



Delegation of the European Union to Australia
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Who Do You Call When You Want to Call Europe?

An Introduction to the European External Action Service

June 2014

What is the High Representative's job? The European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, steers foreign and security policy; represents the EU internationally at the ministerial level on the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy; and enhances the consistency and unity of the EU's external action. She chairs meetings of the 28 EU Foreign Ministers, Defence Ministers and Development Ministers. She is also Vice-President of the European Commission.

The High Representative is appointed for a five year term. She is assisted by the European External Action Service.

In Australia, the High Representative's counterpart is the Minister for Foreign Affairs.



*EU-HR **Catherine Ashton** at the E3/EU+3 nuclear talks with Iran in Geneva, with **William Hague**, British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, **Guido Westerwelle**, German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Mohammed Javad Zarif**, Iranian Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Wang Yi**, Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs, and **John Kerry**, US Secretary of State, 20 November 2013*

What is the European External Action Service? The European External Action Service, or EEAS, is the EU's official diplomatic service. It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium and has 140 delegations around the world.

What does the European External Action Service do? The European External Action Service supports the High Representative, helps the HR ensure the consistency and coordination of the EU's external action, and oversees the EU's external policies, strategies, instruments, and missions. Currently, the EEAS has more than 3,400 staff.

What does an EU Delegation do?

EU Delegations are essential to the promotion of EU interests and values, and are at the front line in delivering EU external relations policy and action, from the common foreign and security policy, through trade and development cooperation, to scientific and technical relations.

EU Delegations represent the European Union to their host countries, and in several cases to international organisations, such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organisation. The delegations are staffed by EU diplomats and locally recruited employees and hold the status of diplomatic missions.

EU Delegations work in close cooperation with the local diplomatic missions of the EU Member States.

A Brief History of the European Union's Foreign Policy

In parallel with its growing economic and political power, the EU has created its own foreign and security policy which enables it to speak - and act - as one in world affairs.

The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), is designed to safeguard the values, interests, independence, and integrity of the European Union; to strengthen the Union's security; to preserve peace and strengthen international security; to promote international cooperation; to develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The EEAS in Your Backyard: the Delegation of the European Union to Australia

The EU maintains diplomatic relations with nearly all countries in the world. It has strategic partnerships with key international players, including Australia.

The EU is represented in Australia by the Canberra Delegation of the European Union, which works in close coordination with the diplomatic and consular missions of the 28 EU Member States, 24 of which are present in Canberra.



*The European Union Delegation to Australia is headed by Ambassador **Sem Fabrizi**, shown here with His Excellency General the Honourable Sir **Peter Cosgrove** AK MC (Retd), Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, 9 May 2014*

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