



Council of the
European Union

122416/EU XXVII. GP
Eingelangt am 30/11/22

Brussels, 30 November 2022
(OR. en)

14643/11
EXT 1

AUS 18
ASIE 50
COASI 157
WTO 318
COCON 8

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document:	14643/11
dated:	26 September 2011
new status:	Public
Subject:	Relations with Australia - Authorisation for the opening of negotiations for a Framework Agreement between the EU and its Member States and Australia

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 September 2011

14643/11

RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED

**AUS 18
ASIE 50
COASI 157
WTO 318
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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From :	Asia-Oceania Working Party
To :	COREPER/Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council
No Cion Prop.	11692/11 RESTREINT UE
Previous doc	14539/11 RESTREINT UE
Subject :	Relations with Australia - Authorisation for the opening of negotiations for a Framework Agreement between the EU and its Member States and Australia

1. On 16 June 2011, the Commission submitted to the Council a Recommendation to authorise the Commission to open negotiations for a Framework Agreement between the EU and Australia (doc. 11692/11 RESTREINT UE).

2. The Asia-Oceania Working Party discussed the Recommendation on 22 June, 27 July, 14 and 21 September 2001. At the meeting of 21 September, the Chair concluded that Member States unanimously supported the mixed nature of the envisaged Framework Agreement and agreed that the draft Council Decision, the draft Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, as well as the draft negotiating directives, should be aligned on the model of the Canada mandate. The Commission and the EEAS recalled their position as set out in the Commission proposal.
3. The texts of the draft Council Decision and the draft Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, as well as a draft Joint Council and Commission statement on the nature of the Agreement, as set out in doc. 14539/11 RESTREINT UE, were agreed by silence procedure on 23 September.
4. Regarding the negotiating directives, the text set out in doc. 14539/11 RESTREINT UE was also agreed by the same silence procedure, with the exception of the language on a possible dialogue on consular affairs. The Group agreed to submit the matter separately to the Working Party on Consular Affairs with a view to a possible amendment of the negotiating directives on this single issue at a later stage.

5. In light of the above, and subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Council is invited to:
- a) adopt the Council Decision authorising the Commission and the High Representative to negotiate on behalf of the European Union, the provisions of a Framework Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and Australia, that fall within the competence of the European Union , as set out in document 14657/11 as finalised by the Lawyer/Linguists;
 - b) adopt the Negotiating Directives set out in Annex I;
 - c) enter into its minutes the Statement set out in Annex II.
6. The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, are invited to adopt the Decision authorising the European Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Member States, the provisions of a Framework Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and Australia, that fall within the competences of the Member States, as set out in document 14658/11 as finalised by the Lawyer/Linguists.
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