Ref. Ares(2026)1446843 - 09/02/2026

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRADE

Directorate C – Africa, Caribbean and Pacific, Asia (II), Trade and Sustainable Development, Green Deal
The Director

Brussels
TRADE.C.2/SP/pg/(2026)1436984

Dr. Robert Harrison
Co-Chair German Australian
Business Council
On behalf of the Australian
Business in Europe Network (ABIE)
Postfach 120143
60114 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
office@gabc.eu

Dear Dr. Harrison,

Thank you for your letter of 27 January addressed to President von der Leyen, in which you emphasize the strategic imperative for the EU-Australia Free Trade Agreement.

Given that the European Union's trade relations with Australia are part of my portfolio within the European Commission's Directorate-General for Trade, your letter has been transmitted to me, and it is my pleasure to reply to you.

Let me express that we fully share the position you outlined. Concluding a free trade agreement between the European Union and Australia would be important both from an economic as well as a geopolitical perspective, particularly in this moment of profound change for global trade.

An ambitious free trade agreement would not only bring additional benefits to the exporters and consumers on both sides but also send a strong signal about our shared commitment to the rules-based international trading system.

President von der Leyen and Prime Minister Albanese last met on 21 November. They took note of the progress made during the stocktaking phase over the last months and confirmed both sides' intention to conclude the negotiations.

At present, technical discussions are ongoing and both sides are working on bridging outstanding differences.

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË – Tel. +32 22991111
Office: CHAR 06/032 – Tel. direct line +32 229-50101

Dora.Correia@ec.europa.eu

We hope to be able to reach a comprehensive deal that is both economically meaningful and politically viable and very much welcome your support in achieving an outcome that would contribute to strengthening trade, investment, business and other relationships between the European Union and Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Dora CORREIA

cc: U. von der Leyen,, M. Šefčovič, (CAB)
Bernd Lange (EU PAR)

Electronically signed on 09/02/2026 15:49 (UTC+01) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121