



EU-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

The European Union (EU) and Australia are natural partners with a shared commitment to the rules-based international order, democracy and human rights. They are deepening cooperation to address the current geopolitical and economic circumstances.

DEEPENING STRATEGIC COOPERATION

As the interconnection of security in the Euro-Atlantic and the Indo-Pacific becomes ever clearer, the EU and Australia are deepening their strategic cooperation.

Regular political dialogue including at leaders' and ministerial level ensures coordination of approaches in addressing

key geopolitical and economic developments. Enhanced cooperation with Australia supports the accomplishment of priorities under the **EU's Indo-Pacific Strategy** on security and defence, on trade and economic security and in the green and digital transitions.



Promoting a strong, efficient and resilient multilateral system with the UN at its core



Providing support to Ukraine, ensuring Russia is held accountable for its crimes, and increasing the cost of its war of aggression



Working with mutual partners in the Indo-Pacific to promote peace, security and prosperity in the region



Building economic security and resilience

DELIVERING TRADE AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

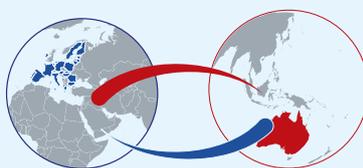
THE EU IS AUSTRALIA'S 3RD LARGEST TRADING PARTNER



EU GOODS EXPORTS **€37 billion** IN 2025

EU SERVICES EXPORTS **€31 billion** IN 2024

TOTAL TRADE IN GOODS WITH AUSTRALIA **€47.2 billion** IN 2025



TOTAL TRADE IN SERVICES WITH AUSTRALIA **€42 billion** IN 2024

The EU and Australia have concluded negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement that will bring significant benefits to business and consumers alike. It will give the EU privileged access to one of the world's fastest-growing developed economies and further diversify the EU's network of trade partners in the strategic Indo-Pacific region and globally. It will also help secure the EU's supply chains of critical minerals and promote

greener and fairer trade through enforceable sustainability commitments. The EU agri-food exports are currently more than double the imports. European farmers will benefit from new export opportunities and the protection of Geographical Indicators in Australia, while safeguards and limited import quotas will protect sensitive EU agricultural sectors.

THE EU-AUSTRALIA SECURITY AND DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP

The **EU-Australia Security and Defence Partnership** deepens existing areas of cooperation on security and defence and

initiates new areas of collaboration. It is a political declaration, framing joint work in addressing common security challenges.

SECURITY AND DEFENCE DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EU AND AUSTRALIA



Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference, cyber and hybrid threats



Counter-terrorism and violent extremism



Crisis Management, conflict prevention, and peace mediation



Maritime security and the protection of critical infrastructure



Space security and emerging and disruptive technology

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The EU and Australia have over 30 years of structured Research and Innovation Cooperation dating back to the 1994 Science and Technology Agreement. They share fundamental values in research and common objectives from managing ageing populations to clean energy security and increasing the well-being of citizens

by harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence. Australian research entities already participate in **over 200 Horizon Europe projects** in areas including, critical raw materials, remote sensing, vaccines and agriculture. In March 2026, the EU and Australia agreed to launch formal negotiations for the association of Australia to Horizon Europe.

COOPERATION ON CRITICAL MINERALS

The 2024 **EU-Australia Partnership on Strategic and Critical Minerals** aims to strengthen supply chains critical to economic security and prosperity. Actions take place under three main areas:

- integration of private sector companies throughout the critical minerals value chain

- cooperation on research and innovation
- and the promotion of high environmental, social and governance standards.

DIGITAL COOPERATION

The **EU-Australia Digital Dialogue and Cybersecurity Consultations** guide cooperation and coordination on digital and tech matters covering:

- online platforms
- the protection of minors online

- secure international connectivity
- critical technologies.

The European Commission has concluded an agreement with the Australian e-safety Commissioner to collaborate on online platform regulation and online safety for children.

CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The **EU-Australia High-Level Dialogue on Climate** deepens cooperation across climate, energy and competitiveness agendas and drives structured engagement on priorities including:

- multilateral cooperation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- decarbonisation of industries, green trade
- promotion of net zero economies, a just transition and the nexus between climate and security.

High-level interaction on energy is deepening collaboration in advancing respective national energy transitions and

cooperation globally. Australia is one of only 7 megadiverse countries on Earth, supporting 10% of the planet's biodiversity. Its geographic and climatic variety, from arid deserts to grasslands, temperate forests and ancient rainforests has fostered the evolution of species found nowhere else.

The **High-Level Dialogue on Environment** aims to enhance engagement in advancing the circular economy, biodiversity conservation, sustainability and the management of natural resources. Additionally, it seeks to foster close coordination and alignment in multilateral fora. The EU will also support Australia in its role as President of Negotiations for COP31.

EDUCATION

Since 2015, **almost 4500 exchanges** of students and university staff have been funded through **Erasmus+**, the EU's flagship programme for education.

Australian partners have taken part in nearly **80 Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's degrees**, which allow students to

study in multiple countries and earn joint degrees.

Australian institutions have been part of **70 Jean Monnet activities** that support teaching, research and debate on EU studies.