

Political and Economic Relationship with New Zealand

1. The political basis

On 21 September 2007 in Lisbon, the EU-New Zealand Foreign Ministers' Troika adopted a new Joint Declaration on Relations and Cooperation, replacing and merging the 1999 [Joint Declaration on relations between the European Union and New Zealand](#) and the 2004 [Action Plan: "Priorities for future cooperation"](#).

This new document, which has the status of a joint political declaration, has put renewed emphasis on the bilateral relationship. It underlines the close ties between the EU and New Zealand, and expresses both parties' determination to their further strengthening. It features a number of common goals, such as the support of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, the promotion of the effectiveness of the United Nations, cooperation on development issues in the South Pacific region, the promotion of sustainable development and the protection of the global environment.

The new Joint Declaration shapes the bilateral relationship in the coming 5 years and beyond.

2. The framework for consultations and dialogue

The Joint Declaration provides for the set up of a consultative framework. Regular political dialogue, including at Ministerial level, as well as consultations between officials from the EU and New Zealand covering specific aspects of the relationship, take place. There are also a range of sectoral dialogues dealing with specific issues. Besides this, Commissioners, Ministers and senior officials from both sides regularly hold *ad hoc* contacts in the margins of international meetings and fora.

- Regular EU-New Zealand [Ministerial Troika Consultations](#) take place in the capital of the EU Member State holding the Presidency. These meetings deal mostly with international issues falling under the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).
- Annual EC-New Zealand [Senior Officials Meetings](#) alternate between Brussels and Wellington. The last SOM was held on 14 May 2008 in Brussels.
- Other regular meetings, dealing with specific policy issues, include: EC-New Zealand Trade Talks; EC-New Zealand Agricultural Trade Talks; the EC-New Zealand Fisheries Dialogues; EC-New Zealand Joint Science & Technology Cooperation Meetings and the EU-New Zealand Veterinary Agreement Joint Management Committee.
- Inter-parliamentary visits take place approximately every 12 to 18 months with alternating visits between the European Parliament and the New Zealand Parliament.

3. The main areas for cooperation

a) Political relations

The EU and New Zealand share many common views in the field of foreign and security policy and see eye-to-eye on many international issues. The joint declaration features a number of common goals, such as the support of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Just like the EU, New Zealand is committed to a global system based on multilateral rules and to the promotion of the effectiveness of the United Nations. We have shared interests in the WTO and on Climate Change, sustainable development and the protection of the global environment and energy security.

Both parties want to further solidify cooperation regarding development issues and continue to share analysis and respective strategies for the Pacific region with the aim of promoting peace, stability and prosperity in that part of the world. Similarly, EU and New Zealand are supporting regional integration in South East Asia and are actively participating in the ASEAN Regional Forum.

b) Economic relations

- Trade is a dominant feature of the bilateral relationship. The EU is New Zealand's second most important trading partner (after Australia) with increasing trade figures since 1990 and resulting in 2007 in a total trade (goods and services) of €9150 million, representing 19% of New Zealand's total trade. About two thirds of New Zealand's exports in goods to the EU consist of agricultural products. EU exports to New Zealand are made up mainly of cars, medicines, machinery, telecommunication equipment, transport material and chemicals.
- Following the July 2006 ruling of the European Court of Justice in the Egenberger case, the Commission had to review the import regime of New Zealand butter in order to ensure non-discriminatory access to the quota. The Commission and New Zealand reached an understanding in November 2006 on the way this ruling should be implemented.
- Trade in services between the EU and New Zealand represented in 2007 30% of total trade and sectors of particular interest for New Zealand are air and sea transport, commercial services and tourism. EU citizens are an important source of New Zealand's income from tourism: around 20% of all short-term visitor arrivals in New Zealand during 2005 were from EU Member States.
- The Euro has become an important trading currency for New Zealand. Approximately 25% of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand's foreign exchange reserves are held in Euro.

See also:

- [EU-New Zealand trade relations](#)

c) Sectoral Cooperation and Agreements

There is active cooperation in a broad range of sectors. Some specific examples include:

- Science and technology cooperation: a Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement was signed on 16 July 2008. This recognizes the value and importance of our S&T co-operation. Cooperation with New Zealand in this field has a good track record. Twenty-one organisations from New Zealand participated in the 6th Framework Program covering 2002-2006. Under FP7, 31 proposals have been registered, out of which 11 have already been selected.
- The Environment has been a subject of close cooperation between the EU and New Zealand, especially in the context of international meetings under UN auspices. Both the EU and New Zealand have signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.
- Education cooperation: Co-operation in higher education between EU and New Zealand is still fairly new. A first pilot project was selected in 2004 and following the 2008 joint call for proposals another project has been selected. Discussions have started to identify issues of common interest for a policy dialogue. Also, since the academic year 2004-05, a number of students and scholars from New Zealand have participated in the Erasmus Mundus programme.
- EU outreach initiatives: the Commission has supported the creation of the European Union Centres Network (EUCN) with a grant of €600.000 over three years to the National Centre for Research on Europe at Canterbury University in Christchurch. The EUCN promotes the study of the EU, and works to stimulate greater interest in EU affairs and in EU-New Zealand relations across schools, government, industry, academia, the media and the public at large.
- Transport: A first generation (“horizontal”) air transport agreement bringing New Zealand bilateral agreements with EU Member States in line with the European Court of Justice’s “Open Skies” ruling was signed in June 2006. Negotiations on a comprehensive air services agreement have started in November 2008 in Brussels.

4. Agreements concluded with New Zealand

For full details of agreements concluded with New Zealand, search in the European Commission’s Treaties Office database:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/world/agreements/searchByCountryAndContinent.do?countryId=2121&countryName=New%20Zealand>

5. Cooperation under the Industrialised Countries Instrument

Council Regulation (EC) n° 1934/2006 (the Industrialised Countries Instrument (ICI)), is the legal instrument for cooperation with New Zealand and other industrialised and other

high-income countries and territories in North America, Asia-Pacific and in the Gulf Region, during the financial period 2007-2013.

The actions foreseen under the ICI provide support to strategic objectives of the Community's external actions toward industrialised countries: intensification of political cooperation, advancement of EU economic interests, enhancement of global networking, and awareness of the European Union.

The specific actions to be carried out under the budgets 2007-2010 will be organised around three main priority areas: public diplomacy and outreach, economic partnership and business cooperation, and people-to-people links.

For New Zealand, we will see new call for proposals for the continuation of EU Centre activities and a possible intensification of the EU-New Zealand education cooperation. EU and New Zealand will jointly explore possibilities for cooperation activities under the economic partnership and business cooperation heading of the ICI.