



EU-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

The EU, its Member States and Australia share strong bonds in all domains. Bilateral relations are deeply-rooted and expanding.

DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS

Diplomatic relations were established in 1962, followed by the opening of the Delegation of the European Commission to Australia (now Delegation of the European Union) in 1981.

EU-Australia political relations are strong and flourishing. A new Framework Agreement signed on 7 August 2017 marked the beginning of a new era of strategic cooperation.

The Framework Agreement will build on an already well-established cooperation that includes multiple formal dialogues (Foreign and Security policy, Trade policy, Counter Terrorism, Migration & Asylum, Environment, Fisheries, Customs, Human Rights, Development, and Consular issues).

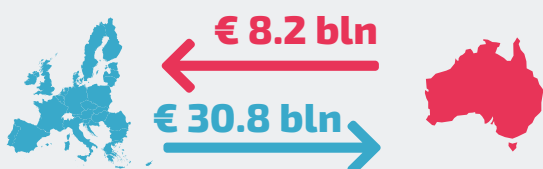
There are also several sectoral agreements of varying scope, ranging from Scientific and Technical Cooperation to Mutual Recognition in relation to Conformity Assessment, Certificates and Markings; from Wine to the Security of Classified Information; from Australia's participation in EU crisis management operations to the processing and transfer of Passenger Name Record data etc.

ECONOMIC INTERACTION

EU-Australia economic interaction is strong and vibrant. In 2019 Australia was the EU's 21st-biggest trading partner in goods, while the EU was Australia's 3rd largest goods trading partner after China and Japan.

TRADING INTERACTION

Total trade in goods for 2019 was worth **€39.1 bln**



MAIN GOODS IN TRADE

Australia to EU



MINERAL COMMODITIES (coal, gold, lead, metallic ores)



AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (oil-seeds, alcoholic beverages, wool and animal hair)

EU to Australia



PREDOMINANTLY MANUFACTURED GOODS (motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals, mechanical equipment)

TRADE IN SERVICES

In 2018 was worth **€24 bln**



In 2019, the EU was the **4TH** biggest source of foreign investment in **Australia**

accounting for 17.8% of the total (AUD 684 bn / EUR 425 bn).

On 18 June 2018, negotiations for an **EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** were formally launched. Eight rounds of FTA talks have already been held and others will follow.



EU-AUSTRALIA COOPERATION ON RESEARCH



In 1994 the EU and Australia signed a Scientific and Technical Cooperation Agreement, the first ever between the EU and a non-EU country. Strong cooperation is ongoing.

↔ There are on average close to **30 000 publications** involving EU and Australian authors every year.

↔ Australia ranks 4th among third countries in terms of participation in **Horizon 2020**, with **304 participations** in **254 grants** so far.

Within Horizon 2020, the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie** actions have seen the involvement of over **169 Australian researchers**.

EDUCATION



EU Member State and Australian universities have long-established links, matched by their students' interest in studying abroad. There are also several cooperation exchange programs between some EU Member States and Australia's tertiary education sector.

Assistance to foster university level exchange is offered at the national and the EU level, the latter via the **Erasmus+ Programme (2014-20)**. Building on the previous Erasmus Mundus programme, Australian university students and staff actively participate in Erasmus+ through the International Credit Mobility programme.

As at 2018 there have been 222 projects selected involving Australia with nearly **1500 students** and staff moving between Europe and Australia.

The EU's Joint Masters Degree programs offer scholarships to Australian and European Students to study both in the EU and in Australia. As at 2018 there were **38 scholarship** winners from Australia and two universities taking part in two EMJD consortia. Over the past 20 years, **43 projects** have been awarded to Australian Universities through the **Jean Monnet Grants Scheme** for networks, Chairs, Centres of Excellence, study modules and projects.

ENVIRONMENT



The EU and Australia cooperate across a wide variety of international environmental agreements and hold **high-level dialogues** dedicated to environmental and climate change issues. Australia and the EU have been working together on many global challenges, including combating the practice of illegal logging and on biodiversity conservation.

BROADER SOCIAL INTERACTION



People-to-people links are deep and longstanding. Nearly 70% per cent of Australians have European ancestry, forming an integral part of Australia's rich multicultural landscape.



EU Member State citizens live and work in Australia and vice versa: At the end of 2018 there were more than **33 000 Australians with valid residence permits** (for at least 3 months) issued by EU Member States. Bilateral tourist flows are normally quite considerable.