

**Committee:** ASEM: Sommet de Madrid UE-Asie

**Problématique:** « Vers un protectionnisme européen ? Faut-il protéger le marché européen de la concurrence internationale pour faire face aux conséquences de la crise du COVID-19 ? »

**Author:** Australia

We live in an era of globalisation. With globalisation come economic opportunities in form of new markets. This is beneficial for both concerned parties. The EU has been a long-term partner of Australia. Therefore, Australia is very much in favour of pursuing this partnership in establishing free trade agreements with the EU. In this same perspective, Australia recently, on November 15, 2020, signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership with other Asian-Pacific nations. The goal is to ensure that all economies involved reach their full potential.

Money laundering is a serious international crime that threatens the integrity of financial systems and helps fund criminal activity as well as terrorism. In the UN (United Nations), ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and Global Counter-Terrorism Forum are already working to enhance cooperation and coordination between nations and would welcome the contribution of EU. Our own efforts are focused on law enforcement, intelligence, border and transport security, diplomacy, defence, terrorist financing, building counter terrorism ability in the region and countering violent extremism.

Australia believes it is important to implement a more elaborate maritime safety and security approach as the cases of piracy of cargo mount. Piracy is an international problem that results in cargo shipments of different nations being stolen often near the South-African coast.

Australia is resolutely committed to the Paris Agreement and fully intends to meet and beat our emission reduction targets of the Kyoto Protocol which entails reducing our emissions by 5 % below 2000 levels by 2020 and of the Paris agreement which entails lowering our emissions by 26-28% below the levels of 2005 by 2030.

Climate change will present increasing challenges in the coming years as well as opportunities and incentives in transitioning to a low emission global economy.

However, Australia would also like to highlight the urgent problem of marine plastic pollution. There are currently over 5.25 trillion macro and micro plastic pieces in our oceans. Every day 8 Million more find their way into our marine system. Recognising this problem Australia intends to ensure that by 2025 a 100% of all packaging in Australia will be reusable, recyclable, or compostable, 70% of the plastic packaging will be recycled or composted and an average of 30% recycled content will be included across all packaging.

Australia is committed to advocating human rights globally. Men, women and children have the right to fundamental freedoms and to live their lives with dignity. We believe the protection and promotion of human rights are vital and necessary to achieve lasting peace, security, freedom and dignity for all. Furthermore, Australia is of the opinion that the abolition of the death penalty and the promotion of international standards and norms on gender equality are important decrees that should be enforced internationally.

In case of a nation breaking a fundamental human right we plead for immediate and internationally backed sanctions.

Finally, Australia would like to propose regional/international cooperation towards the current covid crisis for example in supplying access to safe and effective covid-19 vaccines. The corona virus does not respect national borders. Therefore, it is a necessity to work together during this crisis so that our economies and societies can recover from this pandemic. This will ensure that all nations recover quickly from the health and economic long-term effects of this pandemic. Only if we have a safe vaccine rollout all over South Asia and the Pacific will travelling, tourism and trade be possible again with our partners.