



DANZ_PV(2018)0912

MINUTES
of the meeting of 12 September 2018, 16.15-17.15
Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 16.20 on Wednesday, 12 September 2018, with Ulrike Müller (Chair)

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of the draft minutes of the meeting of 4 July 2018

The minutes were adopted.

3. Exchange of view with Mr. Reinhold BRENDER, Head of Division Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand and Pacific, EEAS, on current political developments in Australia and in the region in general

The Head of Division started by analysing recent developments in Australian politics. According to him, the new Prime Minister is from the moderate part of the Liberal Party and has been trying to bring together the two wings of that very party. He then underlined the excellent state of the bilateral relationship as also shown the fact that the Framework Agreement (FA) is now in place and by the ongoing negotiations on a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The recent meeting between HRVP Mogherini with Foreign Minister Bishop had strongly signalled that Australia remains a partner in the fight to preserve a rules-based international order.

On climate change he emphasized that the EU “is looking forward to further cooperation with Australia” and that “we have full confidence that Australia will respect its international commitments.” During the meeting between HRVP Mogherini and FM Bishop there has also been agreement that both sides see China as a partner on issues like Iran and DPRK, but at the same time as also challenging the rules-based international order.

He also stated that the EU takes a deep interest in Pacific affairs, as issues like climate change and ocean governance have direct consequences for the European Union. In this regard, he stressed the importance of the recent declaration by the Meeting of the Pacific Island Forum on “Building a stronger Pacific.” He also mentioned that the negotiations for a Post-Cotonou-Agreement would focus more on the Pacific as an entity in its own right.

The Australian Ambassador added the following aspects: In the Pacific, where Australia is the biggest donor, the cooperation with the EU is of “enormous importance”. He also commented that the fact that the current Australian government will not proceed with legislation transposing the Paris commitments into Australian domestic laws does not mean that Australia is back-tracking on its commitments, but “Australia will comply with Paris engagements.”

Asked by a Member on more details regarding the EU/EP engagement in the Pacific, the EEAS Head of Division hinted to an ongoing internal EEAS exercise with Member States to see how to re-engage with the Pacific region and on how to make those relationships more political.

During the question session, the Australian Ambassador also conceded that “energy policy remains a major challenge to (PM) Morrison”. He also assured the Delegation of his mission’s and the Australian government’s full support to the envisaged delegation visit to his country.

4. Any other business

There was no other business.

5. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting shall take place on 24 October in Strasbourg.

The meeting closed at 17.00.

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 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZO NIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKL JUMU RE ISTRS/DALYVI S RAŠAS/
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Ulrike Müller (Chair), Jacqueline Foster (Vice Chair)
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200 (2)
206 (3)
53 (8) (/Punto del orden del día/Bod po adu jednáni (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/ Päevakorra punkt/ μ μ /Agenda item/Point OJ/To ka dnevno red/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba k rt bas punkts/Darbotvark s punktā/Napirendi pont/Punt A enda/Agendapunt/Punkt porz dku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/To ka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

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/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání p edsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/P c priekš d t ja uzaicin juma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina ta -Chairman/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczego/A convite do Presidente/La invita ia pre edintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
H.E. Ambassador Justin Brown, Head of the Australian mission to the EU

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/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/ Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)	/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/ Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
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Laura Shone, Tom Yeldon, Artur Sapinski	

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