



MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Department No. 73

Executive Council Meeting

No. .... 20 .....

Minute Paper for the Executive Council

Subject

*The Constitution*

Termination of Appointment and Appointment of  
Ambassador of Australia to the Kingdom of Belgium

Recommended for the approval of Her Excellency the Governor-General in Council that she:

- (a) terminate the appointment of Dr Alan William Thomas as Ambassador of Australia to the Kingdom of Belgium on and from a date to be determined by the Minister for Foreign Affairs;
- (b) appoint, by Commission in the attached form, the Honourable Dr Brendan John Nelson MP to be Ambassador of Australia to the Kingdom of Belgium on and from a date to be determined by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, being a date not earlier than the date on which the appointment of Dr Alan William Thomas shall terminate and subject to *agrément* being received from the Kingdom of Belgium;
- (c) authorise that the Honourable Dr Brendan John Nelson MP be paid such salary and allowances as may be determined from time to time by the Minister for Foreign Affairs; and
- (d) authorise that the appointment of the Honourable Dr Brendan John Nelson MP be subject to such other terms and conditions as may be approved from time to time by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Approved in Council

**Quentin Bryce**

Quentin Bryce  
Governor-General

17 SEP 2009

Filed in the Records of  
the Council

**Kathryn Campbell**

Secretary to the Executive  
Council

Stephen Smith  
Minister for Foreign Affairs



*The Constitution*

COMMISSION OF APPOINTMENT OF  
AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRALIA TO THE  
KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

I, QUENTIN BRYCE, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council and in the exercise of all powers me thereunto enabling, appoint

**THE HONOURABLE DR BRENDAN JOHN NELSON MP**

to be Ambassador of Australia to the Kingdom of Belgium on and from such day as is determined by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.



Signed and Sealed with the Great Seal of Australia on 17/9 2009

Governor-General

By Her Excellency's Command

Stephen Smith  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

ENTERED ON RECORD by me, in Register of Patents No. 44 page 27, on 17 September 2009.

Secretary to the Federal Executive Council

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Minute No.73 of 2009 - Minister for Foreign Affairs

Subject - *The Constitution*

Termination of Appointment and Appointment of Ambassador of Australia to the Kingdom of Belgium.

The power to appoint Australian diplomatic and consular representatives is exercisable by the Governor-General by virtue of Chapter II of the *Constitution* which provides, among other things, that the executive power of the Commonwealth is vested in the Queen and is exercisable by the Governor-General.

The Minute recommends the termination of the appointment of Dr Alan William Thomas as Ambassador of Australia to the Kingdom of Belgium and the appointment of the Honourable Dr Brendan John Nelson as Ambassador of Australia to the Kingdom of Belgium<sup>1</sup> subject to *agrément* being received from the Kingdom of Belgium. The granting of *agrément* by the receiving state for the person a sending state proposes to accredit as head of mission is a requirement of the *Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations*, to which Australia is a party. The *agrément* of the Kingdom of Belgium has been sought for this appointment.

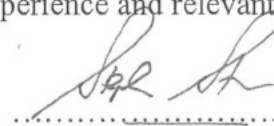
The Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium is also concurrently accredited to the European Union and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The Minute also seeks authority for the Minister for Foreign Affairs to determine the salary, allowances and other terms and conditions to apply to this appointment.

Dr Nelson is currently the Federal Member for Bradfield, a position he has held since 1996. He will resign from Parliament at the end of September. Dr Nelson was Leader of the Federal Opposition and Liberal Party from November 2007 to September 2008. Prior to this, Dr Nelson was Minister for Defence (2006-2007); Minister for Education, Science and Training (2001-2006) and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence (2001).

Prior to his parliamentary career, Dr Nelson was a general practitioner (1985-1995) and held a number of senior positions in the Australian Medical Association, including as Federal President (1993-95).

Dr Nelson was born in 1958 in Coburg, Victoria and was awarded a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Flinders University. He is married and has one son and one daughter.

1. The Honourable Dr Nelson MP is suitable for appointment as Ambassador of Australia to the Kingdom of Belgium by virtue of his prior experience and relevant background.



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Minister for Foreign Affairs

Authority:

Chapter II of the *Constitution*.



**CURRICULUM VITAE**

Name: The Hon Dr Brendan John Nelson MP

Address: Suite 8, 12-16 Tryon Road, Lindfield NSW 2070

Date of birth: 19 August 1958

Present position: Federal Member for Bradfield (NSW)

Educational and Professional qualifications: Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery, Flinders University  
MRACGP, FRACP (Hon), FAMA

Relevant experience:

2007-08	Leader of the Federal Opposition
2006-07	Minister for Defence
2001-06	Minister for Education, Science and Training
2001	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence
1996	Elected to the House of Representatives
1993-95	Federal President, Australian Medical Association
1991-93	Federal Vice-President, Australian Medical Association
1990-92	State President, Australian Medical Association (Tasmania Branch)
1985-95	General medical practitioner







Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

HER EXCELLENCY QUENTIN BRYCE AC  
GOVERNOR-GENERAL  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY MR HERMAN VAN ROMPUY  
PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Your Excellency,

Desiring to maintain and strengthen the good relations prevailing between Australia and the European Union, we have chosen our trusty and well-beloved the Honourable Dr Brendan John Nelson to be accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of the Mission of Australia to the European Union and to the European Atomic Energy Community.

The personal qualities of Dr Nelson, and the zeal and devotion which he has constantly displayed in the discharge of the duties entrusted to him, have convinced me that he will fully merit Your approbation and esteem.

Accordingly, we have every confidence in commending Dr Nelson to You and in requesting that You will receive him favourably and give entire credence to all that he shall communicate to You in my name or at the request of the Government of Australia, more especially when he renews to You the assurances of my friendship and my high esteem.

Governor-General

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Given and signed at

Date

21-1-10.



HER EXCELLENCY QUENTIN BRYCE AC

GOVERNOR-GENERAL  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

*In the name of Australia and by virtue of the powers  
exercisable by me under the Constitution of Australia:*

*To His Majesty King Albert II, King of the Belgians:*

*Your Majesty,*

*Being desirous to maintain and promote without  
interruption the relations of amity and concord which so happily  
exist between the Kingdom of Belgium and Australia, I have  
appointed The Honourable Dr Brendan John Nelson to reside  
near You in the character of Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of Australia.*

*Dr Nelson's high character, ability and commitment to duty assure me that he will discharge the duties of his Mission in such a manner as to merit Your approval and esteem.*

*I therefore request that You receive him favourably and give full credence to all that he may communicate to You in the name of Australia, and especially when he renews to You the assurance of my continuing interest in and good wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the Kingdom of Belgium.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

*In the name of Australia and by virtue of the powers  
exercisable by me under the Constitution of Australia:*

*To His Majesty King Albert II, King of the Belgians:*

*Your Majesty,*

*Penelope Dwyer*

At Government House in Canberra, the

14<sup>th</sup> day of *December*

Two Thousand and Nine





HER EXCELLENCY QUENTIN BRYCE AC

GOVERNOR-GENERAL  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

*In the name of Australia and by virtue of the powers exercisable by me under the Constitution of Australia:*

*To His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Luxembourg:*

*Your Royal Highness,*

*Being desirous to maintain and promote without interruption the relations of amity and concord which so happily exist between the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and Australia, I have appointed The Honourable Dr Brendan John Nelson to reside near You in the character of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Australia.*

*Dr Nelson's high character, ability and commitment to duty assure me that he will discharge the duties of his Mission in such a manner as to merit Your approval and esteem.*

*I therefore request that You receive him favourably and give full credence to all that he may communicate to You in the name of Australia, and especially when he renews to You the assurance of my continuing interest in and good wishes for the welfare and prosperity of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.*

GOVERNOR-GENERAL  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

*In the name of Australia and by virtue of the powers  
vested in me under the Constitution of Australia*

*To His Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Luxembourg*

*Your Royal Highness*

*Having read the letter for the aforesaid Grand Duke  
Thomas, who has been reading to me as Ambassador  
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Luxembourg, in the  
name of his Highness*

*John A. Byrne*

At Government House in Canberra, the

*4th* day of *May*

Two Thousand and Ten



THE HON STEPHEN SMITH MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

- 9 FEB 2010

Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen  
North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
Boulevard Leopold III  
1110 BRUSSELS

*Anders*  
Dear Secretary General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Australia has appointed the Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson as Representative of Australia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at Brussels, in succession to Dr Alan Thomas.

I ask that Dr Nelson be granted such facilities as may be necessary for the effective performance of his functions.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

*Warmest personal regards*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Step S' with a flourish.  
Stephen Smith