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RECH 548
COASI 164

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	13645/25 + ADD 1
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of an agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Commonwealth of Australia, of the other part, on the participation of the Commonwealth of Australia in Union programmes and the association of Commonwealth of Australia to Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) - Adoption

1. On 6 October 2025, the Commission submitted to the Council a recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of an agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Commonwealth of Australia, of the other part, on the participation of the Commonwealth of Australia in Union programmes and the association of the Commonwealth of Australia to Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027)¹.
2. The decision will allow the Commission to open negotiations with the Commonwealth of Australia on its participation to Union programmes and in particular to Horizon Europe.

¹ 13645/25 + ADD 1

3. The Commission presented the text to the Research Working Party and to the Asia-Oceania Working Party.
4. The Research Working Party agreed on the text following written consultation that was concluded on 24 October 2025. The Asia-Oceania Working Party supported the adoption of the Decision on 11 December 2025.
5. The draft decision specifies that the role of the special committee, which the Commission has to consult during the negotiations with the Commonwealth of Australia in accordance with Article 218(4) TFEU, should be exercised by both the Asia-Oceania Working Party for matters related to the general conditions for the participation of the Commonwealth of Australia in any Union programmes and the Research Working Party for matters related to the specific conditions for the participation of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Horizon Europe programme.
6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council, in part "A" of the agenda of a forthcoming meeting, adopts the Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the conclusion of an agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and the Commonwealth of Australia, of the other part, on the participation of the Commonwealth of Australia in Union programmes and the association of the Commonwealth of Australia to Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027), as revised by the lawyer-linguists and set out in document 14661/25 and the negotiating directives as set out in document 14661/25 ADD 1.
7. The European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU and the Decision and the negotiating directives will be transmitted to the EP.
8. The Council decision will be published in the Official Journal in accordance with Article 17(2)(b) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.