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EU Australia sign Framework Agreement on closer cooperation

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, and Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, signed the EU-Australia Framework Agreement on 7 August in Manila, the Philippines. The signing of the Framework Agreement marks the beginning of a new era of strategic cooperation between the EU and Australia. The Agreement will enable the EU and Australia to tackle challenges in foreign and security policy, sustainable development, climate change, and economic and trade matters. It will encourage closer links between leaders across government, business and civil society. More, including comments from the HR/VP and the Foreign Minister here.

European Union - ASEAN mark 40 years of partnership
Celebrating the 40th anniversary of relations, the European Union and ASEAN recognised an invaluable opportunity to advance their ongoing dialogue by exploring new areas of cooperation in the fields of trade, security and defence, counter-terrorism and climate action. In order to better tackle global issues of mutual concern, the High Representative Federica Mogherini and 10 ASEAN Ministers adopted a new EU-ASEAN Plan of Action for 2018-2022. This will strengthen cooperation in the areas of maritime security, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and peacekeeping operations.

"We are making our European Union stronger in the field of security and defence, and, second, we are making our partnership with ASEAN even closer and more operational," HR/VP Mogherini emphasised.

EU declaration on World Day of Indigenous Peoples, 10 years since UNDRIP

10 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which established a framework for the rights, dignity and well-being of indigenous peoples. Since then, there has been a rising recognition and understanding of the challenges faced by indigenous peoples. While they only make up less than five percent of the world's population, they account for 15 percent of the poorest people around the world. Indigenous peoples are also often among the first victims when human rights situations worsen. The EU has a range of policies in place to support the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the UNDRIP, from human rights, to development and financing instruments. Through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the EU supports indigenous human rights defenders at risk in getting out of harm's way. More on this here.

EU special envoy discusses EU-Australia engagement in the Pacific

Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island countries have sent the European Union a very clear message on the need for it to remain involved in the region. The former European Union
Commissioner for Trade and head of the World Trade Organization, Pascal Lamy, says this is the feedback he received during a two-week trip to the region that focused on the EU's future in this part of the world. "There is a case for the EU remaining engaged," Lamy told the Lowy Institute during a speech in Sydney recently. "This is what the Pacific countries wish. This is what New Zealand wishes. This is what Australia wishes." The EU's partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries - the so-called 'Cotonou Agreement' - expires in 2020. Mr Lamy will report back to the European Union on what should be included in the new partnership, in particular when it comes to relations with the Pacific.

2017 Schuman Lecture: Schuman's Vision in the Age of Disarray: Whither Europe and the West?

The first of the 2017 Schuman lectures will take place at the ANU's University House on 28 August and be delivered by David Ritchie AO. Robert Schuman set out a clear vision for Europe in his famous 1950 declaration. How does this vision measure up in these deeply uncertain times for Europe and the West and what does this mean for the future of European integration? What should Australia be doing about it? David Ritchie AO has had a distinguished diplomatic career. He served as Australian Ambassador to Germany (with non-resident accreditation to Switzerland and Lichtenstein) from 2013-2016. Prior to that he was Ambassador to Italy from 2010-13 and Ambassador to Indonesia from 2002-05. Ritchie was deputy secretary of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) from 2001-02 and 2006-10. The Schuman Lecture series celebrates the remarkable achievements of European integration since its modest beginnings in the European Coal and Steel Community in 1951, announced in a declaration by French Foreign Minister at the time Robert Schuman. The Australian National University has recognised this achievement and foresight by coordinating the annual Schuman Lecture since 1996.

Joint EU Centres conference and 'The Future of the EU' Summit to take place in Melbourne and Adelaide
The international conference “Fulfilling the Vision: European Union Futures?” will be convened jointly by the European Union Centres in Australia and New Zealand that will take place at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in Melbourne on 16-18 October 2017. For more details, including confirmed speakers, travel and accommodation information and to register go to the Conference website. The Future of the EU Summit in Adelaide will follow the conference in Melbourne hosted by the Hawke EU Centre for Mobilities, Migration and Cultural Transformations on 18 October, featuring Professor Loukas Tsoukalis.

Feature - About Australia's Parliament House and its gifts from the European Parliament

Inspired by 'The House', a television show which began this week on Australian television screens that delves into the nooks and crannies of Australia's Parliament House, we asked the Art Collection and exhibitions office how the gifts from the European Parliament to Parliament House were faring. They responded wholeheartedly and shared some visuals with us of the four works, granting us permission to share them. The photos above by Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598) Europae Ortelius 1575, printed 2011, Gift from the European Parliament, Gifts Collection, Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra, ACT and Bellin (publisher) Carte Reduite des Terres.
Australes, 1753, Gift from the European Parliament, Gifts Collection, Parliament House Art Collection, Canberra, ACT in total there are four gifted artworks from the European Parliament, a European institution in Brussels of elected Members from all European Union countries. See all four here.

Geoscience Australia Open Day in Canberra

Geoscience Australia's annual Open Day is a family-focused event providing a great opportunity to showcase the organisation's work, including a partnership with the European Union to bring data to their satellite imaging projects, to the public and to highlight the importance of geoscience in everyday life, now and into the future. Talk to real scientists, learn about geoscience careers and find out how important geoscience is to our future earth and everyday life. On in Canberra 20 August at Geoscience Australia in Symonston.

International flair for Canberra's second writers festival

Taking place from 25 -27 August the Canberra Writers Festival will showcase local, national and international writers across an array of venues around the National Capital. Power, Politics and Passion are the driving themes of the festival and a line up of authors and artists are in store for those who love books, reading or are writers themselves. The National Museum of Australia, Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, National Portrait Gallery, National Press Club and Australian National University are just some of the venues involved and authors from Europe are also set to take over the stage. For more on the festival and programme see here.

Discussion series: What is the future of work?

What will the role of work be in our lives? The impact of automation and robotics forces us to rethink the relation between men and work. The industrial era changed the view on work and rejected the
notion of individualism. Will this new era of artificial intelligence and robotics free the individual? What will the implications be on our lifestyle, economy and social organisation? Join Stephanie Foster, Deputy Australian Public Service Commissioner, Julie Duhaut-Bedos, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of France and Ben Develin, Managing Director of Mude, for an interactive debate in English. An event hosted by Pialligo Estate in collaboration with the Alliance Francaise on 25 August.

Our newsletter will be taking a short pause until early September, in the meantime please feel free to send through any suggestions, questions or updates to delegation-australia@eeas.europa.eu.

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