by IDEA Consult is carrying out a 18-month study which began in December 2008 and is known as the MORE (MOBility of Researchers in Europe) study. The aim of the survey is to build indicators on the mobility of researchers and to analyse the factors that inhibit or support their international mobility focusing on researchers who have been internationally mobile between the EU and other parts of the world. Researchers are invited to fill-in a web-based questionnaire at <http://checkmarket.be/internationalmobility>. All completed surveys shall remain strictly private and confidential and shall only be used for the purposes of this study. The questionnaire remains open until 15th February.

Director sought for RMIT European Union Centre

The newly-established European Union Centre at the RMIT University in Melbourne is seeking applicants for the Directorship of the Centre. Applications close 24 February 2010. More information can be found at [Director: European Union Centre RMIT](#)

Go8 L'Aquila scholarships

In 2010 the Group of Eight (Go8) universities will welcome eight early career researchers from the Italian city of L'Aquila who will receive scholarships to continue their research in Australia while the University of L'Aquila is rebuilt. In the aftermath of the April 2009 earthquake in L'Aquila which claimed nearly 300 lives and left thousands injured, the university was virtually shut down and is now slowly being rebuilt. Fifty five of those who died were from the university's 23,000-strong student body. In 2009 the Go8 answered the call for assistance from the Association for Research between Italy and Australasia (ARIA) by offering eight scholarships of \$5000 each to early career researchers to travel to Australia and spend time conducting research at Go8 member universities.. More information from http://www.ambc Canberra.esteri.it/Ambasciata_Canberra

Group of Eight universities: The University of Western Australia, Monash University, Australian National University, The University of Adelaide, The University of Melbourne, the University of New South Wales, the University of Queensland, The University of Sydney.

Reminders: Australian European University Institute Fellowships, 2010 Erasmus Mundus, European Master's programme in Human Rights and Democratisation

*Call for applications for the **European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation (E.MA) 2010/2011** organised by the **European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC)**. The first semester of the programme (September to January) takes place in Venice, while the second (February to July) is at one of seven E.MA participating universities situated in the Member States of the European Union. The European Master's Program in Human Rights and Democratisation is open to EU and non-EU citizens. Candidates for admission will find all information to apply on the E.MA website at <http://www.emahumanrights.org>. The deadline for application is 19 March 2010.*

Australian European University Institute Fellowships for research at the European University Institute, Florence. See previous news@eu for full details, or visit our website for more information on the fellowships and the previous winners:

<http://www.delaus.ec.europa.eu/studyineurope/AEUIFAI.htm>

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Call for Proposals under all three Actions of the **Erasmus Mundus** programme: Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes; Erasmus Mundus Partnerships; and Promotion of European higher education. The deadline for submission of applications under all three Actions is **30 April 2010**. More information:

<http://www.delaus.ec.europa.eu/education/Erasmus/ErasmusMundus2010.htm>

[Jean Monnet: further information](#)

EU tube: Flying and the environment



EU Tube: Flying and the environment - the EU leads the way

Flying is something we take for granted but all those business trips and holidays are contributing to global warming. This film looks at the new laws being put forward by the EU to cut the amount of CO2 produced by air travel and hears what scientists and those involved in the flying business have to say.

http://www.youtube.com/profile?v=3kHoHH-05yl&user=eutube#p/a/FD5FF3525DFC82F1/0/tX1WfZ_Wrq4

see [EUtube](#)

European Union Delegation: publications available online



The following publications are available from our website. If, however, you would like to receive hard copies of any of these publications, please send an email to delegation-australia@ec.europa.eu specifying the name of the publication(s) and the number you would like to receive.

NEW: [Key Facts 2010](#)

EU Insight: [Education](#)

[EU Insight: Lisbon Treaty](#)

[European Union Australia Partnership Framework](#)

[EU Insight: Climate change](#)

[EU Insight: Economic relationship](#)

Upcoming events: Australia

Wed 24 Feb – Sat 6 March 2010 **Presentation of European short films**, Dolphin Theatre, 35 Stirling Hwy, Crawley, Perth; Screen Australia and AFTRS, Sydney. Free Entry. Language: English. [further information](#)

1 February to 29 March 2010 - **Paul Uhlmann: Becoming Imperceptible Art Exhibition**, Goethe-Institut Australien, Sydney. [further information](#)

26 February to 14 March 2010, **Adelaide International 2010**, The video- and performance-artists Nina Fischer and Maroan El Sani, present their video-installation "Spelling Dystopia" as part of the Adelaide Festival 2010. Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide, Hawke Building, City West campus, Univ of South Australia, 55 North Terrace. [further information](#)

20 years of the Peaceful Revolution and of the German Reunification Exhibition, 30 Oct 2009 - 31 March 2010, Goethe-Institut Australien, Melbourne www.goethe.de/ins/au/lp/ver/vsy/en5000568v.htm

4 to 8 May 2010: **The Importance of Being Earnest**. The Melbourne French Theatre Company presents the original play, as written by Oscar Wilde in French. Play in French with English subtitles. More information <http://www.mftinc.org/index2en.htm>

[More events](#)

Upcoming events in New Zealand

Gateway to the EU in New Zealand <http://www.eu.org.nz/>

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