



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand

**REPORT of the 35th EU - Australia
Interparliamentary Meeting**

Brussels, 24 April 2012

Mrs Mara Bizzotto, Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with Australia and New Zealand was unable to be present in Brussels due to political commitments in Italy, therefore, the Interparliamentary Meeting was co-chaired by Professor Ioannis Tsoukalas, Vice-Chair of the EP Delegation, and John Hogg, Senator for Queensland and Speaker of the Australian Senate.

The Australian Delegation was composed of Senator Hogg; Mr Graham Perret MP for Moreton, Queensland; Ms Deb O'Neill MP for Robertson, NSW; Mr Russell Broadbent MP for Corinella, Victoria; the Hon Ian MacDonald, Senator for Queensland; Bridget McKenzie, Senator for Victoria.

Prior to the first working session, the Australian delegation met with Mr Christian Ehler, to discuss cybersecurity.

One Member of each Delegation was the key speaker on each subject, after which the session was opened up for broader discussion and questions.

First working session, Tuesday 24 April 2012

1. Political situation in the EU and in Australia

Mr Michel Martino, International Relations Officer for Australia and New Zealand of the European External Action Service (EEAS) gave an overview of the state-of-play of the Framework Agreement negotiations between the EU and Australia.

The Framework Agreement will bring together all political declarations, action plans, protocols, sector specific agreements (wine, scientific and technical cooperation, crisis management operations) in one binding agreement. This partnership upgrading will reflect the ever stronger growing relationship and cooperation between the EU and Australia in many fields, including science, education, environment and climate change and development cooperation. The FA will be "Trade neutral and business positive. Although the FA will include a trade chapter, the FA is **not** a Free Trade Agreement with preferential trade tariffs.

The FA will refer to the EU and Australia's shared commitment to common values such as human rights, democracy, rule of law, fight against terrorism, and WMD proliferation. It will reaffirm political dialogue at all levels. The sector specific chapters include justice and home affairs, trade and investment; sustainable development, climate change and environment, energy, cyber crime. The FA will also seek to strengthen bilateral cooperation and will promote joint approaches to regional and global challenges, and shared concerns in the Pacific region.

Two negotiations rounds have taken place so far, with two further sessions scheduled before the summer recess. It is hoped that the FA negotiations will be completed in 2012, after which the text will be submitted to the European Parliament for its approval, or not, via the consent procedure. The Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs is due to appoint a rapporteur (draftsman) who will be kept fully apprised of the state-of-play of the negotiations.

Ms Deb O'Neill, welcomed the increasing communication between the EU and Australia and the formalisation of the FA.

As regards the political situation in Australia, for the first time in 40 years, Australia has a "hung" Parliament. Although the Liberal party won the largest number of seats, the 4 independents and one Green MP allowed the Labour party to form a coalition government with its first-ever female Prime Minister.

This coalition government in Australia has managed to successfully pass 300 pieces of legislation through the Lower House.

Australia finds itself in an enviable financial position with government debt amongst the lowest in OCED. The government is committed to delivering surpluses. Australia, because of its significant economic reform, was well prepared for the global financial crisis.

Stimulus spending has been targeted to prevent job loss and to minimise the impact of the global financial crisis. The Government has invested heavily in education and school infrastructure, providing internet access to schools and funding for extra training places.

Lower income families will be receiving financial assistance to assist with the introduction of a carbon tax from 1 July

Social reform spending includes paid parental leave; financial assistance to parents to encourage teenage children to stay on longer at school; health care; care for the elderly "age-care" now becomes a federal competence; and greater transparency in disability insurance scheme

And there has been considerable investment to create an internet highway to enable the inhabitants of remote, rural areas access to global markets via a national broadband network.

Giles Chichester gave a brief overview of the financial problems faced by Eurozone countries, particularly Greece and Italy, and attempts to stabilise the financial markets. The effect of the destabilisation has had political consequences with elections taking place soon in Greece and an unpredictable outcome; a new Italian coalition government has been put in place headed not by the biggest party leader, but by a former European Commissioner with a mandate to tackle the deficit, lack of growth and debt before elections take place in spring 2013. The Socialist candidate for the French presidential elections has announced he would like to renegotiate the fiscal pact and encourage jobs and growth, which may imply more borrowing, and tackling youth unemployment. He advocates a different policy approach to the incumbent French President in terms of currency and agreement amongst Eurozone Member States to re-establish stability in the financial markets.

Similar financial challenges are faced globally and are not limited to the EU.

Answering a question of Mr Alajos Meszaros, as to why, despite good economic results and government spending in key areas such as education and social policy, Labour is losing credibility amongst the populace, Senator McDonald answered that there is a confidence crisis.

For example, in order to win over the Independents to create the coalition government, the Labour party brought in legislation to implement a climate change carbon tax, whereas, prior to the election, they had rejected the introduction of such a tax. The implementation of this decision may be overturned by the Liberal party were they to win the next elections in 2013.

The Liberals left office with a \$60billion surplus which is currently a \$130 billion deficit, increasing daily, causing worry to Australians. The economy relies heavily on mineral exports of coal and iron ore. The government has introduced a mining tax which creates uncertainty and unease amongst investors.

Winding up Ms O'Neill regretted that in EU and Australia there is a certain cynicism about the capacity of democracy to deliver. She highlighted Australia's strong Asia focus and that Australia is well-placed to be a bridge between the EU and Asia.

Professor Tsoukalas reminded the delegation that the EU is the most ambitious experiment in the history of the human race. EU Member States countries, previously renowned for fighting world wars, are now coming together to create a multicultural society and a conglomerate of human values.

2. Overview of the economic situation in the EU and Australia

In his opening remarks, Mr Wolf Klinz, former Chair of the EP Special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis, reminded members that history has proven how difficult it is for politically independent states to have a single monetary policy and to keep their full sovereignty.

To complement the single market, it was felt that a single EU currency would ensure that, over the years, economies would converge automatically - and countries would increase their competitiveness. Criteria for monetary discipline and a stability and growth pact were agreed. However, despite this pact, 70 violations took place - with no sanctions. With money available at low interest rates, many countries were tempted to borrow large amounts of money.

The global financial crisis meant that banking systems needed to be stabilised, the negative impact of the crisis on countries' economies had to be managed by unforeseen spending, causing existing deficits to jump and repayments could not be met.

In order to solve the crisis, deeper economic, fiscal and social integration is needed. This does not mean Member States giving up sovereignty; rather it is a case of Member States pooling sovereignty.

The Temporary Committee has made several recommendations to improve the situation.

- completion of the Single Market, particularly the services sector.
- improving the competitiveness of the EU

- addressing key issues, ie energy policy as a bloc of 27, not 27 individual energy policies,
- change the institutional set-up as regards representation of the EU Euro-zone by enhancing the Commission's role, rather than the current situation with 5 people in charge of the Euro-zone and EU economic policy
 - ex officio President of the ECB,
 - Commissioner in charge of economic policy,
 - the rotating finance ministers,
 - the President of the Euro-Zone, and
 - the President European Council and in charge of economic governance.

Growth is needed through, for example, opening closed market segments, completing the single market and reducing bureaucracy and will act as a stimulus. However, debt should not grow.

Euro-zone countries have agreed to a new start and to implement a fiscal pact and respect rules.

Countries in need of bail-outs can ask for loans from the European Financial Stability Facility and, as from 1 July, the European Stability Mechanism. These two mechanisms will provide 800 billion euros. The rules of the fiscal pact need to be respected. However, already signs indicate that not all countries will meet their objectives and their deficits could be bigger than estimated.

Two possible solutions to the crisis, which will not be easy to convince Member States or EU citizens, are

- to deepen integration of Euro-zone members
- that non-competitive countries should leave Euro-zone, or run the risk of permanent recession.

Mr Takkula mentioned that for lesser populated countries, like Finland, joining the EU, and the Eurozone, had been advantageous as it had opened up wider market access for businesses and had brought down interest rates for individuals.

In his overview of the Australian economy, MP Graham Perret highlighted that 20 years ago, Australia had had high interest rates, it had gone through a period of economic reform bringing in strong banking oversight which had allowed Australia to come through the global financial crisis relatively unscathed.

The Australian dollar is now very strong. Overall GDP in Australia shows 2.75% growth. However, there is a "patchwork economy" as some States - notably the two mining States of Queensland and Western Australian - are booming with 8-10% growth, whereas GDP in Victoria and NSW, traditionally manufacturing States, is lower and Tasmania actually has negative GDP.

The retail industry is struggling, however, the mining service industry is booming and there are 450 billion\$ projects in the pipeline for the mining industry.

However, over the last 10 years productivity has stabilised and growth is now needed. In order to stimulate growth, Australia is investing in

- education, along similar lines to the Finnish system, and is becoming an education hub and centre for Asia;
- the digital economy - by developing its national broadband network,
- the development of its service industry.

Mr Giles Chichester MEP remarked that the Australian mining tax could be compared to the proposed EU Financial Transaction Tax (FTT).

Both these taxes would help to singularly finance respective budgets but are not popular - the FTT is especially unpopular in the City of London.

There is also scepticism in the EU, as well as in Australia, as to the benefits of the carbon energy tax, or the Emissions Trading Scheme.

Reconciling the dilemma of finding ways and means of reducing deficits whilst increasing productivity gain, stimulating growth and cutting employment, especially youth unemployment, is not easy.

Answering a question from Senator McDonald about his perceived feeling of pessimism as to where is Europe heading Giles Chichester answered that maybe the expectations of integration have been too high. The EU is still relatively new and the integration of 27 disparate Member States takes time. The post-war context of the founding of the EU had been to bring previously warring countries together "to argue over a conference table" With trade, freedom of movement, democracy and most importantly, peace, prosperity will flow.

"The EU is muddling along and will muddle through!"

3. Agriculture

Mr Jim Nicholson, MEP, former Chair of the Delegation for Relations with Australia and New Zealand, explained that since the early 1990's agriculture in the EU has moved from over-production to under-production.

A major change for the European Parliament has been the coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty, which gives the European Parliament a much more prominent role in agriculture policy decision taking through co-decision with the Council.

The CAP was first introduced at a time of food scarcities after the Second World War, and subsidies were made to farmers per head of cattle. This form of subsidy has now been phased out into a single farm payment, covering rural development, "greening" - environmental impacts, 7% ecological focus set-aside. This payment can often amount to 50% of a farmer's income, and helps to keep down food costs for EU consumers. Farmers are facing ever increasing difficulties to meet actual production costs, currently very high fuel costs is creating hardship for many farmers. Administrative costs relating to agriculture are rising.

In the proposed reforms to the CAP, a compromise has to be found between what the Commission proposes, what the farmers need to produce food and the taxpayers want. Similarly, a balance has to be struck to meet the different requirements of the north/south Member States, for example, between an arid south and a wet north. Over-regulation is another problem faced by farmers. Again, a balance has to be struck between the costs of producing food to the high standards expected, including animal welfare concerns and the resulting offset in costs to the consumer. The taxpayers want to see that the 40% of the EU budget currently allocated to the CAP is properly spent. Farmers want to produce food, they don't want the bureaucracy involved with - or the time to spend on - administering budgetary checks and balances.

During the accession negotiations, agriculture support mechanism levels were fixed in Euros and the new Member States received less in payments than the older Member States as the Euro went further and bought more in the ex-Communist states. Now, with the discussions taking place on the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF), negotiations on such price disparities will be much tougher.

New Member States still need help to catch up to reach the levels and high standards of the other Member States, especially as regards new technologies. CAP reforms cannot be put in place until the budget discussions are finalised.

EU farmers are worried about the consequences of milk quotas disappearing in 2014, as some farmers may overproduce, and uncertainty over milk prices, which are currently going down (led to a big extent by the price of New Zealand milk).

The aim is to produce a more stable market which will meet consumers' needs whilst maintaining the current high standards regarding food quality, use of pesticides and environmental standards.

The dairy reform package covered processors and producers, but not the supermarkets. Members of both delegations commented on the effect of deregulation and the power of the supermarkets to influence prices by using market leaders.

Australian government intervention in hardship years - floods, droughts, loan repayments - has been to allow tax free roll-over of profits.

In her presentation on Australian agriculture Senator McKenzie concentrated on water management of the Murray-Darling basin. The right of managing water had to be written into Australia's Constitutions as no individual State was willing to give up control over water rights - water conservation and irrigation. Over 2 million people live along, and 40% of Australia's agriculture production takes place around, the Murray-Darling basin. Discussion has taken place on water resources and management of the Murray-Darling Basin for over 100 years - inter and intra-State. 10 years of drought brought about the 2007 water act, whereby the Murray-Darling Basin Authority was set up to manage the basin, over-allocation of water, environmental protection and misuse of water. Small communities are suffering as the preference is for environmental protection over the socio-economic impact of reduced water resources. A balance has to be found to share water in order to sustain small regional communities, maintaining agriculture and protecting the environment. An innovative and flexible water trading system exists in Australia, as Australia is subject to both floods and droughts, with unpredictable water flows, it needs a flexible water management system. Engineers and farmers have been very innovative in water saving methods and Australia, along with Israel and Spain, are recognised as world-leaders in the drip irrigation and the efficient use and recycling of water. Moreover, water needs to be found to meet the requirements of expected population boom in Australia.

Three priority areas for the EU are the security and supply of energy, food and water. Whilst water supply is not a problem for the Northern EU countries, it is for the Mediterranean countries of the EU. There should be more cooperation between the EU and countries such as Australia and Israel to develop technologies for water recycling, irrigation and desalination.

4. Australian Foreign policy

Due to lack of time, Mr Broadbent very quickly gave a brief summary of Australia's engagement in Fiji. Fiji is a sovereign country and Australia is not there to control and manage the country. However, Australia is available to support and assist Fiji in the spheres of education, health, economics and governance. Australia is aware of Human Rights infringements in Fiji such as detention without charge, restrictions on freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom of association, and criticism of the government is frowned upon and sanctioned.

Australia opposes sanctions and would like to keep discussions on-going and open.

5. Energy and Research including nuclear and alternative energy sources

Professor Ioannis Tsoukalas MEP observed that the vision set out in the Framework Programme (FP) 2020 and the actual reality is quite different. Europe is losing its world-wide technological lead and needs to face up to keeping Europe competitive whilst facing an ever more aggressive and dynamic Asia challenge with an ageing, dwindling European population.

Mr Alajos Meszaros MEP outlined the Horizon 2020 research programme which will bring together all previous research programme funding (FP7, competitiveness and innovation programme and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) funding). The proposal is that the budget for 2007-2013 will be increased from €50 billion to €80 billion for 2014-2020. The three aims of H2020 are EU excellence, industrial leadership and societal changes by responding to the economic crisis, investing in jobs and growth; strengthening the EU's global position in research, innovation and technology; simplification of rules for participating in EU research programmes; and recognising the need for IPR for research Innovation, research and education form an ever-evolving triangle: money stimulates knowledge, which in turn stimulates innovation, which in turn stimulates money. Other EU research programmes include Euratom, ITER (nuclear fusion). EU universities cannot compete with US universities. EU has many centres of excellence however the only two EU universities in the top 12 world universities are Oxford and Cambridge. International cooperation invaluable, the creation of the EIT was an initiative to compete with the MIT in the US, Indians 12 EITs and the US has many KICS - Knowledge and Innovation Communities - with hands-on solving of problems involving industry, academy and enterprises working closely together.

Senator McDonald explained that whereas, in the past, Australia's wealth had come from sheep and grain, now its wealth comes from minerals and energy. Globally Australia holds 38% uranium resources, 9% coal and 2% natural gas resources. Australia is the world's largest exporter of coal, the largest exporter of uranium and 6th LNG exports uranium, coal and gas and is the world's 6th largest LNG producer. Iron ore and coal are exported to China. Other markets for coal are Japan and India. Although Australia produces less than 1.4% of the world's carbon emissions, it will have highest carbon tax in the world.

Senator McDonald enquired as to the security and supply of EU energy sources. Australia is committed to reduce its carbon emissions.

On energy policy, Giles Chichester emphasised the need for the EU to be competitive through the creation of a single market for gas and electricity; to maintain sustainability and to meet environmental objectives; and ensuring security of energy supply.

Energy matters remain a national policy. The decision on whether to use nuclear energy or not remains a question of national sovereignty within each Member State. A matter of great concern for Central EU Member State is the security of supply, and dependence, on energy sources principally gas, oil and uranium from Russia, and alternative energy sources to finite carbon fossil fuels need to be found, including renewable and unconventional (shale) gas. More LNG from Qatar is available to Europe due to the decrease in requirements by the US as they have increased their shale gas production.

Gas will be a dominant source of EU energy supply as renewable energy sources - mainly solar and wind - will have to have back-up energy supplies.

Although Germany has stopped the production of nuclear energy, in order to fill the void energy void, Germany now has to import electricity, including electricity from nuclear power stations.

Current energy infrastructure- transmission networks and interconnectors - need updating and a lot of investment is needed to deal with the surges of renewable energy and to move solar energy South-North and wind energy North-South and to improve the gas and LNG delivery systems.

A reduction in overall energy consumption through more efficient energy use is another area which requires attention.

The cost and implementation of a CO2 emission trading scheme - ETS - is a challenging issue also for the EU. A lot of work is currently being undertaken on Carbon Capture Storage.

6. Closing remarks

The co-chairs thanked all Members for their active participation in the interesting and informative sessions. Interparliamentary meetings always provide a good opportunity to learn more about each other, and this meeting had been no exception.

The 36th EU - Australia Interparliamentary Meeting will take place in 2013 in Australia.

Annexes : programme + list of Australian Delegation

ΠΡИСΥΣΤΒΗΗ ΛΙΣΤ/ΛΙΣΤΑ DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΞΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/JELENLÉTI
 ÍV/ REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENCAS/LISTÁ DE
 PREZENŤA/ PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Ioannis A. Tsoukalas
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Alajos Mészáros, Hannu Takkula
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavadojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanti/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Giles Chichester

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Wolf Klinz, James Nicholson
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Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Европска служба про внѣjší činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Euopos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Европска служба за zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)

Michel Martino

Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimeilimet/Andra institutioner/organ

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Pastorelli - Bai (ass. MEP)

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppenes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriāti/Képviseletsoportok titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariát političnih skupin/Politiisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppenes sekretariat

PPE

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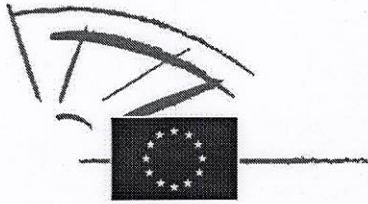
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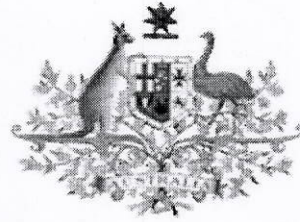
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Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschussesekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteo sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/ Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeriistö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Donaldson	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Paltgs/Padėjėjas/Assisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
Mollet	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/
Pirmininkas/ Elnök/President/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender
Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/ Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirminiko
pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Vici President/Ondervoorzitter/ Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-
Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/
Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Длъжностно
лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funcionario/
Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjä
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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



2009 - 2014

Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand

35th EU-AUSTRALIA INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING

BRUSSELS, 23-24 APRIL 2012

Participants list

Senator the Hon John Hogg

Delegation Leader

President of the Senate

Senator for Queensland (Australian Labor Party)

Accompanied by Mrs Susanne Hogg

Mr Graham Perrett MP

Member for Moreton (Australian Labor Party)

Accompanied by Ms Leanne Scoines

Ms Deb O'Neill MP

Member for Robertson (Australian Labor Party)

Accompanied by Mr Paul Macinante

Mr Russell Broadbent MP

Member for McMillan (Liberal Party of Australia)

Accompanied by Mrs Bronwyn Broadbent

Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald

Senator Queensland (Liberal Party of Australia)

Accompanied by Mrs Lesley Macdonald

Senator Bridget McKenzie

Senator for Victoria (The Nationals)

Ms Siobhan Leyne

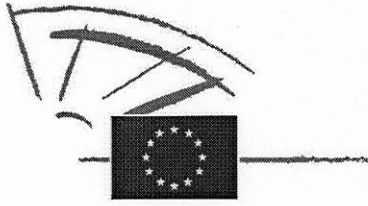
Delegation Secretary

Ms Julia Clifford

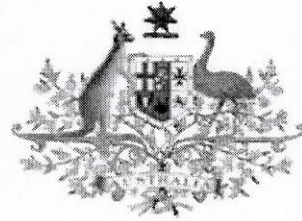
Adviser to the President

H.E. Dr Brendan Nelson
Ambassador

Ms Susannah Hodson
Third Secretary Australian Embassy



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PROGRAMME

Programme coordinators

European Parliament

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Australian Embassy

Ms Susannah HODSON

Tel. 32 2 286 0530 - mobile 32 486 137 530

email : susannah.hodson@dfat.gov.au

Saturday 21 April 2012

- 10.20 Arrival of
- the Hon. John HOGG, President of the Senate
 - Mrs Susanne HOGG
 - Ms Julia CLIFFORD

on flight SQ 2908

- 13.20 Arrival of
- Mr Graham PERRETT MP
 - Mrs Leanne SCOINES
 - Mr Russell BROADBENT MP
 - Mrs Bronwyn BROADBENT
 - Senator Bridget MCKENZIE
 - Ms Siobhan LEYNE

on flight SN 2094

*Renaissance Hotel
Rue du Parnasse 19
1050 Brussels
tel. 32 2 505 29 29*

Sunday 22 April 2012

- 13.20 Arrival of
- Mrs Deb O'NEILL MP
 - Mr Paul MACINANTE

on flight SN 2094

16.40 DEPARTURE OF FULL DELEGATION, accompanied by Ms Susannah HODSON from the Australian Embassy from the hotel to the official residence *Avenue Louise 581*

19.00 RETURN TO THE HOTEL

Monday 23 April 2012

09.45 DEPARTURE FROM THE HOTEL FOR THE Australian Embassy
Rue Guimard 6
1040 Brussels

12.10 DEPARTURE FROM THE EMBASSY for the Belgian Parliament

Place de la Nation Entrance

18.30 Welcome reception hosted by **Professor Ioannis Tsoukalas**, Vice Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand

Tuesday 24 April 2012

09.00 Arrival of the Australian Delegation in the European Parliament and welcome by **Professor Ioannis TSOUKALAS**, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand

09.15 - 09.45 Meeting with **Mr Martin SCHULZ**, President of the European Parliament

10.15 Meeting with **Mr Christian EHLER**, Chairman of the Delegation for relations with the United States, to discuss cyber security issues

11.00 - 12.45 First working session of the 35th EU-Australia Interparliamentary Meeting

13.00 - 14.45 Lunch hosted by **Vice-President Georgios PAPASTAMKOS**, on behalf of Mr Martin SCHULZ, President of the European Parliament

15.00 - 16.30 Second working session of the 35th EU-Australia Interparliamentary Meeting

Wednesday 25 April 2012

Australian Delegation only : ANZAC Day ceremonies in Ypres
