



Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand

DANZ_PV(2022)0330

MINUTES

of the informal online inter-parliamentary exchange of views

30 March 2022, 09.40–10.20

Brussels/Canberra via WebEx

The meeting opened at 09.40 on Wednesday 30 March 2022, with Ulrike Müller and Hon. Andrew Wallace (Speaker of the Australian House of Representatives) presiding.

The Chair opened the meeting and outlined the different DANZ initiatives on security in the Indo-Pacific and in relation to the war against Ukraine.

Ms Müller focussed on the political consensus by all EUMS, sanctions, assistance to Ukrainian refugees and the first ever implementation of the EU Protection mechanism, military support to improve Ukraine defence capacity. The Chair also mentioned the issue of Ukraine membership to the EU and the EP support.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon Andrew Wallace MP, followed, emphasising the strength of the community of democracies against barbarian aggression and the solidarity of Australia to Ukraine and the European Union. He also reminded the active support, of both humanitarian and military, deployed by Australia.

He warmly welcomed the joint meeting and stressed in the strongest terms not only its solidarity with Ukraine but also its full alignment to the USA and EU response - including sanctions and military support. China was explicitly mentioned as an additional source of instability to global and regional security.

Vice president of the European parliament, Heidi Hautala, stressed the importance of such a

united and global response to Russia.

The following debate highlighted to which extent the consequences of this war will be of incalculable impact for Europe, but also for the rest for the world, considering also the role of Russia in the Pacific.

As far as the FTA, the Australian side insisted that the importance of concluding the current negotiations have a solid ground irrespectively of the war in Ukraine, but clearly, the new international situation is not part of the global picture.

Other issues such as cybersecurity and the positive role of the Ukrainian diaspora were also briefly touched on.

In conclusion, the DANZ Chair stressed, *“How much this crisis is a unique opportunity for the community of democracies to strengthen its profile as such, and to consolidate its common vision and action in global governance, to ensure of our common values for the future of the world”*

The meeting was at 10.20.