



Bulletin
May edition

Co-edited by: Dr Serena Kelly and Mel
Haworth

Editors' Report

Welcome to the latest Bulletin from the European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ). We are delighted to announce the appointment of Associate Professor Gosia Klatt as President of ESAANZ. Other appointments to the committee included: Vice-President – Serena Kelly; Treasurer and Secretary – Mathew Harvey; Social media manager - Cashias Gumbo; Membership and Website Manager- Will Domvo; Australian representative: Matt Harvey; New Zealand representatives: Mathew Doidge and Serena Kelly.

30 Year Anniversary of ESAANZ

To mark 30 years of Following the AGM, ESAANZ was also delighted to be addressed by long-time former President, Bruno 'From CESAA to ESAANZ: 30 years of the European Studies Association in Australia. Bruno's talk was a timely reminder of the development of our Association since its founding in 1991. This included an examination records and files available, as well as his personal experience as a member of CESAA and then as President of the Association since 2004 until 2021. Thank you Bruno! The recording of the presentation is available on the ESSANZ website.



Europe in the News

Europe continues to dominate the international news landscape with the ongoing Russo-Ukraine conflict and its many ramifications. While the Russo-Ukraine conflict is rightfully on the forefront of everyone's minds, the EU continues to make the news on other fronts.

2022 Russo-Ukraine Conflict Update

As the Russo-Ukrainian conflict enters its 88th day, the situation has changed dramatically since our February Bulletin. Over 4 million Ukrainian citizens have fled Ukraine into neighbouring countries. In response to the invasion, the European Union has activated a [Temporary Protective Directive](#) for Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war and Ukraine has officially applied for membership the EU.

Several trials for war crimes committed against Ukrainian citizens by Russian forces have commenced. Notably, the [first verdict has been reached with 21 year old Vadim Shishimarin](#) sentenced to life in prison for the killing of an elderly Ukrainian citizen.

The Western response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine has been rapid and almost universal in extending support to Ukraine. However, criticism has arisen to this response. [Many European nations states and have been criticised for their hypocrisy in](#) welcoming Ukrainian

refugees quickly and without criteria, as opposed to their response to the 2015 migrant crisis. Although it was hoped that Ukraine could make a quick entry into the EU, [several European officials including France's minister for European affairs, Clément Beaune](#), have reiterated that the accession process for Ukraine is likely to take 15-20 years.

Eurovision

Another year of Eurovision has come and gone with Ukrainian entry Kulush Orchestra being crowned the 2022 winners with their song “Stefania”. This win not only highlights the political undertone of Eurovision, but also shows the wide support for Ukraine from other European states. European Council President Charles Michel extended his congratulations stating that he hope [Eurovision would be able to be hosted next year in a free and united Ukraine](#).

The event was not free from complications however, with [Italian police reporting](#) several hacking attempts from Pro-Russian groups of Italy's key institutions, including their Senate and National Health Institute, during the Eurovision events. Russia was banned from Eurovision this year after its invasion of Ukraine.

In perhaps the most surprising turn of events for Eurovision this year the United Kingdom- who has a recent record of placing poorly in Eurovision- [came in second place](#). This is the best result for the UK since their 1998 entry.

Swedish and Finnish hopes to join NATO

In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, [Sweden and Finland have recently announced their intention to join NATO](#). Sweden has traditionally held a position of political neutrality while Finland has its own unique approach dubbed “Finlandization” which balanced interests between Europe and Russia. If [Finland and Sweden will be safer with NATO membership](#) is a question echoed widely in news reports. One thing is certain; the political face of Europe is undoubtedly changing.

News from the Jean Monnet Centre's of Excellence

European Union Centre of Excellence - RMIT University

On 12 May 2022, the European Union Centre of Excellence at RMIT University has celebrated Europe Day. Europe Day is held on 9 May every year and celebrates the anniversary of the historic 'Schuman declaration' signed in 1950 that set out his idea for a new form of political cooperation in Europe, which would make war between Europe's nations unthinkable. The legacy of Europe Day is focused on peace, democracy, human rights, unity, cooperation, discussion and openness.

The theme of Europe Day 2022 was *Energy Policy and Politics in Europe*. The event gathered an esteemed panel of presenters including:

- His Excellency Dr Michael Pulch, EU Ambassador to Australia
- His Excellency Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault, Ambassador of France to Australia
- Ms Pru Bokobza, expert in innovative energy solutions.

The event was organised jointly with the European Studies Association Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ), Australian Institute of International Affairs - Victoria, and Delegation of the European Union to Australia.

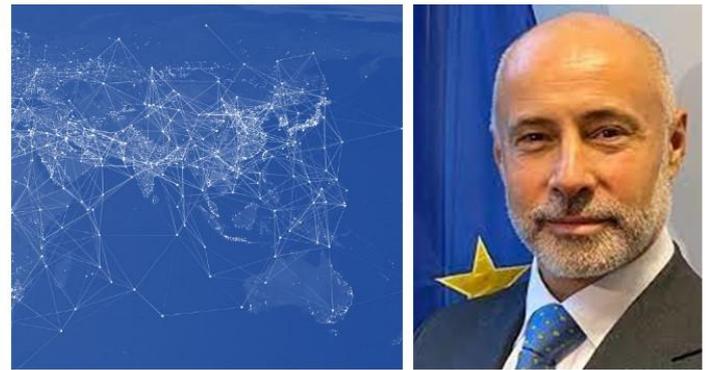


National Centre for Research on Europe, University of Canterbury

On the 17th May, Mr Gabriele Visentin, EU Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific gave a special lecture on the EU Indo-Pacific Strategy. It is an especially important topic for the strategic partnership between the EU and Aotearoa New Zealand.

The National Centre for Research on Europe is also pleased to announce a successful start to their 2022 diplomatic seminar series: The EU responding to the challenges of 2022. This year's new Q&A format has proven popular and allows the NCRE's post-graduate students to host and interview the ambassadors. The NCRE would like to thank Ambassador Kowal, H.E. Ambassador Obermaier and Ambassador Woldberg for their excellent and thought-provoking answers on the current challenges of 2022.

The series is open to all and accessible via zoom link. Please see next page for the list of dates and speakers.



EUROPA Lecture

The EU Indo-Pacific Strategy

Guest:

Mr Gabriele Visentin, EU Special Envoy for the Indo-Pacific

Tuesday 17 May, 5:45 pm, *Followed by a Reception*

GBLT1, Law Faculty, Pipitea Campus

Victoria University Wellington

Please register via: <https://events.humanitix.com/europa-lecture>



Mr. Gabriele Visentin with chair Dr. Nick Smith

Diplomatic Seminars 2022

EU27

TRADE UKRAINE RUSSIA
CHINA CLIMATE CHANGE
POST-BREXIT EUROPE COVID-19 EU-NZ FTA
WESTERN BALKAN ACCESSION MIGRATION
SCHENGEN SDGs

The EU – responding to the challenges of 2022

Fridays 2–3pm, Term 1 & 2 2022 – NCRE, Logie 613

6 MAY	Ambassador of Poland – Grzegorz Kowal
13 MAY	Ambassador of the EU – Nina Obermaier
20 MAY	Ambassador of the Netherlands – Mira Woldberg
27 MAY	Ambassador of Ireland – Peter Ryan
3 JUNE	Ambassador of Spain – Fernando Curcio Ruigómez
22 JULY	TBA
5 AUGUST	Ambassador of Hungary – Zsolt Hetesy
12 AUGUST	Ambassador of France – TBA

- Thought-provoking roundtable seminars with European diplomats
- Q&A sessions and open discussions
- Open to all
- Accessible via Zoom

For more information

E: ncre@canterbury.ac.nz

Join our facebook group:

EUCN-New Zealand European Union Centres Network Or National Centre for Research on Europe – European & European Union Studies



NCRE2022

University of South Australia

The University of South Australia's Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence has recently received funding by the European Commission's Erasmus+ programme to support activities including outreach, public diplomacy initiatives and research that will "investigate, report on and influence developments surrounding the digital revolution and digital policy between the EU and Australia." More information can be found here: [European Union awards UniSA prestigious Centre of Excellence](#)

Updates from fellow European Institutes in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

University of Auckland European Institute

The University of Auckland European Institute has hosted two events recently; a 'Hot Topic' Seminar on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and a conversation with Vangelis Vitalis on the future of EU-NZ trade. The UoA European Institute writes:

"The Europe Institute in an EU co-funded event held one of its Hot Topic Seminars on the Russian invasion of Ukraine, "Beyond the sound-bites: Contextualising the Russian invasion of Ukraine on March 18. The panel of experts from a range of disciplines and backgrounds examined the historical, political, legal, diplomatic, and intercultural contexts to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its implications for Europe, Aotearoa New Zealand, and the world."

The Europe Institute hosted the following 'conversation' on 2 May 2022: The future of NZ-Europe trade: In conversation with Vangelis Vitalis, (Head of the Trade Group at MFAT, and Chief Negotiator of the NZ-EU FTA – former NZ Ambassador to EU). In his responses, Mr. Vitalis painted a picture of how, in ten years' time, NZ-Europe trade may look different from how it looks today. NZ-EU FTA under negotiation. He also spoke to questions of climate change and sustainability as both NZ and Europe have big ambitions in this important area and may shape the future of NZ-Europe bilateral trade.

Mr. Vitalis also spoke on digital trade, in light of the Waitangi Tribunal's recent determinations and the implications for the future of NZ-Europe trade and also spoke on digital trends in Europe. The 'conversation' is also available on-line for those who missed it and would like to listen to it: [Listen here](#)"

Updates from the European Union Delegation to Australia

EU Ambassador to Australia Dr Michael Pulch and Ambassador of France Jean-Pierre Thébault recently joined Professor Rory Medcalf on the *National Security Podcast* to discuss the EU strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. [Listen to the podcast episode here](#)

Recent publications by EEAANZ members and colleagues

Author

Article

Dr Mat Doidge and *Understanding Ukraine's symbolic fight to return to Europe, as the*

Dr Serena Kelly *EU marks 18 years since its 'big bang' enlargement*

[Click here to read article](#)

If you wish to have something included in a future ESAANZ bulletin, please contact Mel Haworth

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