



PARLIAMENT  
OF AUSTRALIA

# Australian Parliamentary Delegation

European Union/France  
5–9 December 2022

REPORT | March 2023



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# Members of the Delegation

## Leader of the Delegation

The Hon Shayne Neumann MP  
Member for Blair, Queensland  
Australian Labor Party

## Delegates

Mr Rowan Ramsey MP  
Member for Grey, South Australia  
Liberal Party of Australia

Mr Jerome Laxale MP  
Member for Bennelong, New South Wales  
Australian Labor Party

Ms Rebekha Sharkie MP  
Member for Mayo, South Australia  
Centre Alliance

## Officials

Mr Gerry McNally  
Delegation Secretary

## Introduction

This report gives an account of the Australian Parliamentary Delegation to the European Parliament and France from 5 to 9 December 2022.

The delegation's aims and objectives were to:

- Continue to strengthen parliamentary relationships with the European Union (EU) and France;
- Communicate that Australia is committed to concluding a comprehensive and ambitious trade agreement with the EU as soon as possible;
- Welcome the entry into force of the EU-Australia Framework Agreement on 21 October 2022;
- Highlight our close work with the EU to support Ukraine and hold Russia to account for its illegal invasion;
- Build on the Joint Statement by Prime Minister Albanese and French President Macron on 1 July 2022 that:
  - reaffirmed their “commitment to building a closer and stronger bilateral relationship based on mutual trust and respect”
  - noted their agreement to “establish a new agenda for cooperation based on three pillars: defence and security; resilience and climate action; and education and culture”
  - and instructed their officials to develop a detailed roadmap based on these three pillars; and
- Discuss Australia and France's shared vision for a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific including through the EU's Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and the EU's Global Gateway infrastructure-focused initiative.

## Acknowledgements

Prior to departure, the delegation received a helpful and informative briefing from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Canberra.

During the visit, the delegation was accompanied by officers located within the Australian Embassy to Belgium and Luxembourg, led by Ambassador Caroline Millar; and with officers located within the Australian Embassy to France, led by Ambassador Gillian Bird PSM.

The delegation is greatly appreciative of the effort made to accommodate its needs and to ensure a successful visit.

The delegation particularly wishes to thank:

- Angela McGrath, Counsellor (Trade and Advocacy), and Angela Hansen, (Second Secretary) Visit Liaison Officer, Embassy of Australia to Belgium and Luxembourg, Mission to the European Union and NATO;
- Vrinda Tiwari, (Second Secretary) Visit Liaison Officer; Sean Manning, Visit Support Staff; and Sarah Moretti, Interpreter, Embassy of Australia to France.

Finally, the delegation thanks all the individuals and organisations that graciously gave time to meet with the delegation and expresses appreciation for the warm welcomes and hospitality received.

The Hon Shayne Neumann MP  
Member for Blair, Queensland  
Australian Labor Party

## Report of activities

Monday 5 December 2022

### Embassy briefing with Ambassador Caroline Millar and staff

The delegation met with Ambassador Caroline Millar, who, along with key DFAT staff, provided a detailed briefing on the key elements of the visit, and its anticipated outcomes.

The Ambassador and her team emphasised the importance of the trip in terms of developing and maintaining Australia's strong relationship with the EU. The Ambassador also highlighted that the ongoing negotiations for the trade agreement between Australia and the EU made it a particularly significant time for the visit.



*Members of the delegation arrive at the Embassy of Australia in Brussels*

The delegation heard of the numerous challenges currently facing the EU, which include the war in Ukraine and the subsequent energy crisis. There was also in-depth discussion on the current policies of the EU on trade, including its European Green Deal, and its relationship with China and the Indo-Pacific.

## Trade

The 2017 [Australia-EU Framework Agreement](#) (entered into force 21 October 2022) provides a platform for cooperation in economics and trade, research and innovation, counter-terrorism, development, non-proliferation, human rights, democracy promotion, climate change and environment, education and culture, and justice.

Round 13 of the Australia-EU Trade Agreement negotiations was held in Brussels from 17–21 October 2022. The agreement will build on Australia and the EU's natural partnership, arising out of a shared commitment to the rule of law, global norms and free and open markets. As a bloc, the EU was Australia's second largest trading partner in 2020-21 (\$77.8 billion), as well as our sixth largest export destination and fourth largest services export market. The EU was our second largest source of foreign investment in 2021 (\$763 billion). There is strong political momentum on both sides to conclude the agreement in 2023.

## War in Ukraine

In response to Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, Australia has imposed unprecedented and comprehensive sanctions against Russia, and provided AUD 655 million in assistance to date. This includes AUD 475 million in military assistance and AUD 65 million in humanitarian assistance.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has adversely impacted the global economy, with widespread energy, commodity and trade disruption. This is slowing global growth, alongside factors (such as tightening monetary policy to combat inflation in major economies and slowing economic growth in China). Interest rate hikes across major economies are placing additional pressures on emerging market and developing economies, increasing inflation and negatively impact household spending, and may lead to unrest and instability in vulnerable economies.

On 30 March 2022, the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Australia and New Zealand (DANZ) met virtually with the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Hon Andrew Wallace MP, and had an exchange of views on Russian aggression against Ukraine and security cooperation between Australia and the EU.



## **Indo-Pacific**

Australia and the EU are increasing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific to enhance security, stability and improve the coordination of development cooperation assistance among donors to the region. This is underpinned by the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific (September 2021), its €8.49 billion aid commitment to Asia and the Pacific for 2021-2027, and its €300 billion Global Gateway initiative to support investments in infrastructure development around the world (December 2021).

There has never been a more consequential time for the strong partnership between Australia and the EU at this time of great strategic challenges in both the Indo-Pacific and the Euro-Atlantic.

## **Climate action**

The EU is focused on climate action. The 2020 European Green Deal is a set of policy initiatives by the European Commission with the aim of making the EU climate neutral by 2050. This involves sweeping legislative and regulatory initiatives for a cleaner environment, more affordable energy, smarter transport, new jobs and an overall better quality of life. Australia's ambition to be a major green ammonia/hydrogen exporter has great potential to support Europe's plans for energy transition and security.

A number of stakeholders have recommended the adoption of a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) in Australia to manage carbon leakage risks. The Government is considering the views of stakeholders, including on design elements of the reformed Safeguard Mechanism.

## **Guided visit to the EU Parliamentarium**

The delegation was guided through the Parliamentarium, which is the visitors' centre of the European Parliament. It hosts a number of exhibitions that explain how the European Parliament functions, how legislation is passed, and the importance of the European Parliament for European citizens.

The delegation found the innovative and interactive displays illustrating the EU's political journey through all stages of its integration highly informative.



*Delegation members in the EU Parliamentarium*

### **Australia-EU Inter-Parliamentary Committee Meeting**

The meeting with DANZ was central to the delegation's visit to the European Parliament. The delegation functions similarly to a parliamentary committee and comprised members from across a broad span of European countries, and political parties. DANZ is chaired by Ms Ulrike Müller, a German Member of the European Parliament from the RENEW Europe political group.



*Members of the delegation and the DANZ committee*

The session was the 42<sup>nd</sup> Inter-parliamentary meeting of DANZ. Alongside the delegation and the Chair, Ms Müller, other attendees included Ms Josianne Cutajar, Vice Chair, from Malta, Mr Morten Løkkegaard from Denmark, and Mr Luliu Winkler from Romania.

In a broad-ranging discussion the meeting considered an extensive range of topics. Amongst these were the war in Ukraine. Australian parliamentarians expressed their solidarity with the unified nature of the firm response from the EU to Russian invasion. There was also discussion on the EU and Australia's relationship with China. The Australian delegation reported on the Australian Government's more "constructive" approach to China, while maintaining that they would still be assertive in defending the core values of democracy and human rights and in actively opposing all interferences by Beijing.

The discussion moved the negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and Australia. Both parties agreed on the need to overcome persisting divisive issues and to speed up the conclusion of the negotiations.

On climate change, the delegation discussed the steps and measures currently being debated and developed in the EU, and highlighted the progress taken by the Australian Government since the recent election. The broad impact of the EU's

climate related policies on a raft of other areas such as trade was also considered in the meeting, with the delegation welcoming the EU's position as world leaders on tackling climate change.

A further topic of discussion was digitisation and the use and protection of data. Both sides agreed that more global cooperation is required to ensure a higher level of data protection. The DANZ members highlighted the recent EU Cybersecurity Act that introduces an EU-wide cybersecurity certification framework for ICT products, services and processes. Companies doing business in the EU will have to certify their ICT products, processes and services only once to see their certificates recognised across the European Union.

The meeting concluded in a spirit of diplomatic unity and pledges to continue the warm, collegiate and constructive relationship into the future.

**Dinner hosted by Ms Ulrike Müller, Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Australia and New Zealand (DANZ)**

Following the DANZ meeting, the delegation undertook a short tour of the European Parliament before joining Ms Müller, Ambassador Millar and a number of key European Parliament staff for dinner.

Tuesday 6 December 2022

### Guided visit of the House of European History

The House of European History is a history museum and cultural institution in Brussels, focusing on the history of Europe. It is an initiative by the European Parliament, and was proposed in 2007 by the Parliament's then-President, Hans-Gert Pöttering. It opened on 6 May 2017.



*The outside of the House of European History*

The delegation took part in a guided tour of the museum, and the current permanent exhibitions comprising the following:

- Shaping Europe;
- Europe: A Global Power;
- Europe in Ruins;
- Rebuilding a Divided Continent;
- Shattering Certainties; and
- Europe Now.

The tour generated animated discussion within the delegation on how best to exhibit the history of such a complex geographical and political continent.

## Meeting with the Chair of the Belgian Federal Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, Mrs Els Van Hoof

The delegation left the European Parliament and took advantage of the opportunity to meet with the Chair of the Belgian Federal Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, Mrs Els Van Hoof.

The delegation had a fruitful discussion with Mrs Van Hoof on Belgium's current foreign relations priorities and challenges. The meeting covered an extensive array of topics including the war in Ukraine, including the subsequent refugee intake, energy prices, and relations with China.



*The Hon Shayne Neumann MP with Mrs Van Hoof*

Mrs Van Hoof was strong in her condemnation of Russia, especially in terms of what she described as a deliberate policy to generate a refugee crisis for Europe, in the hope of influencing EU and national politics to favour far-right political parties.

## Meeting with Mr Filip Watteeuw, Alderman for Mobility, Public Space and Urban Planning on Ghent's Good Circulation Plan

Members of the delegation had expressed interest in urban planning and anti-congestion measures prior to the trip. It was with this in mind that the delegation

travelled to Ghent to meet with Mr Filip Watteeuw, Alderman for Mobility, Public Space and Urban Planning on Ghent's Good Circulation Plan.

The Ghent Circulation Plan (the Plan) is intended to reduce the traffic in the city centre and enable increased access and mobility to those who have to be there. The Plan was introduced by Mr Filip Watteeuw, Alderman for Mobility, Public Space and Urban Planning, in April 2017 after a two-year consultation process.

Mr Watteeuw gave a presentation to the delegation in the city chambers, and explained the principles underpinning the Plan, as well as the various benefits achieved, and lessons learned in the process.

Members of the delegation were keen to understand the impacts of the Plan on residents, as well as the economic implications for business and investment in the city.



*The Hon Shayne Neumann MP, with Mr Filip Watteeuw*

### **Meeting with Director of Flinders Classics, Mr Scott Sutherland**

Next on the committee's busy itinerary was a meeting with Mr Scott Sutherland, an Australian and former pro-cyclist who is now director of a number of internationally renowned bike races around the world.

Mr Sutherland led a convivial discussion on the benefits of cycling tourism. A number of the delegation were keen to explore how their electorates could benefit from

increased bike tourism, and were especially keen to hear about the infrastructure and support required to attract international cycling events.



*Members of the delegation and Mr Scott Sutherland*

### **Dinner with Ieper officials, including WGCdr Jesse Laroche (Australian Defence Attaché Belgium)**

The committee travelled to Ieper to attend the Last Post Ceremony. Prior to the ceremony they dined with the following officials from Ieper who actively contribute to the support of the ceremony:

- Mr Benoit Mottrie – Chairman of the Last Post Association;
- Mr Geert Bekaert – Area Director, Central and Southern Europe Area, Commonwealth War Graves Commission;
- Mr Peter Slosse OBE – Tourism Ieper; and
- WGCdr Jesse Laroche – Australian Defence Attaché, Belgium.

### **Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate**

The Last Post was a bugle call played in the British Army (and in the armies of many other lands) to mark the end of the day's labours and the onset of the night's rest. In the context of the Last Post Ceremony (and in the broader context of remembrance), it has come to represent a final farewell to the fallen at the end of their earthly labours and at the onset of their eternal rest. The ceremony has been running daily at the Menin Gate since 1928, with a break of four years during the Second World War.



The delegation was grateful for the opportunity to participate in the daily ceremony. The leader of the delegation, Mr Neumann, and the delegation members laid a wreath at the Menin Gate, following the recital of the Exhortation by Australian Defence Attaché, WGCDR Jesse Laroche.



*Members of the delegation and the Last Post Association, leper*

The delegation was extremely moved by the ceremony, and on behalf of Australia thanks all those who take part and make it possible.

Wednesday 7 December 2022

### Meeting and site visit with Addax Motors, Deerlijk

Members of the delegation had expressed an interest in visiting an electric vehicle manufacturer if possible. Addax Motors is a relatively young company in the town of Deerlijk in the province of West Flanders in Belgium.

The company produces compact electric vehicles designed for use by cities or municipalities in areas such as mail delivery or facilities management. The company CEO Jean-Charles Carrette and his staff delivered a presentation to the delegation, outlining the scope of the company's activities and ambitions, before guiding the members round the factory.



*Members of the delegation and staff from Addax Motors*

### Arrival at the Sir John Monash Centre (SJMC) and working lunch with staff, Villers-Bretonneux

From Deerlijk the delegation crossed the Belgium-French border and made the journey to the small town of Villers-Bretonneux, and specifically to the Sir John Monash Centre (SJMC). They were met by the Director of the Centre, Ms Rebecca Doyle, and her staff.

The delegation was briefed on the history and operation of the centre and undertook a tour. The centre was opened in April 2018 to honour the more than 290,000 Australian soldiers who served on the Western Front, and the 46,000 who died there.

The Centre is named after General Sir John Monash, who led the Australian Corps with outstanding success on the Western Front in 1918. His success in the famous victory at Le Hamel became a template for military operations that followed. It is designed to educate a new audience about Australia's early role in international affairs, and to share the stories of ordinary Australians doing extraordinary things on the battlefields of the Western Front.

### **Meeting with Director of Somme Tourisme, Francois Bergez**

As part of its visit to the centre the delegation met with the Director of Somme Tourism, Francois Bergez. Monsieur Bergez delivered a presentation on the various highlights of the region, beyond the battlefields, which many know the region for.

The delegation was particularly interested in the highly developed cycle tourism strategy that the agency has successfully developed in the region.



*Members of the delegation and Monsieur Francois Bergez and Ms Rebecca Doyle, Director of the SJMC*

### **Walk-through visit of the Franco-Australian Museum and Victoria School Hall**

The delegation departed the SJMC and visited the small town of Villers-Bretonneux itself. The local primary school hosts the Franco-Australian Museum. It is also the site of the Victoria School Hall.

The museum was reopened in 2017 following a substantial refurbishment. The Australian Government contributed more than \$2 million to the project, which included the reconstruction and refurbishment of a complete section of the existing Victoria School, in which the museum is located. The now larger and more contemporary museum facility houses the Franco-Australian Association's extensive collection of objects.

The refurbishment was conducted as part of the Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front under an Australian Government initiative delivered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs in cooperation with French and Belgian authorities.



*Members of the delegation with the mayor of Villers-Bretonneux and staff of the Franco-Australian Museum*

The Victoria Hall was built in 1923-27 to replace the school destroyed in 1918. The project was predominantly funded with money raised by returning Australian soldiers. The school is a symbol of ties uniting France and Australia. These ties were reinforced by the initiative to launch a fundraiser for a school in the state of Victoria, ravaged by fire in 2009. In 3 months, 14,000 euros were collected and used in part to rebuild the school in Strathewen, Victoria.

The delegation was met in Villers-Bretonneux by DFAT officials from the Australian Embassy to France who accompanied them to Paris.

## Official Dinner and briefing at Australian Embassy to France

The delegation met with Ambassador Gillian Bird, who, along with the following key Australian representatives, provided a detailed briefing on the key elements of the visit, and its anticipated outcomes:

- Ambassador of Australia to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Megan Anderson;
- Ambassador of Australia to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Brendan Pearson; and
- General Manager of Austrade Europe, Jennifer McKinley.

Thursday 8 December 2022

## Meeting with President and members of the Commission des affaires économiques - Assemblée nationale, Paris

In one of the most important meetings of the visit, the delegation had a breakfast meeting with the President and members of the Commission des affaires économiques - Assemblée nationale (Economic affairs committee):

- Guillaume Kasbarian, President;
- Charles Rodwell, MP; and
- Annaig Le Meur, MP



*Members of the delegation and members of the Commission des affaires économiques - Assemblée nationale*

The delegation and members of the committee discussed a range of topics pertinent to both France and Australia. The cost and accessibility of energy resources was central to the discussion.

The committee informed the delegation of France's approach to the energy crisis brought on by Russia's aggression in Ukraine. France currently subsidises energy costs for individuals and small businesses, but the committee warned that this was not sustainable in the longer term. The policy has also helped to maintain inflation at

the relatively low level of 6%. In the longer term France hopes to reopen some nuclear power plants and reduce reliance on international energy supplies.

France's energy policy foresees nuclear power being part of a mix of energy generation incorporating various renewable energy sources.

Another major topic of discussion was the Free Trade Agreement between and Australia and the EU. The committee discussed agriculture as being one of the key issues in the negotiations, and welcomed the delegation's perspective on the benefits the agreement would bring to France and the EU.

### **Guided tour of the National Assembly**

The delegation toured the extensive buildings of the National Assembly. The tour took them through the lavishly designed buildings and chamber of the assembly, including the libraries and the courtyards.



*Palais Bourbon courtyard, meeting place of the Assemblée Nationale*

### **Tour of Musée du Quai Branly Aboriginal Art collection**

The delegation was invited to the Musée du Quai Branly to view the extensive and hugely impressive Aboriginal Art Collection. The tour was led by the Curator of the museum, Monsieur Nicolas Garnier.

The Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, is a museum designed by French architect Jean Nouvel to feature the indigenous art and cultures of Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas.

The museum hosts several highly impressive Aboriginal art installations, including a rooftop installation by artist Lena Nyadbi, commissioned in 2013, and the hallway on the left, painted by several Aboriginal artists in 2006.



*The Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac*



## Australia-France Friendship Group Lunch at the French Senate

The delegation was then invited to the French Senate for a lunch with the Australia-France Friendship Group. The lunch was hosted by the newly elected President of the Friendship group in the Senate, Senator Jean-Michel Houllegatte. Other members of the group who attended were Senators Olivier Cadic, Didier Marie, Catherine Procaccia, Philippe Folliot, and Claude Raynal.

Mr Laxale, as president of the equivalent group in the Australian Parliament, thanked the group for their hospitality and welcomed the ongoing engagement between the bodies.



*Mr Jerome Laxale MP thanking the Australia-France Friendship Group*

## Meeting with President of the Commission de la défense nationale et des forces armées - Assemblée nationale (the defence and armed forces committee)

The delegation travelled back to the National Assembly to meet with the Commission de la défense nationale et des forces armées. The meeting was chaired by the President, Thomas Gasilloud. Other committee members in attendance included:

- Nicolas Metzdorf, MP;
- Jean-Charles Larssonneur, MP;
- Tematai Le Gayic, MP;
- Philippe Dunoyer, MP;
- Jean-Pierre Cubertfon, MP; and
- Josy Poueyto, MP.



*The delegation and Ambassador with Thomas Gasilloud, President of the Commission de la défense nationale et des forces armées and other members*

The discussion again was broad ranging, and commenced with a frank discussion on the recent decision by Australia to enter into negotiations with the UK and the US to develop nuclear power submarines. Both parties were in agreement that the bilateral relationship should be reset, and welcomed recent engagement at the ministerial and prime ministerial levels that focused on moving past the submarine issue.

The issue of China, and its role in the Indo-Pacific region was also a focus of both parties. France and Australia both have a significant strategic presence in the region, and talked positively of increasing partnerships and engagement to maintain and strengthen the geo-political status quo based on democratic principles and the rule of law.

### **Dinner with former Australian Ambassador to Mr Brendan Berne and Senior Advisor to Mayor of Beaune, Charlotte Fougères**

The delegation travelled by train to Beaune in Burgundy to focus on the issue of wine tourism. Beaune is a small medieval town in the province of Burgundy, and while relatively small in population, hosts over two million visitors a year.

Members of the delegation took the opportunity to meet with the former Australian Ambassador Mr Brendan Byrne, who was accompanied by the Senior Advisor to the Mayor of Beaune, Charlotte Fougères.

Friday 9 December 2022

### Meeting with Jane Eyre, Australian winemaker

The delegation was invited to meet Jane Eyre, an Australian winemaker who has relocated to the region. Ms Ayre is an independent winemaker who quit her job in Australia in 1988 and left for France to pursue a new career as a winemaker.

In January 2021 Ms Eyre became the first Australian, and the first woman, to win the Negociant of the Year award by the Revue du Vin de France, an insider's guide to France's finest bottles.

The prestigious title recognizes the talent of a particular brand of winemaker – independent players who don't own vineyards but buy grapes from others to make their own.

The delegation was fascinated by Ms Eyre's journey to where she is today, and were extremely grateful she took the time to educate them on the complexities of the industry.



*Ms Jane Eyre, independent winemaker*

### Meeting on wine and cycling tourism in Beaune

The delegation met with tourism officials from Beaune:

- President of the Office of Tourism of Beaune, Anne Caillaud;
- Director of the Office of Tourism, Pascale Guerson; and
- Deputy Director of the Office of Tourism, Françoise Bidot.



*Members of the delegation with officials from the Beaune Office of Tourism*

The President, Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Tourism delivered a highly informative presentation on how they combine wine and tourism as two pillars of their tourism strategy. A particular point of interest for the delegation was the tourist tax policy. The policy provides the entire budget for the Office of Tourism, and as a result ensures direct accountability for the tourism sector on how their region is marketed and supported.

### **Lunch, site visit and wine tourism roundtable at Clos de Vougeot**

Clos de Vougeot (sometimes "Clos Vougeot") is the largest – and one of the most famous – grand cru vineyards in the Côte de Nuits subregion of northern Burgundy. The vineyard covers 51 hectares (125 acres) of land.

Clos de Vougeot was first established by Cistercian monks in the 11th Century, with the clos (or wall) and the château added later. It is divided into 18 lieux-dits (vineyards), reflecting the fact that ownership of the land was historically divided between the Cistercian monks who planted the original vines, the Roman Catholic Church, and the French crown.



*Plaque of the Château du Clos de Vougeot*

The delegation undertook a tour of the magnificent Château and learned its fascinating history of nearly a thousand years. Following the tour the delegation met with representatives and experts from the wine industry:

- CEO of Bourgogne Wine Board, Christian Vannier
- Chief of Staff, International Organisation of Vine and Wine, Rodrigo de Casas
- Director of the Cité des Vins et des Climats de Bourgogne, Olivier le Roy
- Arnaud Orsel, Château du Clos de Vougeot



*Members of the delegation with a panel of wine experts*

**Official reception at the Residence of the Australian Ambassador with French parliamentarians, members of the Australia-France Business Association and Franco-Australian cultural community**

The delegation concluded their visit with an official reception at the Residence of the Australian Ambassador with French parliamentarians, including Anne Genetet, MP and President of the Australia-France Friendship Group in the National Assembly, and members of the Australia-France Business Association and Franco-Australian cultural community.



*Ambassador of Australia to France, Gillian Bird*

The head of the delegation, Mr Neumann, and the Australian Ambassador to France, Ms Bird, both gave speeches acknowledging the importance of the French-Australian relationship, and thanked all those who facilitated the delegation and kindly gave their time and offered their perspective and expertise to the travelling parliamentarians.

## Delegation program

### Monday 5 December – Brussels

Time	Details
10:30	Official briefing with Brussels Post
13:30	Guided visit to Parliamentarium
15:30	Visit European Parliament Brussels
16:30 – 19:00	42 <sup>nd</sup> Australia-EU Inter-Parliamentary meeting with the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand
19:30	Official dinner hosted by Ms Ulrike Müller, chair of the Delegation for Relations with Australia and New Zealand

### Tuesday 6 December – Brussels, Ghent and Ieper (Ypres)

Time	Details
08:30	Transfer to the House of European History
09:00 – 10:00	Guided tour of House of European History
10:15	Transfer to the Belgian Parliament
11:00 – 11:30	Meeting with the Chair of the Belgian Federal Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, Mrs Els Van Hoof
11:30	Transfer to Ghent
13:00 – 13:45	Meeting with Filip Watteeuw, Alderman for Mobility, Public Space and Urban Planning on Ghent's Good Circulation Plan
14:00 – 15:00	Meeting with the Director of Flanders Classics, Mr Scott Sunderland
15:00	Transfer to Ieper
17:30	Dinner with Ieper officials, including WGCDR Jesse Laroche (Australian Defence Attaché, Belgium)  Mr Benoit Mottrie – Chairman of the Last Post Association  Mr Geert Bekaert – Area Director – Central and Southern Europe Area, Commonwealth War Graves Commission  Mr Peter Slosse – Tourism Ieper



19:15	Walk/Transfer to Menin Gate
20:00	Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate

### Wednesday 7 December – Deerlijk, Villers-Bretonneux and Paris

Time	Details
07:45	Transfer to Deerlijk
08:30 – 10:30	Meeting and site visit with Addax Motors
10:30 – 13:00	Transfer to Villers-Bretonneux
13:00	Arrival at the Sir John Monash Centre and working lunch with SJMC staff  Met by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director SJMC, Rebecca Doyle</li> <li>• Deputy Director SJMC, Cathy Carnel</li> <li>• Manon Lambert, SJMC Liaison Officer</li> <li>• Vrinda Tiwari, Second Secretary, Visit Liaison Officer</li> </ul>
13:45	Guided tour of SJMC
14:30	Meeting with Director of Somme Tourisme, Francois Bergez
1500/1515	Transfer to Villers-Bretonneux Franco-Australian Museum
15:20	Walk-through visit of the Franco-Australian Museum and Victoria School Hall
19:20	Transfer to Residence of the Australian Ambassador, Australian Embassy
19:35	Official Dinner and briefing with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ambassador of Australia to France, Gillian Bird</li> <li>• Ambassador of Australia to UNESCO, Megan Anderson</li> <li>• Ambassador of Australia to the OECD, Brendan Pearson</li> <li>• General Manager of Austrade Europe, Jennifer McKinley</li> <li>• Vrinda Tiwari, Second Secretary, Visit Liaison Officer</li> </ul>

## Thursday 8 December – Paris and Beaune

Time	Details
08.15	Breakfast Meeting/Roundtable with the National Assembly Economic Affairs Committee hosted by President of the Economic Affairs Committee, Guillaume Kasbarian
10:30	Tour of Musée du Quai Branly Aboriginal Art collection with Curator, Nicolas Garnier
12:00	Lunch at the Senate restaurant with President of the Australia-France Friendship Group in the Senate, Senator Jean-Michel Houllégatte and other group members
14:45 – 16:15	Meeting with members of the Defence Committee of the national Assembly, and other MPs engaged in the Indo-Pacific region
16:30 – 17:30	Tour of the National Assembly
18:52	Transfer by train to Beaune
20.30	Dinner with former Australian Ambassador to France, Mr Brendan Berne, and Senior Advisor to Mayor of Beaune, Charlotte Fougères

## Friday 9 December – Beaune and Clos De Vougeot

Time	Details
08 45	Transfer to Jane Eyre Winery
09.00	Meeting with Jane Eyre, Australian winemaker
10:30	Meeting with President of the Office of Tourism of Beaune, Anne Caillaud and Deputy Director of the Office of Tourism, Françoise Bidot on wine and cycling tourism in Beaune
11.30	Transfer to Clos De Vougeot (Symbolic site of Beaune's World Heritage Status)
12:00	Lunch, site visit and wine tourism roundtable at Clos de Vougeot with possible guests from the following organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Bertrand Gauvrit, Climats de Bourgogne, World Heritage</li> <li>• Director Sophie Ollier-Daumas, Bourgogne Franche Comté</li> <li>• Director Isabelle Corond, Cote d'Or Attractivité</li> <li>• President Francois Labet, Bourgogne Wine Board</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jean-Francois Curie, Confrérie des Chevaliers du Tastevin</li> <li>• Pau Roca, International Organisation of Vine and Wine</li> </ul>
14:45	Transfer back to Paris
18:50	Transfer to the Residence of the Australian Ambassador
19:00	Official reception at the Residence of the Australian Ambassador with French parliamentarians, members of the Australia-France Business Association and Franco-Australian cultural community

## Saturday 10 December – Departure from Paris