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Australia-EU Science & Technology Cooperation: Joint Communiqué



Collaboration between the European Union and Australia in science and technology was further enhanced at the eleventh Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) meeting hosted by the Australian Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research held in Sydney on 7-9 June 2010. Australia and the European Union have a long history of productive research collaboration, underpinned by a treaty-level science and technology agreement signed in 1994.

Agreed thematic outcomes of the JSTCC included Health; Biotechnology, Agriculture and Food; Environment; Energy; and Information & Communications Technologies.

*Caption: **Patricia Kelly**, Deputy Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research of the Commonwealth of Australia (centre) and **Maive Rute**, Director, Biotechnologies, Agriculture and Food, Directorate-General Research, European Commission, signing the Joint Communiqué; with His Excellency **David Daly**, Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Australia, in the background. Photo credit: Photocall Image Management. [read the Joint Communiqué](#)*

Foreign Affairs: Council conclusions

At their meeting on Foreign Affairs in Luxembourg on 14 June, the EU Foreign Affairs Ministers discussed the situation in **Kyrgyzstan** following the violent confrontation in the south and adopted conclusions underlining the need to restore public order and build democratic institutions, confirming the EU's readiness to provide urgent humanitarian aid.

Ministers held an exchange of views on the situation in **Gaza**, following the Israeli operation in international waters against the Flotilla, and adopted conclusions calling for an immediate, full and impartial inquiry, declaring that the situation in Gaza is unsustainable and calling for the policy of closure to be changed and the crossings to be opened for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons. It declared that the EU is ready to contribute to the implementation of a mechanism to permit the reconstruction of Gaza and the revival of its economy.

The Council discussed **Iran's nuclear programme** and adopted conclusions welcoming UN Security Council Resolution 1929 imposing a fourth round of sanctions.

Ministers discussed the **Western Balkans** and adopted conclusions welcoming the outcome of the high-level meeting in Sarajevo on 2 June 2010. The Council welcomed **Serbia's** application of 22 December 2009 for membership of the European Union, and also expressed concern about the political situation in **Albania**.

Ministers discussed the situation in **Somalia** and the issue of **piracy**, and adopted conclusions prolonging Operation EUNAVFOR Atalanta for a further two years and agreeing in principle to extend the Area of Operations further to the east and south. [Foreign Affairs Council meeting conclusions](#)

EU-NZ Dialogue ministerial meeting focuses on transnational challenges



The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Miguel Ángel Moratinos, acting for the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, joined his New Zealand colleague, Murray McCully, to chair the EU-New Zealand Political Dialogue, which focused on current transnational challenges, ranging from climate change to global trade.

Representatives of the European Commission and the Secretariat General of the Council took part in the meeting, which was the last to be held by the EU-27 with third countries during the six-month period of the Spanish Presidency. The main topics discussed in the conference were climate change, the liberalisation of international trade, security and the development of the Asia-Pacific region, the situation in Afghanistan and human rights promotion. Also discussed were the situation in Latin America and the Middle East, as well as the role of New Zealand in the South Pacific region and its recent incorporation into the ASEM Asia-Europe Meeting.

The EU and New Zealand have maintained relations since 1975 and their cooperation has become more intense since the ministerial meeting held in Lisbon in 2007 when they adopted their current Joint Declaration and work programme.

photo: Palacio de Viana, seat of the Spanish Foreign Affairs Ministry, where the meeting was held. EFE

EU celebrates 25 years of the Schengen Area



The Schengen agreement was signed on the 14 June 1985 by Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The agreement, and the subsequent convention adopted in 1990 to implement it, agreed to abolish border controls between the countries, allowing free movement of persons. The Schengen area currently consists of 25 Schengen Member States, i.e. the EU countries Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg,

Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and the three associated non EU countries, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. Free movement is guaranteed on a territory with 42,673 km of external sea and 7,721 km of land borders, covering 25 countries and 400 million citizens.

European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström, said *"Twenty-five years ago, five EU countries began the process of further deepening European integration by removing border controls through the Schengen Agreement. As a result of the subsequent expansion of the Schengen Area, seamless, passport-free travel is now enjoyed by over 400 million Europeans. Schengen has become one of the most powerful symbols of the EU's capacity to improve the lives of its citizens. By facilitating travel, tourism and commerce, it has fostered integration and removed obstacles to peace and freedom in Europe. The Schengen area has rapidly grown geographically in the last decade and now includes 25 countries, and this growth has been matched by a deepening of cooperation and solidarity."* [More on the Schengen Area](#)

Environment: Council Conclusions



At the European Council of Environment Ministers meeting on 11 June, **options to move beyond a 20% greenhouse gas emission reduction target** were discussed. Ongoing international negotiations on climate protection made a definitive assessment of the risk of **carbon leakage** difficult for the time being, and the Council agreed to return to this issue in October. The Council adopted conclusions on **water scarcity, drought** and adaptation to climate change, supporting

the development of a European drought observatory. The Council also adopted conclusions on **preparing forests for climate change**. The text calls for strengthening cooperation at EU and international level on sustainable forest management. [Environment Council meeting conclusions](#)

EIB, European Commission to explore EU climate finance initiative



European Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard and European Investment Bank (EIB) President Philippe Maystadt agreed

to explore a joint climate finance initiative for developing countries as part of the European Union commitment made at the UN climate conference in Copenhagen last December. They also welcomed a political agreement reached in mobilising finance for carbon capture and storage and innovative renewable energy technologies in the EU. Commissioner Hedegaard said: *“Adequate finance is crucial to agreeing and implementing an international agreement limiting global warming to 2 °C. The EU has set one of the most ambitious emission reduction targets in the world. Financial institutions such as the EIB, together with the private sector, will play a key role in helping the EU deliver on its emission commitments as well as on mobilising the financial flows needed for mitigation and adaptation to climate change in developing countries.”*

The European Commission and the EIB are already cooperating in the implementation of the Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund, launched in 2008 to provide finance to renewable energy funds in Southern Africa and Asia. The EIB last year lent nearly EUR 17 billion in support of Europe’s climate goals, including for renewable energy projects in Egypt, Kenya, Turkey and Vanuatu, among other countries. EIB expects its lending outside the European Union this year to support some EUR 2.5 billion of investments in renewables and will consider further developing its portfolio of carbon funds with other financial institutions. [more on climate finance initiative](#)

EU €1 billion Food Facility: 222 projects & 50 million beneficiaries



With more than €500 million already disbursed and 97 % of funds committed after only one year and a half from its adoption, the €1 billion EU Food Facility has provided a fast and efficient response in tackling food insecurity. The European Commission on 15 June presented a booklet on the use of the Food Facility which shows that around 50 million people all over the world are receiving support from the facility and results are starting to show. *“People struggling with hunger nowadays is unacceptable. Through the EU Food Facility, Europe has been able to provide a rapid and efficient response to the food crisis faced by developing countries. The Commission delivered on its promises, ensuring a high impact of the aid offered to countries in need. We are reaching over 50 million people, including many small-holder farmers, and this will increase.”* said Andris Piebalgs, EU

Commissioner for Development.

Most funds are channelled through the International Organisations in the UN High Level Task Force on Soaring Food Prices. [EU €1 billion Food Facility](#)

EU Veterinary Week: ensuring food safety through traceability



A two-day conference on identification and traceability along the food chain kicked off this year's European Union Veterinary Week on 14 June. Since the '90s when BSE and other animal diseases were delivering severe blows to industry and consumer confidence alike, the European Union has come a long way in its efforts to reinforce Animal Health and Food Safety. Traceability, the ability to follow animals or food products throughout their lifecycle, has been at the forefront of these efforts.

Health and Consumer Policy Commissioner John Dalli said: *“Today, we take it for granted that we know the full history of a piece of beef or that we can trace individual sheep in the EU and food products throughout the whole food chain. This level of animal health protection and food safety was not achieved overnight. It took years to arrive at a robust and comprehensive legal framework and to develop the necessary tools that would strengthen our food chain”.*

[EU Vet Week: Shielding Animal Health & ensuring Food Safety through traceability](#) and [Q&As](#)

Taste of Europe at Fine Food NZ



Until now, milk products had to be pasteurised or heat-treated to be sold in New Zealand. This is set to change! As an entrée to the market opening, the European Union Delegation helped organise 15 varieties of raw milk cheeses from 7 EU countries to be on offer at the European Union stand, "Taste of Europe", at Fine Food NZ trade show, 13-15 June, Auckland. The NZ-Europe Business Council, the NZ-German Business Association and the EU Delegation sponsored the EU stand. Many other beautiful European treats were on display too: Tatratea, a Slovak liqueur new to the NZ market; Tuscan red wine; famous brands Evian, Badoit and Orangina; schnapps, whisky & beer; sauerkraut, rotkohl; olives & olive oil; foie gras; pasta & sauces; mustards & condiments; chocolate; and exquisite Rona glassware. An estimated 5800 industry-only people visited the trade show. Delicious European raw milk cheeses will be on sale in NZ from July onwards.

Photo: Chris Kebell, NZ Food Safety Authority and Ludovic Avril, with raw milk cheese display

CE marking makes Europe's market your market



We often see the "CE marking" on products we buy, but what does it really mean? An information campaign on CE marking under the slogan "*CE marking makes Europe's market yours!*" has been launched by the European Commission to better inform manufacturers and consumers on the value of CE marking.

The marking signals that a product is in compliance with all relevant EU legislation, making it eligible to be marketed and sold throughout the EU. By affixing the CE marking on a product, a manufacturer is declaring conformity with all relevant legal requirements, in particular those which ensure health, safety, and environmental protection. Legal and economic repercussions of non-conformity deter legitimate businesses from not respecting these laws. Industry and Entrepreneurship Commissioner, Vice-President Antonio Tajani said: "*Our campaign aims to promote a better understanding of the meaning behind the marking and the purpose of CE marking. However, this confidence is also dependent on the reliability of the system on which the CE mark is based. Thus it will boost consumers' confidence and benefit producers and distributors.*"

CE marking does not indicate that a product was made in the European Economic Area, but states that the product is assessed before it is placed on the market and therefore satisfies the legislative requirements. It plays a crucial part in the New Legislative Framework for the EU internal market for goods which entered into force at the beginning of 2010.

[CE marking makes Europe's market yours](#) And [How to obtain CE marking – FAQs](#)

A common European approach to security scanners at EU airports



In the wake of the terrorist attempt to use explosives on the Amsterdam–Detroit flight on 25 December 2009, security scanners are being increasingly used and are continuing to be trialled in several EU Member States including the UK, the Netherlands, France and Italy. The European Commission has issued a communication assessing the use of security scanners at EU airports. Security scanners as such currently fall outside the scope of the EU regulations on aviation security — there is a patchwork of regulation in different Member States. The Commission is in favour of an EU approach to ensure that, where Member States decide to use security scanners, their deployment and operation is based on common standards, requiring basic detection performance as well as ensuring a harmonised level of compliance with European fundamental rights and health provisions.

Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for transport, said: "*Security scanners are being used by an increasing number of Member States across the EU, but at the moment their use falls outside the scope of EU law, so they are used in Member states in different ways. Security scanners are not a panacea, but they do offer a real possibility to further reinforce passenger security. It is for each Member State to decide to authorise the use of scanners in national airports. That will not change. But where this scanning technology is used it should be covered by EU-wide standards on detection capability as well common safeguards to ensure compliance with EU health and fundamental rights*

provisions."

Several other countries, including Australia, have indicated their intention to introduce security scanners at airports in the near future. [Security scanners at EU airports](#) and [FAQs](#)

Eurostats



Eurostatistics - Data for short-term economic analysis - shows the evolution of the economic activity in the European Union, euro area and Member States. This monthly review gives a synthetic picture of the macroeconomic situation in the recent past. It is based on Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs), complemented by some business cycle indicators. [download Eurostatistics Data for short-term economic analysis 2010](#)

EU tube: Passion for football: an ally of development in Africa



EU Tube : 8 June 2010. The countdown is over. Ahead of the World Cup kick off in Johannesburg, Commissioner Piebalgs, a devoted football fan himself, welcomes all the participating teams and wishes the greatest success to South Africa. In the Commissioner's view this tournament means much more to Africa than just a sports event. Find out what sort of opportunities Andris Piebalgs sees in the World Cup for Africa and which team he will be supporting to hold the trophy. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=av8SFuRmvrC>

[see EUtube](#)

Academic news and events

€1 million in funding and other start-up aid for entrepreneurs in 22 partner regions worldwide including Australia. The seventh European Satellite Navigation Competition (ESNC) is seeking the best applications in satellite navigation. Until the end of July, innovators all over the world, including Australia, will have the chance to develop their ideas for new products and services based on satellite positioning. Along with the grand prize – €20,000, a place at the I-Lab incubator in Queensland and extensive support in realising the winning idea – this year's competition includes six special topic prizes from partners in research and industry, the first special prize offered to students, and three prizes sponsored in cooperation with the European Network of Living Labs. Participants can access the ideas database for this year's European Satellite Navigation Competition from www.galileo-masters.eu.

Applications for the **Go8-Germany Joint Research Co-operation Scheme** close on 30 June 2010. Since 2008 this scheme has provided over \$3 million to support research exchange, particularly for early career researchers, between Australia and Germany. The funding has supported 90 projects on issues ranging from renewable energy and emissions trading to ageing and integration of migrants. Further details including application and selection procedures and are available from the Go8 website at: www.go8.edu.au/university-staff/programs-afellowships/64-go8-germany-joint-researchco-operation-scheme

Criminal Justice Cooperation: Comparing European, United States, Asia-Pacific and Australian Approaches. 4 and 5 October 2010, University of Canberra (tbc). International conference, preliminary notice and call for papers. More information from <http://www.canberra.edu.au/faculties/law/crossing-borders-conference>

The ANU Centre for European Studies is offering a **PhD scholarship** for a student to undertake a doctoral program funded by a grant from the European Union. The project will support the Centre's aim to promote the study of the European Union in one of the following general areas: law, politics, history, culture, business, economics and Europe's role in the Asia Pacific. The applicant will hold an Honours Degree in a relevant discipline. The Scholarship is only open to Australian and New Zealand citizens and to Australian permanent residents. The Scholarship provides a tax free stipend of \$22,500 per year for three years. Applications close on 30 June 2010. Further information is available from Professor Paul Pickering 02 6125 3451 or paul.pickering@anu.edu.au or the

website at <http://ces.anu.edu.au/>

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.

[Study in Europe 2010](#)
[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

Touring French Film Festival until 18 July 2010, venues and dates: AF Sunshine Coast 2 - 4 July, AF Cairns 16 - 18 July. Also screening in Tamworth (18 - 20 June) and Orange (25 - 27 June). Refer to Alliance Francaise websites for full details <http://www.alliancefrancaise.com.au/>

Winter Lantern Walk – a German tradition held in Glebe Park, Canberra, hosted by Spielwelt German Parents Association. Sunday 20 June 6 to 7.30pm. Email spielwelt@hotmail.com.au

Far Away So Close - German Life and History in Australia: Exhibition, Sydney, until 2 July 2010 . free entry . [further information](#)

HIJACKED 2 Australian and German Photography/Exhibition until 17 July 2010
Australian Centre for Photography 257 Oxford Street, Paddington NSW 2021. free entry. [further information](#)

Melbourne Winter Masterpieces: European Masters Städel Museum, 19th-20th Century Exhibition. until 10 October 2010, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, [further information](#)

Schrebergarten Exhibition until 30 September 2010, Goethe-Institut Australien, Melbourne. Free entry. [further information](#)

Meg Stuart & Philipp Gehmacher: **MAYBE FOREVER** .presented by the Malthouse Theatre and Goethe-Institut, Dance. 23 June 2010 - 26 June 2010, 7.30pm. Malthouse Theatre, Melbourne [further information](#)

[More events](#)

Upcoming events in New Zealand

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

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