

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

32nd EU-Australia Interparliamentary meeting

22-27 February 2009

SYDNEY - CANBERRA -MELBOURNE

SUMMARY REPORT

Introduction

The 32nd EU-Australia Interparliamentary Meeting (IPM) took place from 22 to 27 February 2009 in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. The delegation of five members was headed by Mr Giles CHICHESTER (EPP-ED, UK). Full details of the programme and participants are attached.

The two main themes of the delegation visit to Australia were the global financial crisis and climate change. Meetings therefore took place with the key players in these areas - both within the political world and other specialists.

Other items were incorporated into the programme, including a formal interparliamentary meeting with political counterparts and presentations at the European-Australian Business Council and the National Europe Centre of the Australian National University. There was, as always, discussion of the EU-Australia relationship and the general conclusion was that it was in excellent shape. The importance of the relationship between the European Parliament and the Australian Parliament was also underlined.

The delegation found that Australia had - to date - escaped the worst of the global financial crisis, as it had enjoyed a sound financial situation with balanced budgets and a solid banking sector. It appeared that the "twin peaks" system of financial supervision had worked effectively and had enabled the country to avoid the excesses of lending by banks that had been prevalent in other parts of the world. There had been a significant expansion in Australia's exports of commodities in the years before the financial crisis, which had been particularly fuelled by the rapid growth of industry in China. It would, therefore, be inevitable that Australia would be affected by a decline in demand as the recession hit the Chinese market.

The government had sought to tackle any downturn with two economic stimulus packages. The first was announced in October 2008 and amounted to \$10.4 billion and the second totalling \$47 billion was presented in February 2009. These packages included bonus payments to sectors of society such as pensioners, low income groups and families, assistance to the housing sector, the automotive industry and schools. Bipartisan support existed for global free trade and fears were expressed that the USA and the EU might resort to protectionism.

The delegation held in-depth discussions on climate change and compared the approach in Australia to that in Europe. Australia is unusual as a developed country in being a substantial exporter of commodities, particularly coal. The delegation noted that their hosts were less advanced in the development of an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and that there was considerable controversy over the government's proposals. Some industry and opposition voices considered that they went too far and that it was not appropriate for Australia to make unilateral commitments. The environmental lobby, on the other hand, argued that the proposals were not sufficiently ambitious, particularly for a country which was perhaps the world's leading producer of carbon emissions per capita.

During the visit the MEPs discussed alternative sources of energy such as solar power and wind power, which found general favour. There was more controversy over

energy sources such as hydropower and nuclear power and it was noted that the latter would not be developed without bipartisan political support, which did not exist at present. Carbon capture and storage (CCS) was also a major topic of discussion and the parliamentarians learned a great deal about the work being done in this field.

The visit came shortly after the floods in Queensland and the bushfires in Victoria, which had resulted in over 200 deaths. The Chair of the delegation had sent letters of condolence to his counterparts in advance of the visit and sympathy was expressed at all appropriate points throughout the visit. A letter of condolence had also been sent by President Pöttering to Prime Minister Rudd.

Monday 23 February 2009

SYDNEY

University of Sydney

Roundtable discussion chaired by Professor Jill Trehwella, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research "Australia - The global financial crisis, energy and climate change from the perspectives of the education sector"

Other participants included Professor Dick Bryan (political economy); Professor Manfred Lenzen (integrated sustainability analysis); Professor Michael Harris (resource economics).

The MEPs were welcomed by Professor Jill Trehwella, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research). She informed them that Sydney University, Australia's first, had been founded in 1850 with the motto "Sane minds under a southern sky" and it now had 45,000 students and was ranked among the top 40 universities in the world. The general limited availability in funds for education had led to a shift towards enrolling international students in order to boost revenue.

Professor Trehwella and her colleagues outlined the university's cross-disciplinary research at the Centre for Integrated Sustainability Analysis. There was a multi-disciplinary team which aimed to develop comprehensive approaches for integrated sustainability analysis (ISA). This approach posed significant challenges as it was necessary for those involved to learn the "language" of other disciplines.

Research work covered such areas as land and water sustainability, renewable energy, energy conservation, carbon capture and emissions management, sustainable building design, public health and economic development. Clients included the British Government for which work was being done on carbon foot printing.

It was noted that economists were generally agreed on the significance of climate change. Disagreements arose over how to tackle it.

The growth of global per capita consumption was the main determinant of climate change and the West was not in a position to impose reductions on China and India. Professor Ross Garnaut in his Climate Change review had concluded that there would

need to be an 80 to 85% reduction in the West's consumption level if there was to be equity with the developing world.

In response to questions from MEPs, it was argued that a market in water needed to be developed in Australia. Currently rain did not fall in the areas where it was most needed and resources needed to be devoted to capturing and transferring it.

There was a need to look at what was being done in other countries. Energy taxes in Denmark, for example, had significantly helped that country's development of the wind energy industry.

Regarding carbon capture and storage (CCS), it was noted that in Texas two million tonnes of carbon were being pumped underground each year and that this had been very successful. The main constraint was that the safe storage sites needed to be located closer to the emitters.

It was agreed that it was essential to change individual patterns of behaviour and also to ensure the public was aware of the issues involved in such matters as Emissions Trading Schemes.

The University of Sydney had also established a working group to study financial organisations over a three year period. Australia had entered the current global financial crisis feeling reasonably confident owing to its high budget surplus, high interest rates and banks with high credit ratings. However there had been a growth in mortgage difficulties and it was not yet apparent whether cutting interest rates would work. The Australian dollar was the world's fifth most important trading currency as it was seen as a stable "western" currency in the Asian time zone. The currency was driven by the minerals market and had been hit by the decline in exports to China.

It was agreed that the irresponsible behaviour of banks was partly a result of the heavy use of economic models, which could be flawed. The complexity of these models had made it difficult for the regulators to properly supervise the operations of the banks. Research was underway to examine how the regulatory regime might be improved.

Following the discussion at the university the delegation had lunch at the New South Wales Parliament. This event was hosted by the Hon. Tanya Gadiel MP, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Hon Hon Reverend Fred Nile MLC, Assistant President of the Legislative Council.

Meeting with Dr Malcolm Edey, Assistant Governor (Economic) and Dr Guy Debelle, Assistant Governor (Financial Markets). Reserve Bank of Australia

The delegation was informed that the banking system in Australia was still very strong and that the largest bank had made a sizeable profit. There were four major banks in Australia - the "big four". Access to funding was satisfactory because of the government guarantee and sufficient profit could be made in the domestic market. The banks did not have any off-shore securitised projects nor bad assets of other countries, nevertheless the Return On Equity (ROE) had decreased from 25% to 16%.

The banks were tightening up their lending but this had not been particularly uncontrolled in the past and there had been no sub-prime sector of the market.

Although the financial sector had suffered in October 2008 it had been able to borrow a sizeable amount from offshore and the availability of capital had not been a constraint in its ability to lend. There had been a fall on the share market and this had hit pension schemes and, in particular, people close to retirement.

The Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA) was the prudential regulator of the Australian financial services industry. Unlike its British counterpart it did not have responsibility for consumer protection and could therefore focus on supervision. There were strict criteria to control banks' liquidity and holdings. The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) had the responsibility of enforcing and regulating company and financial services law to protect consumers, investors and creditors. The two bodies worked very closely together in what was known as the "twin peaks" system of two regulators. Considerable resources went into ensuring that there was no excess lending in mortgages.

The delegation stressed the need for macro-prudential supervision and for improving cross-border cooperation. They argued in favour of a European Supervisory System that would draw from the current national supervisory systems. Dr DeBelle considered that a cross-border supervisory regime should be based in a Central Bank as this bank would have a mandate for financial stability.

Australia would be invited to make proposals to the G20 meeting on 2 April 2009 in London. There was a constant debate over what should and should not be regulated. The meeting would be concentrating on regulatory reform and not on the issue of the macro-economic stimulus.

The Governor of the Reserve Bank appeared every six months before the competent Parliamentary Committee and there was a quarterly statement on monetary policy. An inflation target of between two and three per cent was agreed with the Treasury. Monetary policy decisions were taken independently and minutes of meetings were publicised.

Australia was doing better than many other developed countries. It had benefited from the commodities boom in the last four to five years and from rapid Chinese industrialisation. The higher level of interest rates had meant that there was more scope for reducing them - the rate was currently 3.25% whereas in the USA it was 0.25% and in Japan only 0.1%. There had been sound budgets and no government debt, which allowed scope for fiscal expansion.

The IMF needed more resources and should play a greater role as a lending institution, rather than as an advisory and surveillance body. During the Asian financial crisis it had seen itself as a promoter of economic reform and not as a provider of resources.

The Reserve Bank was very tolerant of a volatile Australian dollar. There had been large swings in the last 15 years. The Bank was happy to now have the stimulus of a low exchange rate.

As a result of the global fall in commodity prices the fixed quantity and price contracts with China were being renegotiated and the prices being charged for Australian exports were likely to be reduced.

It was estimated that the government stimulus package was would provide an additional 2% to GDP in 2009. However, many of the projects being funded such as construction would not start until later. Studies had indicated that the support being given to the poorer sectors of society would not go into the economy but would go on the reduction of debt.

There could also be a knock-on benefit from the US stimulus package. It was thought that the USA was unlikely to go too far down the protectionist path.

Meeting with Mr Malcolm Starr, General Manager of Regulatory and Public Policy and Mr Eric Mayne, Chief Supervision Officer of ASX Markets Supervision - Australian Exchange Centre

The Australia Securities Exchange (ASX) was the primary stock exchange in Australia. It resulted from the merger in December 2006 of the Australian Stock Exchange and the Sydney Futures Exchange

The delegation was informed that Australia was at an early stage in experiencing the effects of the financial crisis and, so far, these effects had been less serious because of the strong position of the four major banks. Trading volume had decreased by around 20% in comparison to the period before the current financial crisis, which was less than the downturn in Europe.

A debate was underway on whether to be more prescriptive in the regulation of short selling. In November 2008 Australia had banned "naked" short selling" - i.e. the practice whereby investors sold shares they neither owned nor have borrowed in the hope of quickly buying them back at a lower price. "Naked" short selling was considered more risky than traditional short selling, in which investors sell borrowed stock. However, "naked" short selling had not been particularly prevalent in the past in Australia.

The International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) was working to eliminate gaps in various regulatory approaches to naked short selling. In Mr Starr's view traditional short selling was a valuable tool that could be misused and that the regulations needed to be watertight. The delegation referred to the negative impact of the short selling of Volkswagen shares and there was concern about the problems that could be caused.

Mr Starr outlined the responsibilities of the Australian Exchange Centre, in particular its methods of dealing with breaches of its code and the delisting procedures.

He considered that the focus of growth for the exchange would be "green technology", such as geothermal technology; clean coal; solar and wind power; and other less carbon intensive products. Nevertheless, much would depend on government policy initiatives in this area.

Mr Starr believed that there would be consolidation of ETS exchanges and eventually three or four would be globally dominant.

Roundtable discussion

Mr Alistair Walton, President and Mr Jason Collins, Chief Executive Officer, European - Australian Business Council

Mr Walton introduced the delegation and noted that the European Australian Business Forum had been founded in 1999 and was a national body established to promote business interests between Australia and the EU member states. It brought together various business organisations and trade agencies supporting the Australia-Europe trade and investment relationship. It had a free trade agenda and provided a framework for a wide ranging discussion of the EU-Australia relationship.

Mr CHICHESTER outlined the EU climate change package, including the ETS; cars directive; targets for renewable energy; and development of green technology. He stressed that a great deal of bargaining had been necessary to establish the ETS and that there had been heavy lobbying from industry and NGOs.

Mr KLINZ gave details of the background to the global financial crisis. He considered that the Euro zone had proved to be a stabilising factor, although there was still a major problem of confidence as banks did not trust each other. Monetary instruments had been fully exploited with an interest rate of 1% in the UK and virtually 0% in the USA and Japan. Quantitative easing was the only remaining tool. It might also be necessary to set up "bad banks" as had happened in Sweden in the 1990s that could be used to hold non-performing assets.

He also gave details of the US and EU recovery plans. He stressed that debate was underway about how far regulation of financial markets should now go and that the report by former Bank of France Governor Jacques de Larosière on financial supervision was awaited. He believed that there was now much more support for cooperation on an international scale to tackle the issue of cross-border financial supervision.

Tuesday 24 February 2009

CANBERRA

Briefing by H.E. Mr David Daly, Head of Delegation of the European Commission Delegation to Australia and New Zealand

Mr Daly opened by noting that Australia was in mourning following the bush fires in Victoria which had led to 209 fatalities. In addition, the floods in Queensland had covered 62% of the surface area in the state

The robust nature of Australia's banking system had been demonstrated in the current global financial crisis, however the country was not immune from the effects which would gradually become more pronounced. Unusually for developed countries, Australia was a major exporter of primary materials and would be affected by the decline in Chinese demand for coal and steel as annual GDP growth in China dropped below 7%.

The Australian government was carrying out a great deal of preparatory work for the G20 meeting in London. It was keen to promote a multilateral approach to the problem and there were worries that the developed countries would turn towards protectionism.

There had been a view in the past that the EU-Australia relationship was only about trade and agriculture. This view was outmoded and it was a much more broadly based relationship. 1.2 million jobs in Australia resulted directly or indirectly from EU investment. There had been 13 visits by Australian ministers to Brussels in 2008. Australians did not automatically think in terms of the EU as their country's largest trading partner as they viewed their relationship through the prism of the bilateral relationships with individual member states. Indeed, knowledge about the EU in general was very limited.

Mr Daly outlined details of the EU-Australia Partnership Framework that had been signed in October 2008. It was based on the fundamental recognition that the two sides shared basic values and interests. It covered a wide range of areas of cooperation, including education and science, the environment, energy, development aid and global security.

He stressed that the EU's increased rate of refund for dairy exports was not targeted against Australia and that it was simply a function of the world market system. The abolition of export refunds was still an EU offer in the Doha Round.

The Treasury

Meeting with representatives from the Australian Treasury:

Mr Bill Brummitt, General Manager, International Economy Division;

Mr Tony McDonald, General Manager, Macroeconomic Policy Division;

Mr Steve Morling, General Manager, Domestic Economy Division;

Mr David Martine, General Manager, Financial System Division;

Mr Paul Flanagan, General Manager, International Finance Division;

Mrs Jan Harris, General Manager, Budget Policy Division;

Mr Jyoti Rahman, Manager, International Outlook Unit

The delegation was informed that "Australia was holding up pretty well" in the current financial crisis. It had started from a position of strength thanks to the mining boom, no net government debt and a relatively low unemployment rate of 4.8%.

There had nevertheless been a downturn and a growth rate of 1% was forecast for 2009, dropping to 0.75% in 2010, even with the AUS \$42 billion stimulus package. Lending standards would be tightened.

The 20% fall in the world price of commodities had been a particular blow and there were negative signs from Australia's Asian trading partners. Nevertheless only 3% of the population worked in the mining sector. In contrast the proportion working in the service sector was similar to other OECD countries. There were also other significant value added activities such as the provision of education for the Asian market.

The level of household indebtedness had risen but those in trouble had been helped by the reduction in interest rates and there was still a fairly strong demand for housing in relation to supply. The corporate sector was not particularly indebted and gearing levels were generally conservative.

In the next 12 to 18 months the government would be the dominant provider of growth, coming mainly from the stimulus package and its emphasis on infrastructure spending. A key aim of the package had been to "get the money out of the door as quickly as possible". A balance needed to be struck between this and developing longer term infrastructure projects.

It was estimated that around 65% to 70% of the money provided to citizens by the stimulus package would go into the economy over a period of three quarters. People were likely to put the remainder into savings and paying off credit card bills. It was not necessarily a bad thing if money went into savings as this would represent "balance sheet repair".

The four major banks were well capitalised and the finance sectors were still carrying out their normal operations. There had been concerns about foreign banks withdrawing from the Australian market. The government was guaranteeing deposits but there was no need to nationalise the banks.

In response to a question about the increased Chinese stake in Rio Tinto it was noted that there was an overall belief that foreign investment was a good thing and should be encouraged.

Meeting with Senator Bob Brown, Leader of the Australian Greens

Senator Brown opened the meeting by describing Australia as the global "climate change deadweight" and (with Brunei) the worst per capita polluter in the world. He was particularly unhappy that the coal mining industry was being given half a billion dollars in the government stimulus package to research carbon capture which, he said, was 10 to 15 years away and could not be retro-fitted. He condemned the fact that the coal mining industry was a very powerful lobby with an "open door" to the Ministry. In contrast, the environmental groups often found the doors to decision makers to be closed.

He considered that the government was not prepared to make hard choices as it considered the population to be too wedded to the consumer lifestyle. He noted that a 5% reduction in greenhouse gases would lead to a 1.1% decrease in GDP, whereas a

25% reduction in greenhouse gases would result in 1.2% decrease in GDP. Nevertheless the government had chosen only a 5% reduction.

He did not accept that the biggest problem was simply the growing level of global affluence and emphasised the increased population, noting that there would be a further three and half billion people on the earth by 2050 on current trends. He cited in particular the work by Paul and Anne Ehrlich on overpopulation and the threats that it posed.

He stated that nuclear technology had the potential to provide only 10% of energy and that it represented a security risk. He considered that large dams eradicated the environment and were prodigious producers of greenhouse gases. Stopping logging would cut greenhouse gases by 18%. In contrast there was enormous potential for solar power.

Senator Brown stressed that he was in the business of proposing solutions for Australia. It was the responsibility of Europeans to come forward with solutions for their own continent. He believed that the crisis represented an opportunity to "green" the economy and that the most robust economies would be those that were ecologically based.

The delegation members stressed that most political groups were aware of the need to change but the differences arose over how to achieve this.

Wednesday 25 February 2009

Meeting with the Hon Chris Bowen MP, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs

Mr Bowen noted that there was still substantial room for the government to move on interest rates. There was general satisfaction over the "twin peaks" system of financial regulation. He believed that the British model of a single regulator worked better than the American model of many regulators.

Basle 2 had been far too "hands off" with respect to regulation. In hindsight it would be better to have an arrangement that was not so dependent on cycles.

Four out of the 15 double A rated banks in the world were in Australia. In order to ensure proper competition the four major banks were not permitted to merge - the "four pillars" policy. Concerns existed about the foreign lenders returning to their home markets as only 45% of the corporate lending sector was covered by Australian banks

Seven out of Australia's ten most important trading partners were in recession. In the five years until the current financial crisis trade had increased faster than at any period since the early 1950s, although it was now back at 2003 levels.

Mr Bowen stated that product safety had originally been the responsibility of the states. It was now a federal responsibility but there was no agreement on which laws

should take precedence. A National Consumers Law would be enacted in January 2010 and would apply to all companies, businesses and individuals in Australia. It would introduce broader and more pervasive consumer rights. Food safety was covered by a separate regime.

Call on the Presiding Officers of the Parliament
Mr Harry Jenkins MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives
Senator the Hon John Hogg, President of the Senate

The delegation paid a courtesy call on the Parliament's Presiding Officers. In the brief discussion emphasis was placed on the importance of personal contacts in EU-Australia relations and also the interparliamentary links.

It was noted that Australia took pride in its multicultural and diverse society which was seen as an asset. It was important for Europe to see its own diversity as strength. However it was recognised that - in broad terms - Australia, like the USA, had started out as a single country, whereas the EU was trying to merge very different cultures.

Among Australia's values was the belief that everyone should have a "fair go" and that there should be equal opportunity for all. For example, the Labour Party had seen the industrial relations proposals of the previous government as being contrary to the Australian spirit of fairness and equity. The response to the fires in Victoria had demonstrated the sense of solidarity and "mateship" that existed in the country.

There was some discussion of the position of Turkish migrants to Germany and the apparent reluctance of some of them to integrate and to learn the language. The question was raised about the compatibility of certain Islamic values with the Judaeo-Christian ethics upon which European society had originally been established. The delegation was informed that there had been significant progress towards integration of the Muslim population in Australia.

Meeting with the Hon Greg Hunt MP, Shadow Minister for Climate Change

Mr Hunt underlined the need for Australia to make significant reductions in emissions and stressed that his party was committed to achieving these reductions and should not be caricatured as "climate change deniers".

The opposition was reserving its position on the particular form of ETS that should be proposed. It considered that it was preferable to wait until 2011 or 2012 before starting the ETS so that the climate policies of President Obama and the response of China could be taken into account, as well as the outcome of the UN climate meeting in Copenhagen. An effective ETS would depend on the availability of low-emission technologies and cost effective carbon sinks.

It was essential to develop renewables and clean up the existing coal fired power stations. He noted that there had been a huge expansion of such stations in China and India and that they could not be simply wished away - the issue was how to clean them up. Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technology would not be ready in time

to be installed in these stations. He stressed too the importance of international cooperation and sharing of good practice in this field.

He underlined that Australia was committed to a recovery programme for the rainforest and to promote reforestation and afforestation. He believed that this was an area where the EU-Australia partnership could be particularly effective. Currently, international rules were "blind to the colour of carbon" so that the green carbon in natural forests was not recognised and there were incentives to deforestation.

Mr Hunt stressed the need for any development of nuclear energy in Australia to have bipartisan support. At present this did not exist and it was therefore not a feasible option, although he personally supported a development of nuclear power as part of the energy mix.

Water recycling in Australia was generally not very developed and there was a need for an "urban water recycling revolution". Farm infrastructure needed to be modernised and aquifer depletion was a major problem.

Solar energy had enormous potential and a 154MW solar power station was planned in Victoria that would be the largest and most efficient photovoltaic power station in the world. Geothermal energy had developed slower than expected and there was a particular problem as it was necessary to have a large supply of water. Mr Hunt did not think it would properly come onto line until 2020.

Meeting with House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts
Chair : Ms Jennie George MP

Ms George outlined the government approach to tackling climate change. She stressed that Labour had come forward with a wide portfolio of energy saving schemes and that there was no single "silver bullet" to tackle the problem.

The government was proposing a 5% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020 on a 2000 baseline. This could be increased up to 15% depending on the commitments of other countries at Copenhagen. She recognised that there had been criticism that these levels were not sufficiently ambitious but it was important to take into account the significant distances in Australia and the projected population growth. The ETS would only apply to the 1000 largest companies, including aviation, road transport and company shipping. Agriculture would only be included after 2013.

Permits would be auctioned and industries would get allowances of up to 90% free permits to help with the transition period. It was important that business did not move offshore where there were no controls. Australia produced 1.4% of world emissions, which was very high per capita. Compensation would be provided to lower income groups and pensioners who were going to be hit by higher energy prices.

There was a target for 20% of energy to be renewable by 2020 and there was a focus on solar power, wind power, carbon capture and geo-sequestration. Energy efficiency was very important and households would be encouraged to retrofit and have effective

insulation. The \$1.3 billion "Green Car Innovation Fund" would begin in July 2009 and would provide assistance over a ten year period to design, develop and manufacture low-emission, fuel-efficient cars and components.

Dr Mal Washer MP argued that, under the government's ETS, free permits were being provided for dirty industries and that the bigger polluters could offset the efforts of others and gain credits. He stressed the need for sustainable solutions and noted that the previous government had put funds into geothermal energy. Bio fuels were not acceptable as 20% of CO2 emissions were caused by deforestation. He added that carbon capture was very advanced in Australia.

Mr John Cobb MP stressed that the agriculture sector would still suffer from the ETS as its products needed to be transported.

The EP delegation noted the lack of progress in recycling water in Australia and the mindset that was unhappy with using recycled water. It was agreed that Australia was very vulnerable because of its failure to make progress in this area.

Observe Question Time House of Representatives Chamber

The delegation then observed question time in the House of Representatives Chamber. They were formally recognised and greeted by the Speaker.

Meeting with Mr Peter Anderson, Chief Executive Officer and Mr Nathan Backhouse, Director of Trade and International Affairs, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr Anderson gave an outline of the work of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI). It covered areas such as trade and trade facilitation and advocacy of employers' interests. It had a very active national and regional and had a membership of 350,000 businesses of all sizes representing four million employees.

The ACCI had no formal structured relationship with the Australian European Business Council but there was ongoing dialogue. It worked with international bodies such as the ICC World Chambers Federation and the International Organisation of Employers. It also had a significant number of strong bilateral relationships with chambers in other countries.

The Australian economy was very vulnerable because of its high reliance on trade and had been hit by the downturn in demand from Europe and Asia for its exports. The domestic demand had also dropped. The impact of the global downturn would take time to seep through and unemployment had only risen to 4.8%. There would inevitably be an increased pressure on social welfare in the longer term. Central interest rates were 3.25% and therefore had some room to move. There had been no major recent increase in insolvencies but there was a high rate of business failures in the first two years after start-up.

The Chamber broadly supported the government's stimulus package, although it would have preferred to have a stronger emphasis on income tax relief rather than payments to individuals. It was vital to improve the country's infrastructure and transport logistics.

There was no national target for R&D but there was an investment allowance of 30% on the cost of providing new equipment and the Chamber believed that there was scope for enhanced EU-Australia cooperation in this field.

It was in the interests of Australian business that growth should be sustainable. A debate was underway on what the best approach for the government should be. With regard to the ETS the Chamber would prefer the government to act multilaterally as unilateral action would put the country at a disadvantage. Australia does not seem to have an equivalent term for "carbon leakage" though the concept is held in common with the EU. There was some concern that the US government would implement protectionist policies as this would be very dangerous to Australia as an exporter.

Meeting with Mr Brendan Pearson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and Mr Stephen Deady, Director - Industry Economics & Taxation, Minerals Council of Australia

The Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) represents Australia's exploration, mining and minerals processing industry and its member companies produced more than 85% of Australia's annual mineral output.

The delegation was informed that 80% of Australia's coal was exported and that this would remain a fundamental feature of the country's trade for a long time. The Minerals Council wanted coal to be a viable proposition in a world where a carbon price was an established feature. The coal industry had a clear interest in solving the coal-related carbon pollution problem. The industry had effectively taxed itself by providing \$1 billion for CCS. It had not yet moved out of the pilot stage and more funds were necessary.

There was an opportunity for Australia to lead the world by example by developing CCS and to benefit from this. It was essential to have a body that would bring together all the work being done in this area.

The mining industry used 2.4% of the total consumption of water in Australia and recycled it seven times before it became unusable. \$86,000 value added per mega litre was generated at peak, compared to \$182 per mega litre in the agriculture sector. The Council believed that it was essential to develop a more effective pricing system for water.

The minerals industry directly and indirectly employed some 320,000 workers. Many of them lived in sparsely populated and remote areas. The government needed to spend more on the social infrastructure, such as schools and sports facilities. There had been a tendency to "fly in and fly out" in the exploitation of mineral resources.

Meeting with the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. Chair: Senator Michael Forshaw

There was an insufficient time for an in depth discussion of any specific issues. The following points were made in the meeting.

- There was an increased awareness of Australia's links with NATO and heightened contact between the Australian Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.
- The Labour party had opposed the sending of Australian troops to Iraq, nevertheless there was bipartisan support for the military commitment in Afghanistan.
- Over 1,000 Australian troops were in Afghanistan, including some in conflict situations. There was a view that some NATO countries were not pulling their weight in Afghanistan. It was essential to establish a political and economic plan for Afghanistan so that it did not remain a place where terrorists had a base to train.
- Although the Australian involvement in Iraq was more controversial it was possible that the allied military intervention in Iraq might ultimately conclude more successfully.
- There was an "arc of instability" of countries close to Australia such as East Timor, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands where there had been a breakdown of governance.
- Australia enjoyed good relations with Indonesia which was the biggest recipient of aid from Canberra.
- In response to a question from the EP delegation on what the Australian MPs considered to be the biggest threat the following were mentioned: climate change; Muslim immigration to Australia; and relations with Iran, which did not want stability in the Middle East.

The meeting concluded with a discussion between the MEPs on the future of the EU and the extent to which citizens in member states would want to maintain their sovereignty and national identity. This was prompted by a question from the Australian side.

Thursday 26 February 2009

CANBERRA

Roundtable discussion, led by Senator the Hon Alan Ferguson, Deputy President and Ms Anna Burke MP, Deputy Speaker. Parliament House

Senator the Hon. Allan Eggleston noted that the Rudd government had a reformist agenda but that "reform meant money" and its plans needed to be within the constraints of economic reality.

Hon. Dick Adams outlined government activity on climate change, the financial stimulus package, and water policy. On the final point he stressed that there would need to be a lot more benchmarks to measure how water was being consumed.

Hon. Kevin Andrews stated that there was a broad consensus in Australia on the importance and desirability of free trade. He was concerned that other parts of the world would become attracted to protectionism and cited statements by President Sarkozy of "putting Europe first". He considered that the government's stimulus package was too large.

Mr Alby Schultz stressed that he was a "climate change sceptic" and had opposed the signing of the Kyoto Protocol. He argued too that the possibilities of stopping large scale migration should be considered as migrants would take jobs or use up welfare payments.

Senator Eggleston referred to the belief that was prevalent in Australia that it would be cushioned from the global economic crisis.. However this had proven to be mistaken as the downturns in Japan, India, China and Korea had produced far-reaching affects. He did not agree with the content of the government stimulus package but he did accept that it was necessary to provide some boost to the economy. He did recognise climate change and the need to tackle it.

Mr Klinz stated that Germany had not immediately opened its gates to migrants from new member states and the process was being phased in over a period of seven years. He did not consider this to be necessarily a good thing as it had resulted in other member states benefitting from the migration of a skilled workforce. Many of the workers from new member states who had migrated within the EU were now returning to their home country. Member states had an obligation to treat economic refugees in a humane way but there could not be an open door policy for everyone and there were concerns about a "sub-society" being set up through a lack of integration.

Mr Chichester stressed that much of the flow of migrants in the EU was internal such as Poles to the United Kingdom. There were problems of integration, particularly with respect to some Muslim migrants who wanted to remain separate and extremist attitudes could develop.

Mr Koterec argued that the free movement of people posed problems for new member states as they were deprived of many of their workers.

**National Europe Centre, Australian National University
"European Update"**

Mr Chichester gave an overview of current challenges facing the EU. He referred in particular to the EUR 200 billion financial package; EU activity to combat climate change; the institutional questions such as the Lisbon Treaty and the European Parliament elections; trade and the Doha Round; energy, in particular the security of energy supplies; key foreign affairs issues such as Gaza, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan; and economic solidarity between the old and new member states.

Mr Koterec noted that Bratislava was waiting for the decision of the United Nations Security Council before approving Kosovan independence. He stressed too that it was important to support the pro-EU forces in Serbia, for example by easing the visa regime for students. Mr Klinz expressed his strong belief that all West Balkan states should eventually join the EU.

Mr Chichester recognised that there were concerns that the new US administration was tempted to move towards protectionism. He underlined the importance of a successful conclusion of the Doha Round. Mr Klinz echoed these views and argued that bilateral trade agreements would be a backward step.

Mr Takkula emphasised the need to develop exchanges of students and academics between the EU and Australia. He looked forward to the promotion of projects such as Erasmus Mundus.

Mr Chichester noted that bio fuels were increasingly being seen as too expensive and environmentally damaging. He believed that there should instead be an encouragement to renewable fuels, mentioning in particular the use of electric vehicles with rechargeable batteries.

Mr Koterec argued that the emergence of the Nationalist Party in Slovakia was a result of the existence of the ethnic Hungarian party in the country, which was supported by the Budapest government.

MELBOURNE

**Ceramic Fuel Cells Limited, meeting with
Mr Brendan Dow, Managing Director,
Mr Andrew Neilson, Legal and Commercial Manager and
Mr Karl Föger, Chief Technology Officer**

Ceramic Fuel Cells Limited (CFCL) developed solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC) modules to generate electricity through Distributed Generation networks. It covered SOFC technology from ceramic powder to complete fuel cell systems.

The company was founded in 1992 as a spin off from Australia's national science agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and had its headquarters in Melbourne with offices in the United Kingdom and Germany. \$220 million had been invested to date and the company was within 12 months of commercial production. The company has customers in Germany, the United Kingdom, Benelux and Japan and its utility partners had up to 20 million consumers.

CFCL develops solid oxide fuel cell modules to generate electricity through Distributed Generation networks, which is much more efficient than the current electricity grid. The process emits 60% less CO₂ than coal, produces no noise and is European CE approved.

A question mark rose over the high costs of design and development and it was therefore highly desirable to have government support for large demonstration trials and to obtain capital support for the initial product roll-out.

The company believed that it stood to gain from the trend towards cleaner and more secure energy. It was noted that global primary energy demand was forecast to grow by 45% from 2006 to 2030. This came against a backdrop of plans by the EU and the USA to significantly reduce emissions and to support "new energies" or environmentally friendly technologies. There was also a shift from traditional centralised generation to distributed generation. The company therefore saw a major market potential for its product.

Friday 27 February 2009

MELBOURNE

**Australian Conservation Foundation
Meeting with Mr Don Henry, Executive Director
Mr Tony Mohr, Climate Change Programme Manager**

The Australian Conservation Foundation was a non-party political NGO which had been set up some 45 years ago. Prior to that groups had tended to be based in individual states. The Commonwealth was assuming an increasingly important role as many environmental issues had a national dimension. The Foundation was seeking to promote a more informed and richer public discussion of the issues surrounding the environment. A substantial amount of its time was spent on public education such as the "green home" initiative. There was also considerable work undertaken with the business community, such as the Business Round Table on Climate Change. The Foundation had 60,000 members Australia-wide with 90 paid staff. 95% of its income came from membership fees.

Australia was particularly vulnerable to climate change and there would be twice as many bushfires by 2070 if no effective action was taken. The economy was resource intensive and energy inefficient. It was only in the last five years that attention had been properly paid to the issue of water supplies, following seven years of droughts in South Australia and water shortages elsewhere with projections that the situation would get worse. There was an urgent need for more rainwater tanks, more recycling of water and the take-up of water saving technology. De-salination was the "option of last resort" as it would mean more demand for electricity and a concomitant increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

The Foundation opposed nuclear power and uranium mining as there were very few sites available for storage of nuclear waste and there were better and more sustainable

alternatives such as solar and wind power. The coal industry received large subsidies amounting to \$6 billion directly and indirectly with little R&D into sustainable energy.

Public opinion on climate change had moved quickly, especially since the Al Gore film "An Inconvenient Truth" and it had been a significant issue during the election of 2007. The current government's proposals fell short of what the Foundation would have liked, especially on its targets for 2020, which were less challenging than those set by the EU. Indeed both government and opposition were more cautious than public opinion on the need for action. There was a wider range of views within the opposition than within the government. The Foundation commended the EU for its forward-looking position on climate change and urged it to go further.

There was a chance that the issue of climate change would shape Australian politics in the future. The Green Party in Australia was getting stronger and was achieving votes of 25 to 30% in inner city constituencies. Nevertheless the electoral system made it more difficult than in countries such as Germany for the Greens to gain seats. The major parties were likely to become stronger on the environment or they could split. N.B. Mr Henry noted that the building in which the Conservation Foundation was located had reduced water use by 90% by catching rainwater.

University of Melbourne

Introduction to the University and briefing on the Festival of Ideas

The delegation was informed that over 25% of the students came from other countries and that this was the second largest cohort of foreign students in Australia. 120 different countries were represented, of which the largest group came from China and the fastest growing group came from Iran. There were 38 government-owned universities in Australia but only 21% of their funding came from the government (or 44% if funds received for research was included).

The university had introduced the "Melbourne Model" which involved students following a broad undergraduate course over three years in order to attain their degree. The introduction of this approach had resulted in the abolition of over 100 separate undergraduate degrees. One of the new broader cross-disciplinary degrees that had been introduced was the "Bachelor of Environments" which brought together science, engineering, land and food politics and climate change.

The philosophy behind the "Festival of Ideas" was that the university would serve as a platform for the debate of major issues and would open up to the public at large. The theme of the 2009 festival was "Climate Change, Cultural Change" and it would examine the implications of climate change for Australia's way of life.

Briefing on the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute

The Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute sought to foster sustainability research on important public issues. Its goal was to integrate social, scientific and

technological research expertise with a particular focus on the Asia-Pacific region. Its main research themes covered agricultural futures, sustainable cities; "risk and resilience", including climate change, health and governance matters; and water use. In all of these areas there was particular expertise within the university. It brought together experts from inside the university and aimed to provide a "front door" for the university to government and business. Its emphasis was on big projects in cooperation with external parties.

One specific area being developed was the formulation of assurance standards for reporting on carbon emissions, as there had been biased reporting in the past. There was a great opportunity for cooperation with professional accountancy bodies, as well as engineers and hydrologists. Accurate information would enable a proper allocation of resources

Briefing on the Cooperative Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC) and laboratory tour

The Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technology (CO2CRC) was one of the world's leading collaborative research organisations focused on carbon capture and storage (CCS). It was a joint venture of industry, government, universities and research bodies from Australia and abroad. It was aiming to reduce the costs of capturing carbon dioxide by up to 80%. It was also involved in a number of studies and pilot projects, notably the Otway Project in south-west Victoria which was Australia's first geosequestration project.

The Otway project had been conceived in 2004 and was in operation by 2008. It would run until at least mid 2010. Stage 1 had cost \$40 million and Stage 2 would cost \$20 million. The project provided practical application and testing of CCS technology and would provide invaluable lessons in such areas as regulation risk, liability, technology science, communications and community involvement. It was the most highly monitored CCS project in the world.

The delegation subsequently made a brief tour of the technological work being undertaken by the Centre viewing alternative technologies, including membrane separation.

Following this visit the delegation visited the Parliament of the State of Victoria where they were welcomed by the Hon. Jenny Lindell MP, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Hon. Bruce Atkinson, MLC, Deputy President of the Legislative Council. On behalf of the European Parliament, Mr Chichester expressed condolences and sympathy for the tragic loss of life in Victoria caused by the recent bush fires.

The delegation visit concluded with a tour of Federation Square and a visit to the Ian Potter Centre at the National Gallery of Victoria where they viewed the displays of indigenous art.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

32nd EU-AUSTRALIA INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING
Sydney - Canberra - Melbourne
22-27 February 2009

Participants list

Members

| | | |
|--|----------------|--------|
| Mr Giles CHICHESTER, Chair | United Kingdom | EPP-ED |
| Mr Miloš KOTEREC, 2 nd Vice-Chair | Slovakia | |
| PES | | |
| Mrs Zita PLEŠTINSKÁ | Slovakia | EPP-ED |
| Mr Wolf KLINZ | Germany | ALDE |
| Mr Hannu TAKKULA | Finland | |
| ALDE | | |

Secretariat

Mr Tim BODEN, Head of Secretariat
Ms Emma MOLLET, Administrative Assistant

Political Groups

Mr Mario SCHWETZ, Political Adviser EPP-ED

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

32nd EU-Australia Interparliamentary meeting

22-27 February 2009

SYDNEY - CANBERRA -MELBOURNE

FINAL PROGRAMME

**Saturday 21 and
Sunday 22 February 2009**

INDIVIDUAL ARRIVALS OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Accommodation

*Intercontinental Hotel
117 Macquarie Street
Sydney NWS 2000
tel. +61 2 925 39 000*

**Sunday 22 February 2009
SYDNEY**

10.00 Secretariats' meeting

11.00 Excursion

12.30 Lunch at *Solitary Restaurant
90 Cliff Drive, Leura Falls*

- 15.30 Return to Sydney
- 17.00 Arrival at hotel
- 18.30 EP Delegation Briefing
Venue : The Cortile - Intercontinental Hotel
- Dinner (own arrangements)
- Accommodation Intercontinental Hotel*

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|--|
| <p>Monday 23 February 2009 SYDNEY</p> |
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- 10.10 ASSEMBLE IN HOTEL FOYER AND DEPART HOTEL FOR
- Meeting with *Ms Sandra Margon*, International Development Manager - Europe and other representatives from University of Sydney
*Venue : University of Sydney
The Clocktower, The Quadrangle, Main entrance via University Avenue
Off Parramatta Road
Camperdown*
- 10.30 Roundtable discussion chaired by *Professor Jill Trewhella*, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research
"Australia - The global financial crisis, energy and climate change from the perspective of the education sector"
- 12.00 DEPART UNIVERSITY FOR NSW PARLIAMENT
*Macquarie Street
Sydney*
- 12.30- Lunch hosted by the *Hon Tanya Gadiel MP*, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and *the Hon Reverend Fred Nile MLC*, Assistant President of the Legislative Council
- 14.00 Walk to Reserve Bank of Australia

14.15 Meeting with *Dr Malcolm Edey*, Assistant Governor (Economic)
and

Dr Guy Debelle, Assistant Governor (Financial Markets)

Venue : 65 Martin Place
Sydney

15.45 DEPART FOR

16.00 Meeting with *Mr Malcolm Starr*, General Manager of
Regulatory and Public Policy and *Mr Eric Mayne*, Chief
Supervision Officer of ASX Markets Supervision, Australian
Stock Exchange

Venue : Exchange Centre
20, Bridge Street
Sydney

17.00 DEPART FOR SERVCORP, MLC CENTRE

Level 56-57
19-29 Martin Place
Sydney

17.30 Met by *Mr Alistair Walton*, President and *Mr Jason Collins*,
Chief Executive Officer, European-Australian Business Council
Roundtable discussion
(Opening by Mr Walton, brief reports by Mr Chichester and Mr
Klinz, followed by general discussion/Questions and Answers)

18.15 Reception hosted by *European-Australian Business Council
charter members*

19.30 TRANSPORT AVAILABLE FOR RETURN TO HOTEL

Dinner (own arrangements)

Accommodation Intercontinental Hotel

Tuesday 24 February 2009
CANBERRA

07.20 BAGGAGE COLLECTION FROM ROOMS

CHECK-OUT FROM HOTEL

- 07.45 DEPART HOTEL FOR AIRPORT
- 09.20 FLY TO CANBERRA ON FLIGHT QF 1471 - ARRIVAL AT 10.10
- Met on arrival by *Mr Andres Lomp*, Director, Parliamentary Relations Office
- TRANSFER TO *Hotel Realm*
18 National Circuit
Barton, ACT 2600
Tel. +61 2 6163 1800
- 11.00 ASSEMBLE IN HOTEL FOYER AND DEPART FOR
- 11.15 Briefing by H.E. Mr David Daly, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Commission Delegation to Australia and New Zealand
Venue : 18 Arkana Street
Yarralumla, ACT 2600
Tel. +61 2 6271 2744
- 12.15 DEPART FOR PARLIAMENT HOUSE
House of Representatives Entrance
- 12.30 Lunch hosted by *Mr Roger Price MP*, Chair Australia-European Parliament Parliamentary Group
Venue : Senate Alcove.
- 14.00- DEPART PARLIAMENT HOUSE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ENTRANCE, FOR THE TREASURY
Venue : Langton Crescent, Parkes
- Meeting with *Mr Bill Brummitt*, General Manager, International Economy Division; *Mr Tony McDonald*, General Manager, Macroeconomic Policy Division; *Mr Steve Morling*, General Manager, Domestic Economy Division; *Mr David Martine*, General Manager, Financial System Division; *Mr Paul Flanagan*, General Manager, International Finance Division; *Mrs Jan Harris*, General Manager, Budget Policy Division; *Mr Jyoti Rahman*, Manager, International Outlook Unit
- 15.30 DEPART THE TREASURY FOR PARLIAMENT HOUSE

House of Representatives Entrance

- 16.30 Meeting with **Senator Bob Brown**, Leader of the Australian Greens
- 17.15 DEPART PARLIAMENT HOUSE FOR HOTEL
House of Representatives entrance
- 17.45 ASSEMBLE IN HOTEL FOYER AND TRANSFER TO THE
- 18.00 Reception hosted by the European Commission Delegation and the European Parliament
Venue : *Commonwealth Club*
25 Forster Cres
Yarralumla, ACT 2600, Australia
Tel. +61 2 6273 3622
- 19.30 RETURN TO HOTEL
- Dinner (own arrangements)

Wednesday 25 February 2009
CANBERRA

- 09.25 ASSEMBLE IN HOTEL FOYER AND DEPART FOR PARLIAMENT HOUSE
House of Representatives entrance
- 09.45 Meeting with **the Hon Chris Bowen MP**, Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs
Venue : *Committee Room 1R2*
- 10.30 Call on the Presiding Officers of the Parliament
Mr Harry Jenkins MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Senator the Hon. John Hogg, President of the Senate

Venue : *Speaker's Suite*

- 11.30 Meeting with the **Hon. Greg Hunt MP**, Shadow Minister for Climate Change
Venue : *Committee Room 1S6*
- 12.30 Meeting with House of Representatives Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts
Chair : Ms Jennie George MP
Venue : *Committee Room 1R5*
- 14.00 Observe Question Time
House of Representatives Chamber
- 14.30 Meeting with **Mr Peter Anderson**, Chief Executive Officer and **Mr Nathan Backhouse**, Director of Trade and International Affairs, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Venue : *Committee Room 1R5*
- 15.30 Meeting with **Mr Brendan Pearson**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and **Mr Stephen Deady**, Director - Industry Economics & Taxation, Minerals Council of Australia
Venue: *Committee Room 1R5*
- 16.30 Meeting with the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. Chair : **Senator Michael Forshaw**
Venue : *Committee Room 1R1*
- 17.30 DEPART PARLIAMENT HOUSE FOR HOTEL
House of Representatives entrance
- 18.15 ASSEMBLE IN HOTEL FOYER AND DEPART FOR PARLIAMENT HOUSE
- 18.30 Dinner hosted by the **Presiding Officers**
Venue : *Parliament House*
Private Dining Rooms
- 21.00 TRANSPORT AVAILABLE FOR RETURN TO HOTEL

Thursday 26 February 2009
CANBERRA - MELBOURNE

- 08.00** **BAGGAGE COLLECTION FROM ROOMS AND CHECK-OUT FROM HOTEL**
- 08.15 DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL FOR PARLIAMENT HOUSE
House of Representatives entrance
- 08.30 Roundtable discussion, led by Senator the *Hon Alan Ferguson*, Deputy President and *Ms Anna Burke MP*, Deputy Speaker
Venue : Committee Room 1R6
- 09.30 DEPART PARLIAMENT HOUSE, SENATE ENTRANCE FOR

National European Centre of the Australian National University
Venue : Liversidge Street
Action
- Met by *Professor Simon Bronitt*, Director of the NEC and *Ms Dora Horvath*, Centre Coordinator
- 10.00 Attend "European Update"
Introductory address by *Mr Giles Chichester*. followed by Questions and Answers
- 11.15 DEPART FOR CANBERRA AIRPORT
- 12.25** **FLY TO MELBOURNE ON FLIGHT QF 851 - ARRIVAL AT 13.35**

DEPART FOR
- 14.45 Ceramic Fuel Cells Limited and meeting with *Mr Andrew Neilson*, Legal and Commercial Manager and *Mr Karl Föger*, Chief Technology Officer
Venue : 170 Browns Road
Noble Park

Tour of facilities

16.30 TRANSFER TO ***Hotel Sofitel***
25 Collins Street
3000 Melbourne
Tel. +61 3 9653 000

Dinner (own arrangements)

Friday 27 February 2009
MELBOURNE

08.45 DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL FOR

09.00 Meeting with ***Mr Don Henry***, Executive Director
and ***Mr Tony Mohr***, Climate Change Programme Manager
Australian Conservation Foundation
Venue : *First floor 60 Leicester Street*
Carlton

09.45 DEPART FOR UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
Venue: *Wilson Avenue*
Parkville

10.15 Met by ***Ms Christine Eckhardt***, International Liason Officer,
International Relations Office
Welcome to the University and briefing on the Festival of Ideas

10.40 Briefing on the Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute

11.10 Briefing on the Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse
Gas Technologies (CO2CRC) and laboratory tour

12.00 DEPART FOR PARLIAMENT HOUSE

12.30 Lunch hosted by the ***Hon Jenny Lindell MP***, Speaker of the
Legislative Assembly and ***Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC***, Deputy
President of the Legislative Council
Venue : *Victorian Parliament - Side Dining Room*
Spring Street
Melbourne

- 14.30 DEPART FOR IAN POTTER CENTRE
National Gallery of Victoria
*Venue : Federation Square
Corner Russell & Flinders Streets*
- 15.00 Met by *Ms Frances Lindsay*, Deputy Director and *Ms Judith Ryan*, Senior Curator of Indigenous Art
- Tour of the indigenous collection and other galleries as time permits
- 16.30 RETURN TO HOTEL
- 19.30 Dinner hosted by *Mr Giles Chichester*, Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with Australia and New Zealand
*Venue : Bhoj Restaurant
4/54 New Quay Promenade
Docklands*

Accommodation Sofitel

**Saturday 28 February 2009
onwards**

INDIVIDUAL DEPARTURES OF MEMBERS AND STAFF
