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## **CESAA NEWS**

### **CESAA AGM .**

We are delighted to announce that at the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia (CESAA) held on 25 May, the meeting resolved to merge CESAA with its New Zealand equivalent to become the European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ). This form of greater regional cooperation marks an important milestone and development in expanding the profile of European Studies in both Australia and New Zealand and in making our activities even more effective. Join with us in celebrating this important milestone.

The merger will require passage of a special resolution to change the name and the rules of CESAA Inc to ESAANZ Inc. The proposed new Constitution was tabled at the meeting and has been sent to members. Please peruse it and make any suggestions to us ahead of the meeting on 15 June at which it will be voted on.

Also announced at our May 2020 AGM was the incorporation of a new Sydney branch to ESAANZ. This too gives us great optimism that this kind of national expansion of the activities of ESAANZ will enhance the awareness of European Studies and provide all greater awareness of the activities of the European Union. Another celebration for us all.

### **Celebrating Europe Day 2020**

The European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT - Social and Global Studies Centre and Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia (**CESAA**) were very pleased to host an online event to celebrate Europe Day 2020. The topic of the seminar was 'The European Union after

COVID-19: Where next for the new EU leadership?'. The speakers were Professor Bruno Mascitelli, President of CESAA, Dr Serena Kelly, University of Canterbury (NZ), and Dr Nina Marković-Khaze, Macquarie University. These three speakers represented the different parts of Australia and New Zealand that are committed to seeing the growth of European Studies in Australia and New Zealand.

The seminar, of course, took as its starting point the recent formation of the new College of Commissioners, led by Ursula von der Leyen, alongside a new President of the European Council, Charles Michel. The discussion touched on topics such as the European Green Deal, the exit of the UK from the EU, the accession of new Balkan states, and of course, the outbreak of COVID-19 with devastating consequences for many European citizens and significant disruption to the livelihoods of most Europeans.

### **CESAA Website**

CESAA Committee would strongly suggest all scholars and those interested in EU - Australian affairs to stay 'tuned' to the [CESAA](http://www.cesaa.org.au) 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 Twitter account**

CESAA is on twitter and it is a great source for up to date information on current and relevant seminar events, news stories and links. Follow us here [CESAA Twitter](https://twitter.com/CESAA_AU)

## **AUSTRALIA—EU NEWS**

### **Australia and the European Union back calls for an independent inquiry into the origins of COVID-19**

Australia and the European Union have largely led and supported a motion for an independent inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic. The motion has been met with some resistance from other nations but eventually received a unanimous vote. The details of how the inquiry will be conducted are still to be determined.

### **Aus-EU FTA**

The 6th round of negotiations were held on February 10 - 14. The EU negotiating team was led by Ms Helena König

while the Australian team was led by Ms Alison Burrows. The 7th round of negotiations is scheduled for May 2020. A report of the outcomes of the 6th round can be read following the below link.

[Aus-EU FTA Report 6th Round](#)

## EU NEWS

### Brexit and the UK

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that the issues surrounding the UK departure from the EU have not been front and centre, as they might otherwise have been. The possibility of walking away without a deal could have significant effects for UK citizens living in the EU. While the EU settlement scheme has been set up and functioning in the UK since March 2019 the same cannot be said for the majority of other member states. This uncertainty leaves an estimated three million UK citizens living and working in the EU with a great deal of uncertainty.

### The European response to the COVID-19 outbreak

The support strategies for the European economy continue to be decided. The Commission will deliver its plans for recovery on 27 May, however member states have differing ideas for how best to facilitate the recovery. The Franco-German proposal for a €500 billion fund within the EU budget has been countered by Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, who propose money should be paid to member states in the form of loans and not grants.

### Improvements and easing on restrictions

Member states continue to ease restrictions and resume activities. The process across most nations is stepped and occurring at different rates depending on the impact of COVID-19 felt in that location.

### Meeting of Tourism Ministers and Travel Guidelines

Tourism ministers have met and discussed the implementation of the Commission's guidelines for reopening borders. The four agreed principles include; European coordination, decision making based on epidemiological data, a gradual approach and non-discrimination of citizens.

Providing further guidance for travel is the joint publication by The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the

European Centre for Disease Prevention (ECDC). The document calls on airports and airlines to make the wearing of masks compulsory, along with strict social distancing practices.

### Croatia

President Zoran Milaanović has scheduled elections for 5 July after the dissolution of Parliament on 18 May.

### Hungary

The Orbán parliament, currently being run by decree due to COVID-19, has passed a bill making it impossible for people to legally change their gender. The bill states that all references to "sex" will refer to "sex assigned at birth". The change causes concern for the transgender community and may conflict with law conventions set in the European Court of Human Rights.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journals

*Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies*

Volume 12 (1) is now available.

[Volume 12 \(1\)](#)

## EVENTS

### Call for Papers

#### ANZJES - Call for Papers

We encourage the submission of papers from research on contemporary European studies across all disciplines.

Submission for consideration in the journal can be found

[here](#)

### Conferences .

#### National

#### SDG 13 - Climate Action

Jean Monnet Sustainable Development Goals Network Seminar Series - ONLINE

Tuesday, 26 May 2020, 12:30pm – 2pm - FREE event

From 2018–20, the [Jean Monnet Sustainable Development Goals Network](#) Seminar Series will address each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each seminar focuses on an individual Goal, offering an opportunity to explore the intent of the Goal, its targets, and some of the initiatives being undertaken to deliver on them. Each seminar will be accompanied by a [Policy Brief](#).

Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action. SDG 13 aims to 'take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts'. What does this mean, and how will this be achieved? What projects are already underway to deliver on this goal?

Register for the event below

[REGISTER HERE](#)

#### **RMIT EU Centre Event: Italy and the EU**

##### **ONLINE Event**

**Wednesday, 3 June, 4.00 - 5.30pm - FREE event**

This online event will discuss Italy-European Union relations with authors of the new book *Italy and the European Union: A rollercoaster journey*.

Guest speakers :

Associate Professor Marco Brunazzo, University of Trento in Italy

Bruno Mascitelli, Swinburne University of Technology in Australia.

Register for the event below

[REGISTER HERE](#)

##### **International.**

**POSTPONED - Date to be confirmed at a later stage**

#### **EUSAAP Annual Conference**

**EU's institutional Leadership and the new priorities and challenges for the EU 27**

#### **Christchurch, New Zealand**

This annual conference also serves as the 20th anniversary celebration of the National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE) at the University of Canterbury, the host of the conference. To build capacity and sustainability in EU Studies in the Asia Pacific region both academics as well as graduate students are invited to participate. Early career researchers will be able to benefit from networking with more experienced participants, develop important research and presentation skills and bring new and different perspectives to the conference.

#### **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](#)

#### **Membership**

##### **2020 CESAA Membership**

Individual, student and institutional memberships to CESAA for 2020 are now available

For further information on joining CESAA,, see the CESAA website at [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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