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"Europe's man in Canberra – one year on"



"The European Union matters; it is a global player, and ... Australia and EU are natural partners one for the other across a wide range of issues such as the global financial crisis, climate change, international security, regional issues and international trade , to name only some" .

This was the essential message from the Head of the EU Delegation to Australia, Ambassador David Daly, when he addressed the National Press Club on 24 March.

Mr Daly said Europe was still struggling from the effects of the **global financial crisis** but the signs of recovery were there. Like most other developed countries EU Member States are faced with rising budget deficits following the fiscal injections made. Twenty Member States are currently requiring corrective measures on the part of the Member States to bring back their deficits within the bands stipulated by economic and monetary union criteria.

The EU has been a global leader on **climate change** issues for a long time with its ETS in operation since 2005 covering 40% of its emissions. This gave industry the clarity about the emissions reductions as the cap on emissions reduces over time. The EU has taken a unilateral and unconditional target of

cutting GHG emissions by 20% by 2020 compared to 1990 – and this is now backed by EU law. The EU was also prepared to go to -30%, if other developed countries committed to comparable emission reductions and developing countries contributed adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities. As part of the EU's overall package of measures were the target of 20% increased *energy efficiency* and the legally binding 20% *renewable energy* by 2020.

The Europe of the 21st century had become a global player in terms of **security**. The EU has mounted some 23 security operations to date, deploying over 70,000 men and women – peacekeepers, troops, police, and other civilians across a range of missions. These missions were innovative, tailor-made solutions mixing civil with military components. This was precisely the EU value added – and this is what the complex security challenges of our time required.

The EU was the global player in **development aid** giving 60% of all aid globally, and the EU collectively was the second biggest donor of assistance to the **Pacific region** after Australia. The EU has allocated over €450m for the region in the current period to 2013. Mr Daly underlined that there was a growing debate among donors on how to make aid more effective, and in this context, Australia, New Zealand and the EU now met annually to coordinate their respective aid programmes in the region. The situation in **Fiji** remained a matter of concern and the EU has urged that there be a meaningful internal political dialogue in Fiji preparatory to holding democratic elections there as soon as possible.

Lisbon Treaty – new tools for today's challenges

The Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force last year, was all about making the EU stronger and more efficient both internally and as a global partner. Decisions can now be taken more efficiently and the democratic underpinning of the EU was strengthened through increased roles for the European Parliament, national parliaments and even through a citizens' initiative. The treaty equipped the EU with new tools for meeting today's challenges, said Mr Daly.

Australian foreign policy was right to focus on important areas such as the relationship with the US and the rising economic power of Asia. So too do we in Europe, said Mr Daly, where, for example, China was now the EU's second trading partner behind the US and was its biggest source of imports. The EU for its part, was China's biggest trading partner. Russia, Japan, Korea were also important trading partners. "But this is not a zero-sum game where the rise of Asia is necessarily at the expense of others, and especially not of Europe", stressed Daly.

"I have heard some voices here say that Australia should consider a fourth pillar of its foreign policy – a strategic cooperation with Europe. To this I would just say, "Good on ya!," concluded Ambassador Daly. [link to full speech](#)

EU leaders' summit : Agreement reached on Greece :



At their meeting on 26 March in Brussels the European Council (EU Heads of State and Government) reached agreement on a number of important issues, including the Greek debt crisis, challenging not only the EU but the world as a whole.

EU leaders of the euro area made a statement fully supporting the efforts of

the Greek government and welcoming the additional measures announced on 3 March which are sufficient to safeguard the 2010 budgetary targets: *"ambitious and decisive actions which should allow Greece to regain the full confidence of the markets."*

As the Greek government did not request any financial support, no decision was taken to activate the mechanism agreed by all parties on 11 February, if needed, to safeguard financial stability in the euro area as a whole.

The Heads of State and Government asked the President of the European Council to establish, in cooperation with the Commission, a task force with representatives of Member States, the rotating presidency and the European Central Bank, to present to the Council, before the end of this year, the measures needed to improve the economic governance of the European Union.

European Commission President Jose Barroso said the Summit has done what every European Council should do: *respond to the needs of the moment and work on Europe's long-term future.*

"I want to underline," Barroso said, "the point that President Van Rompuy has made: it was a very successful Summit - not only because of the historical agreement reached on Greece and for the financial stability of the Euro area – the agreement reached in the Euro zone, but also because of the longer global challenges that we have addressed today: G-20, climate change and also our new strategy for sustainable growth and jobs, the Europe 2020 Strategy."

*"On **Europe 2020**, we now have set the agenda for a smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe. We will deliver on it through by focussing on five concrete targets. employment, R&D, energy and climate action, education and one related to poverty and the fight against social exclusion."*

"On G20, the European Union can take a large share of the credit for giving the impetus to the G20 and feeding its ideas. In fact, it was a process that started, at summit level, by initiative of the European Union. I believe it is critically important the unity of all of us in the G20. We have to represent the 27 member states as well."

*"For the **agenda of the G-20**, the Commission will keep making the case for openness and cooperation within a level playing field. To sustain the exit means supporting global recovery and putting the financial markets on the sound footing they need. This is in the best interest of Europe and the global Community."*

Barroso stressed that before Toronto we should have agreement on some of the key financial services regulation files (hedge funds, bank capital, CRD) and on the supervision package so the authorities can be up and running from 2011.

"It is important to have some new ideas. We are working on them, namely I think we should push the G-20 forward addressing the burden of bank repair, including through levies on banks to feed resolution funds and derivatives. These are both areas where the EU is well placed to put fresh ideas on the table" said Barroso.

EU Heads of State and Government reiterated the EU's targets on reducing **greenhouse gas emissions** by 20% compared to 1990 levels; increasing the share of renewables in final energy consumption to 20%; and moving towards a 20% increase in energy efficiency. The Council furthermore emphasised that the EU is committed to take a decision to move to a 30% reduction by 2020 compared to 1990 levels as its conditional offer with a view to a global and comprehensive agreement for the period beyond 2012, provided that other developed countries commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and

that developing countries contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Commissioner responsible for Climate Action, **Connie Hedegaard** was very pleased with this reiterated support from Member States to the Climate Action strategy of the EU, as set out in the Communication of 9 March 2010 ([IP/10/255](#)). The Council conclusions give a strong signal to the European Commission to carry on, ahead of the June Council, with an analysis on what practical policies would be required to implement a 30% reduction, and on its co-benefits for growth and job creation.

Statement by the Heads of State and Government of the Euro Area

2010 European Union–Qantas Journalist Award: applications close 30 April

The **European Union Qantas Journalist Award** [EUQJA] is open to an Australian journalist of not less than three years experience in the print or electronic media. Selection is based primarily on the journalist's proposal outlining an issue or issues on European integration to be pursued during the visit. There is no application form per se, but candidates are urged to read the application guidelines www.delaus.ec.europa.eu/EUQJA.htm Applications close by cob 30 April 2010. The EU will assist the journalist in formulating a suitable program of 15 working days that must be undertaken by the end of March 2011. Business class travel to and from Europe is courtesy of Qantas Airways and arranged by Travel Makers of Canberra.

EU's presence at 'Shanghai Expo 2010' highlighted in New Zealand



On 22 March, a 'Shanghai Expo Seminar' was organised in Wellington in order to publicise the World Exposition taking place in China from May to October 2010. HE Mr Zhang Limin, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, HE Mr Paul O'Sullivan AO, Australian High Commissioner and Mr George Cunningham, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation in Wellington, talked about the event. In his presentation, Mr Cunningham said the EU was delighted to be at the Expo and that it was a demonstration of the EU's engagement with China. As well, he outlined the EU pavilion's "Brain cell" structure, based on the theme "Intelligent Europe", interlinking the EU's history, achievements, people and fight against climate change.

<http://www.delaus.ec.europa.eu/newzealand/press/ShanghaiExpo.html>

Moscow metro explosions

On learning of the Moscow explosions, President Barroso sent a message of condolences and support saying, "*I would like to express my sincere condolences and solidarity to President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin and the families of the victims of the Moscow metro explosions. People have a right to feel safe as they go about their daily lives. We cannot allow violence to prevail against freedom and democracy. The European Union stands resolutely together with the Russian authorities in its efforts to counter terrorism in all its forms.*"

Transatlantic Responses to Global Insecurity

Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, has called on the US and the EU to work together to find responses to old and new forms of global insecurity, and at the same time invite others to join them.

Van Rompuy was keynote dinner speaker on Trans-Atlantic relations at the Brussels Forum of the German Marshall Fund on 26 March.

Threats of a new kind undermine the security of our free societies and the networks these societies are built on. Terrorism, market disruptions, energy shortages, climate change, cyber attacks are but a few of the new threats. No single country can impose its will or its rules on a world adrift. To share the burden and to lead the way, Van Rompuy suggested the US and EU take the lead.

"Today's main threats are of a new and different nature. Transatlantic cooperation is therefore required on new frontlines. Security nowadays is not just about troops and a nuclear umbrella. It is about restoring civil order by judges and policemen. It is about regulating markets by financial watchdogs. It is about defending networks by "e-sentinels". It is about protecting the environment by "climate wardens". I would not be surprised if the current economic crisis would force us to again redefine and expand the concept of security. Just as the terrorist attacks of 9/11 produced a sea change in security thinking, so will the financial crisis", said Von Rompuy.

"Market volatility itself can be a security risk. Especially when it is not just banks and businesses but States that are getting into financial trouble. I understand the American interest in how the EU deals with Greece. You do not want a "second Lehman Brothers" and rightly so. Eighteen months ago, people on this side of the Atlantic were not happy with the collapse of the first Lehman Brothers either... We both have a responsibility for issues that affect the other as well. So let's work together on financial and banking regulation", he said.

"There are two other new fronts of insecurity: climate change and cyber crime. The EU and the US should lead the way in green technology. Together we can set the norms and standards, not only in climate politics but also in technology related regulation; it is the best chance we have so the rest of the world will follow suit. A transatlantic co-operation is needed on an industrial carbon market and on a global verification and compliance regime", he said.

For full text see: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/113630.pdf

President Barroso on Trans-Atlantic relations



The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, delivered a keynote speech at the Brussels Forum 2010.

"The EU has also been playing a growing international role in recent years in all areas relating to civil use of nuclear energy: safety, security and non-proliferation. A budget of €520 million has been allocated to these tasks, including the promotion of international co-operation. The EU stands squarely by international non-proliferation efforts. That is why we will not hesitate to support a new round of sanctions against Iran if it continues to ignore international concerns. And there could not be a more positive signal to our efforts than the news today of an agreement between the United States and Russia on a new START treaty to cut nuclear weapons. I congratulate both President Obama and President Medvedev for this historic agreement, to be signed next month." Full text: [SPEECH/10/135](#)

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, Catherine Ashton, welcomes US-Russia agreement on nuclear weapons



efforts."

"I warmly congratulate the United States and Russia for concluding the negotiations of the post-START treaty. By reducing substantially the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads and delivery system, by establishing a strong verification mechanism and setting the stage for further reductions, this treaty represent a remarkable progress in the fulfilment of the disarmament obligations of the parties. It enhances the security of the contracting parties and of the international community as a whole. The conclusion of this treaty will send a strong positive signal to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty Review Conference scheduled to take place in May in New York and will contribute to accelerate the global disarmament

And condemns violence in Gaza

"I call on both Israelis and Palestinians to exercise restraint and call for a complete halt to all violence. Such actions undermine current efforts to facilitate a resumption of the peace process. An urgent resumption of negotiations remains crucial", she said.

President Van Rompuy meets NATO's Secretary General



On 22 March, the President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy, met NATO's Secretary- General, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, in the Council building. They discussed the importance of relations between the EU and NATO and ways to cooperate on matters of common interest. There are many examples of good cooperation between EU operations and NATO in the field. It is the case in Afghanistan, where EUPOL coordinates its activities with NATO's Training Mission, or in Kosovo, where EULEX has excellent relations with KFOR. The fight against piracy off the coasts of Somalia is another field where coordination of EUNAVFOR - Atalanta with NATO and other major partners is delivering good results.

picture: NATO's Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy

EU Council appoints a new Special Representative for Afghanistan



At their Foreign Affairs Council meeting of 22 March, EU ministers appointed **former Lithuanian foreign minister Vygaudas Usackas** as the new EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Afghanistan. In the presence of the new EUSR, the ministers discussed developments in Afghanistan and EU efforts on the ground. The new EUSR's mandate starts on 1 April. Mr Vygaudas will also hold the office of Head of the EU Delegation in Afghanistan. He succeeds Ettore France.

Chemicals: New European Commission determined to make REACH a success

Vice President Tajani and Commissioner Potočnik have swiftly followed up on

their undertaking given during their Hearings in the European Parliament by together visiting the European Chemicals Agency, ECHA, in Helsinki on 25 March. They are taking action to make progress towards the registration of chemicals and the management of substances of very high concern. Of particular importance is the smooth implementation of the registration of high-volume chemicals by the REACH deadline of 30 November 2010 by implementing solutions to practical problems to support industry's work, in particular SMEs. Both Commissioners also announced their common approach on the identification and management of substances of very high concern. They also welcomed progress on the translation of the guidelines for the implementation of REACH. Both commissioners underlined their commitment to the success of REACH, the European Chemicals Regulation.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Doha

Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for Environment, welcomed the adoption of measures for better protection of species endangered by international trade, for instance relating to tiger conservation, illegal internet trade for wildlife species, a number of reptile and amphibian species and enforcement against rhinoceros poaching. He was also satisfied that CITES Parties agreed that it would be premature to allow for a resumption of the ivory trade.

However, he expressed disappointment that no proposals to afford better protection to a number of marine species – bluefin tuna, corals and sharks – have been adopted by the CITES Parties. Nevertheless he remained convinced that CITES has an important role to play in ensuring the conservation and sustainable trade of marine species, complementing the work of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations where they exist.

Link for further details: [MEMO/10/105](#)

European Council prolongs appropriate measures for Fiji Islands

The European Council extended by six months measures towards the Fiji Islands in order to facilitate its return to democracy, respect of human rights and the rule of law. This decision follows the delay in implementing commitments the Fiji authorities made to the EU, notably concerning the abrogation of the constitution, human rights violations and the postponement of parliamentary elections. The EU considers the extension of the measures as an opportunity for new discussions with the government of Fiji. The measures were first taken on 1 October 2007 in the wake of the military takeover on 5 December 2006, which the EU considered a violation of democracy and the rule of law, both essential elements of the Cotonou Agreement. They have been extended twice since then and will now apply until 1 October 2010.

The EU will continue to closely monitor the political situation in Fiji.
[read full release](#)

EU supports Fiji schools affected by Cyclone Tomas

The European Union and the Fiji Ministry of Education this week signed an agreement to allocate FJD 2 million for rehabilitation of schools damaged by Cyclone Tomas. The funds are provided by the EU through the Fiji Education Sector Programme (FESP) and will be used to repair damaged school buildings, equipment and supplies, amongst others.

An advanced amount of FJD 1 million has been paid to the Ministry right away to tackle immediate challenges and address the schools' most urgent needs. The other 50 per cent of the money will be used to carry out essential repairs of infrastructure and replenish damaged school equipment such as computers, copiers, workshop machinery, and laboratory equipment.

Climate change: strategy to reinvigorate global action after Copenhagen



The European Commission set out a strategy to help maintain the momentum of global efforts to tackle climate change, proposing that the EU swiftly begin implementing last December's Copenhagen Accord, in particular 'fast start' financial assistance to developing countries. In parallel the EU should continue to press for a robust and legally binding global agreement that involves all countries in real climate action. This will require integrating the Copenhagen Accord into the United Nations negotiations and addressing the weaknesses in the Kyoto Protocol. Active outreach by the EU will be key to promoting support for the UN negotiations and the Commission will undertake this effort in close contact with the Council and with the support of the European Parliament.

Connie Hedegaard, Commissioner for Climate Action, said: "*Climate change can be controlled only if all major emitters take action. We now have to secure the momentum and to do our utmost to get specific and substantial results out of Cancun and to secure an agreement on the legal form. Copenhagen was a step forward. Even if the Copenhagen Accord fell short of Europe's ambitions, the increasing support for it around the world gives the EU the opportunity to build on this and channel it into action. The most convincing leadership Europe can show is to take tangible and determined action to become the most climate friendly region in the world, which will also strengthen our energy security, stimulate greener economic growth and create new jobs.*"

[Future Action](#) and [more information](#)

Europe welcomes international agreement on electric and hybrid cars



The first international regulation on safety of both fully electric and hybrid cars was adopted at the United Nations in Geneva, a move warmly welcomed by the EC. This landmark decision will facilitate the early introduction of safe and clean electric cars. Following the adoption of the international regulation, EC Vice-President Antonio Tajani, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, said: "*The number of private cars in use is set to increase exponentially over the coming years. We need to respond to this by encouraging the production and use of clean and energy efficient cars, which will be the vehicles of the future. The electric car is one green car choice available to consumers. I am keen to ensure that they are introduced on the market as soon as possible and that they are safe to use.*"

The EU and Japan have already indicated that they intend to incorporate the new UNECE Regulation in their respective rules on technical standards for vehicles. [More information on the Commission's automotive policy](#)

International Women's Day: action plan for equality & empowerment

Fifteen years after the groundbreaking Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the international community has clear legal norms on the prohibition of discrimination and the

active promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment. These norms are accepted in all countries of the world as part of human rights law.

On the eve of International Women's Day, Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission said: "*International Women's Day provides a great opportunity for each one of us to reflect on our responsibility for working towards the eradication of gender inequality. Sustainable peace and security cannot be achieved without the full participation of women. Unfortunately, the persistence of constitutions and laws that blatantly discriminate against women still undermines the development of countries around the world. This is a global challenge of the highest order, to deliver gender equality and empower women, within Europe and beyond. That is why the EU will continue to put proactive work in this field at the heart of our policies, both internal and external.*"

[International Women's Day: EU's development agenda](#)

EU tube: Jack and Jessica



EU Tube: Will Jack and Jessica have the same career opportunities? This video examines the gender pay gap. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXalzn2FmLk>

[see EUtube](#)

Ranking Europe's universities – Australian universities welcome!

Australian universities are sought to take part in a European Commission funded multi-dimensional university ranking system with global outreach. This initiative builds on earlier EU-funded work on mapping the different strengths and missions of universities and responds to an invitation to explore and test the feasibility of a new ranking system for higher education and research institutions in Europe, in comparison with other world regions. The first results of the envisaged pilot project will be available in the first half of 2011. Comparable information on higher education institutions and their teaching and research programmes should make it easier for students and researchers to make informed choices on where and what to study and where to work. Better information would also help policy-makers at institutional, national and European levels develop future strategies in higher education. Existing mono-dimensional rankings do not fulfil these purposes because they tend to focus on certain aspects of research and on entire institutions, rather than on individual programmes and disciplines. For more information see: <http://www.u-multirank.eu/> and [Ranking European Unis](#)

Academic news and events

ANU Centre for European Studies Visiting Fellowships May 2010 – April 2011: The ANU Centre for European Studies has announced a [Call for Applications](#) under this year's Visiting Fellowship program. The Program is part of the Centre's mission to promote research, education and dialogue between Europe and Australia, and is specifically aimed at supporting and hosting local and international scholars wishing to undertake research at the Australian National University. The broad theme for 2010 is 'Europe and the Law'. For the 2010 research themes of the Research School of Humanities, click [here](#). The closing date for applications is 1 May 2010, for visits to take place from May 2010 – April 2011. For more information, see <http://ces.anu.edu.au/>

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.delous.ec.europa.eu/education/Erasmus/ErasmusMundus2010.htm>

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

Applications are now open for the Spanish Cultural Cooperation Program between the Ministry of Culture of Spain and the Australian National University (ANU). Information and conditions of entry can be found on the program's webpage, www.spainculturalprogram.com.au. Applications close 1st May, 2010.

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/>

For more information on the items covered in news@eu, contact Roger Camilleri +61 2 6271 2744 roger.camilleri@ec.europa.eu or Jan Skorich +61 2 62712747 jan.skorich@ec.europa.eu .

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