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## **CESAA NEWS**

### **CESAA Website**

CESAA committee would strongly suggest all scholars and those interested in European Union-Australian Affairs to stay “tuned” to the [CESAA website](#). This website contains up to date CESAA activities and it is also the site where you can find the Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies (ANZJES) publication.

### **CESAA Essay Competition 2019**

Last year’s Essay competition saw a great response with a number of participants submitting work on a range of European topics. Winners are listed on the CESAA website.

Due to the enthusiasm and success surrounding the competition, CESAA will be running another competition later in the year. Look out in the bulletin and website for more updates.

### **CESAA Twitter account**

CESAA is on twitter and is a great source for up to date information on current and relevant seminar events, news stories and links. Follow us here <https://twitter.com/CESAAus>

## **AUSTRALIA—EU NEWS**

### **Aus-EU Free Trade Agreement**

EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan has met for a Roundtable discussion with the Australian Agriculture Industry this month. In his address, Mr Hogan stated that both parties are like minded and committed to free, fair and rules based global trade. Despite this, agriculture remains one of the most challenging areas for the Aus-EU FTA negotiations. The 2019 DFAT report on Australia’s trade shows the the EU is the second largest trading partner, with two-way trade amounting to \$106 billion. The volume of trade indicates that a deal could be mutually beneficial to both parties.

## **EU NEWS**

### **Brexit**

The UK is scheduled to leave the EU on March 29 2019 and with just more than a month to go, there is still no clear arrangement for the parting of the UK with the EU. A major sticking point in negotiations continues to be the Irish border with details surrounding the backstop and whether the UK will remain as part of a customs union to prevent a hard border. The impasse ongoing with uncertainty for both sides. Donald Tusk, president of the European Council has been quoted saying ‘no news is not always good news’. While there is speculation that Prime Minister May is biding time until she can present the British parliament with an option of her Brexit deal or no deal .As time winds down, increased pressure for a delay of the Brexit date will mount, particularly from the EU side.

### **Economic Forecasts**

The Commission has forecast a 7th consecutive year of economic growth however growth will be moderate due to trade tension, fear of a new financial crisis and uncertainty surrounding Brexit. The EU growth is set to rise by 1.5% in 2019 and by 1.3% in the euro zone.

### **European Elections**

May 23rd to May 26 2019, Europeans will have the opportunity to choose their 705 MEPs for the next five years. It will be the first elections since 1979 where the

vote will not take place in the UK with only the remaining 27 member states able to take part in the vote. The major issues impacting voter decisions include trade policy, competition rules and the future direction of the EU.

## EU Politics Brief

### Greece

The Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras has survived a vote of confidence after his government lost the majority with the resignation of ally Panos Kammenos. The resignation was in protest to a deal made last year for the name change of Macedonia, in preparation for the Balkan country to join the EU.

The Greek Parliament has voted on the accession of North Macedonia to NATO on February 8 and has been the first country to ratify the protocol. The vote passed with 153 votes in support, 140 against and 1 abstention.

### Italy - France

Tensions and relations between two of the founding EU members has reached the lowest point in years. France has withdrawn its ambassador to Italy on February 7 due to frustration of French ministers at perceived sympathy of the Italian Government with leaders of *Gilets Jaunes*. The meeting in Paris was held with Luigi Di Maio, Italy's deputy prime minister and leader of Five Star Movement.

### Estonia

Elections will be held on March 3rd to elect 101 MPs with 1099 people from 10 different political parties and 16 Independents officially running.

### Spain

Spain's Supreme Court will house the trial for separatists who ran the unconstitutional referendum in Catalonia in 2017. Those on trial will answer charges of rebellion, sedition and misuse of public funds. A verdict is not expected for some months. The issue of Catalan independence is one that remains divided in Catalan society.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journals

*Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies*  
Volume 10 (2) is now available.

[Anzjes 10 \(2\)](#)

## EVENTS

### Public Lectures & Seminars

#### University of SA

28th February 6.00 - 7.30pm

Developing Closer Ties: EU Member State Perspectives of EU-Australian Relations

Held in Allan Scott Auditorium, Hawke Building UniSA City West Campus

This is a public event to discuss, dissect and debate the EU's relationship with Australia

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/Business-community/Hawke-Centre/Events-calendar/developing-closer-ties-eu-member-state-perspectives-on-eu-australia-relations/>

27th March 6.00 - 7.30pm

Europe - Quo Vadis: A German Perspective

Held in Bradley Forum, Hawke Building UniSA City West Campus

Lecture given by Dr Anna Elisabeth Prinz is the German Ambassador to Australia.

<http://www.unisa.edu.au/Business-community/Hawke-Centre/Events-calendar/guovadis/>

### Cultural Events and Symposiums

#### Melbourne Taranta Festival 2019

March 13 - March 17

Festival aimed at celebrating Italian music and dance.

[https://iicmelbourne.esteri.it/iic\\_melbourne/en/gli\\_eventi/calendario/2019/03/2019-melbourne-taranta-festival.html](https://iicmelbourne.esteri.it/iic_melbourne/en/gli_eventi/calendario/2019/03/2019-melbourne-taranta-festival.html)

#### Goethe Institut

Symposium: The Relevance of Culture in the Age of AI

Date: Friday 08 March 2019

Time: 4 pm – 8 pm

Address: Goethe-Institut in Sydney, 90 Ocean Street,  
Woollahra NSW 2025

Entry: Free with Eventbrite Registration.

[https://www.goethe.de/ins/au/en/ver.cfm?fuseaction=events.detail&event\\_id=21471662](https://www.goethe.de/ins/au/en/ver.cfm?fuseaction=events.detail&event_id=21471662)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Other

#### Horizon 2020

##### **Closing date: project dependent**

Horizon 2020, the EU Research and Innovation program, is a Europe 2020 flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Funding is based on competitive calls open to everyone. Participants from countries associated to the EU research framework program have the same rights as EU participants; for other countries, the situation varies.

Further information is available via the links below:

[horizon2020](#) [CESAA](#)

## MEMBERSHIP

### 2019 CESAA Membership

Individual, student and institutional memberships to CESAA for 2019 are now available

For further information on joining CESAA, including the membership form, see the CESAA website at [cesaa.org.au](http://cesaa.org.au)

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Please forward any items you would like considered for inclusion in the next issue of the CESAA Bulletin to [info@cesaa.org.au](mailto:info@cesaa.org.au) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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