

Arrangement on Strategic Cooperation between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Austria

Introduction

1. The Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Austria (“the Participants”) have a mature and productive bilateral relationship, with complementary interests across a diverse array of policy issues.
2. The cooperation under this Strategic Cooperation Arrangement (“Arrangement”) will support our shared commitment to an international rules-based order, recognizing that the global environment is undergoing a significant shift that demands flexible international cooperation that promotes innovative solutions and advances mutual economic, security and societal interests.

Strategic Objective

3. Building on their strong existing bilateral relationship and Australia’s framework of cooperation with the European Union, the Participants will, through this Arrangement, enhance their cooperation through initiatives that will better position them to respond to the challenges of our time and work together to uphold a shared commitment to the rule of law, global norms, and free and open markets. This includes support for the timely conclusion of a comprehensive and ambitious Australia-EU Free Trade Agreement.

Cooperation Principles

4. This Arrangement is founded on the following key principles:
 - a) a commitment to open communication at all levels, and to create professional relationships characterised by respect, trust and honesty; and
 - b) an emphasis on pursuing opportunities that are of mutual benefit and drive concrete and lasting outcomes that could not have been achieved by either Austria or Australia working alone.

Priority Areas

5. In pursuit of the above Strategic Objective, the Participants will identify priorities and opportunities for closer cooperation and collaboration through activities in the following areas:

- a) Trade and investment
- b) Foreign and Security Policy (including Cyber Affairs and Critical Infrastructure / Technology)
- c) Cooperation in the fight against international terrorism
- d) Engaging in international efforts to strengthen the rule of law and to prevent and combat corruption
- e) Cooperation in the field of migration
- f) Science, technology and innovation (including digitalisation)
- g) Healthcare
- h) Climate and energy
- i) Education and youth exchange
- j) Culture, sports and people-to-people links

Next Steps – Bilateral Relationship Stocktake

6. To identify thematic fields of cooperation and future activities, the Participants will conduct a Stocktake of the bilateral relationship, which will highlight existing mechanisms for cooperation and current activities, and identify priorities to inform a future bilateral workplan. The Stocktake will initially involve consultation across the Austrian Government. Following this, it will be shared with Australia to support a similar consultation exercise across the Australian Government.

7. The Stocktake will be informed by a List of Potential Thematic Fields for work in the Priority Areas identified in Article 5 and contained in Attachment A. This List, which has been jointly developed by the Participants, will be a non-exhaustive and non-prescriptive document, which can be adapted and updated at any time.

Implementation

8. The Participants have identified the following Focal Points for the purpose of overseeing the implementation of the Arrangement

- a) For Austria: Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Asia Pacific Department and Federal Chancellery, Directorate EU and International Affairs
- b) For Australia: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Europe and Latin America Division

9. The Participants' institutions and agencies may nominate a point of contact in relation to specific cooperation activities listed in the Stocktake.

Periodic Review

10. The Participants will review periodically the implementation of the Arrangement. The Periodic Review may also consider opportunities for senior-level dialogues on issues of particular interest and highlight new areas of potential cooperation.

Status of Arrangement

11. This Arrangement is a document, which embodies the understanding of the Governments of Austria and Australia. It does not create any legally binding rights or obligations and it will not affect national legislation or obligations assumed by the countries in accordance with international law. It is not a treaty and is not governed by international law.

Final Provisions

12. This Arrangement will become effective on the date of its signature and will remain in effect for an indefinite time.

13. Either Participant may cancel this Arrangement by written notification; such notification will become effective six months after its receipt by the other Participant.

14. Any future modification to this Arrangement will require the written consent of both Participants.

Signed at _____ on _____ in two copies.

For the Government of Australia

For the Government of the
Republic of Austria

Austria-Australia Strategic Cooperation Arrangement Attachment A - List of Potential Thematic Fields

This document is referenced at Paragraph 7 of the Austria-Australia Strategic Cooperation Arrangement. It provides the basis for a whole-of-Government Stocktake (in Austria in the first instance) to inform future cooperation and activities.

a) Trade and Investment

- **Australia-EU FTA**
- **Economic affairs and business** - foreign trade, foreign direct investment and joint ventures, monitoring / screening, start-ups, research, business sector engagement to enhance bilateral commercial opportunities

b) Foreign and Security Policy

- **Priorities** - Multilateral Strategy, Indo-Pacific
- **Countering Foreign Interference** – Legislation and policy, intellectual property theft, disinformation, engagement (universities, academic sector, businesses)
- **Cyber Affairs and Critical Infrastructure/Technology** - security (exchange / research / best practices)
- **Defence** – Equipment / material, training

c) Cooperation in the fight against international terrorism

- **International terrorism, countering violent extremism, and right-wing terrorism**

d) Engaging in international efforts to strengthen the rule of law and to prevent and combat corruption

- Engagement through the existing international framework to prevent and combat corruption established in particular under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)

e) Cooperation in the field of migration

- **Migration and border management issues**

f) Science, Technology and Innovation (including Digitalisation)

- **Smart Cities** - city planning, architecture, infrastructure, e-government, sensors & IOT
- **Research and Development Cooperation** – bilateral research funding (IST Austria, CSIRO, Universities, Companies) and leveraging opportunities for international cooperation in the EU Research Framework Programme “Horizon Europe” as well as in the Transnational R&D Cooperation initiative “EUREKA” (e.g. Globalstars-Calls)
- **Startups** - fostering cooperation (e.g. Global Incubator Network (<https://www.gin-austria.com/>), fintech, agtech)
- **Digitalisation** - including sharing information on strengthening digital technology use and development, in particular among smaller firms
- **Circular Economy and environmental technologies** – responsible / innovative design and manufacture of products for sustainable material cycles, sustainable consumption, reuse, remanufacture, and recycling–(including plastics, micro plastics and marine litter), emissions reduction technologies, and monitoring (air and water)

- **Industry and Construction** - sustainable technologies and materials (zero emissions steel and aluminum)
- **Rail** - planning, construction, technology, maintenance, trains
- **Roads** - tunnel construction, intelligent traffic systems

g) Healthcare

- **Medical Research** - Virology (COVID), Oncology, Genomics
- **Technologies and Digital Healthcare** - Medtech, Diagnostica, telemedical solutions, rehabilitation technologies
- **Global Health Issues** – Pandemic Preparedness and Response

h) Climate and Energy

- **Climate** – sharing information on mitigation and adaptation efforts
- **Energy** – safe and sustainable low emissions technologies, energy system planning, cross-border interconnection, renewable energy system integration (hydropower, solar power, renewable hydrogen), clean hydrogen, energy storage (batteries, fuel cells, hydro pumped storage, underground energy storage and related technologies / engineering, long duration energy storage, bio-fuels) and synthetic fuels, decentralized energy production and usage; grid control technologies; digital electronic equipment (solar inverter and solar monitoring equipment)

i) Education

- **Certification** - Recognition of diplomas and certificates
- **Exchanges** - Youth exchange (student exchange / scholarships a la Erasmus)
- **Apprenticeships** – exchange best practices (Dual system Austria, JobTrainer Fund)
- **Higher education cooperation** (staff and student mobility, strategic partnerships, collaboration with EHEA)
- **Erasmus+ International Actions**

j) Culture, Sports and people-to-people links

- **Exchanges** - creative industry, sports
- **Visas** - Work and Holiday Visa Arrangement (extension to TVET students / university level)