



Australian
National
University

Moving Beyond “Common Values and a Shared History”. Negotiating a Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between Australia & Europe.

Wednesday 15 May 2013 5.00pm – 6.00pm, followed by a reception

Alastair Walton, President of the European Australian Business Council
Chaired by Professor Margaret Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), ANU

ANU Centre for European Studies, 1 Liversidge St Canberra



In his Robert Schuman lecture presented at the ANU in May 2012 Alastair Walton stated that Australia should continue to build on the momentum of a rapidly improving relationship with Europe by pursuing an ambitious bilateral agenda including the negotiation of a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. This lecture identifies the historical importance of the free movement of labour and capital to the emergence of a modern Europe but also to the fundamental underpinnings of the European Union itself. The European “continent of peace” has been built on the four freedoms of the internal market namely, the guarantee of the free movement of goods, capital, services, and people. These freedoms are intended to be conducive to increased competition, increased specialisation, larger economies of scale, allowing goods and the factors of production to move to those areas where they are most valued, thus improving efficiency of the allocation of resources. With the upcoming 100th anniversary of

the commencement of World War I there is an opportunity to move beyond the rhetoric of “common values and a shared history” and acknowledge Australia’s military contribution to Europe’s freedom by negotiating a comprehensive FTA along the same lines as is currently being negotiated between Canada and Europe. This FTA would also act as a lever for the urgent and significant reforms which will be required for the Australian economy in the years ahead with the upcoming end to our booming terms of trade.

Alastair Walton is President and Chairman of the Board of the European Australian Business Council. He is Chairman of BKK Partners, an independent investment bank providing financial and corporate advice to Australian companies and institutions. He is also Chairman of Indochina Gateway Capital Limited which focuses on agri-business investments in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Alastair is a former Chairman and Managing Director of Goldman Sachs Australia and also a former Chairman of Central Rand Gold Limited. Prior to joining Goldman Sachs in Australia, Alastair worked with Credit Suisse First Boston for 14 years in Tokyo, New York, Melbourne, Sydney, London, and lastly in Hong Kong as Head of Investment Banking for Non-Japan Asia. He has also served as a member of the Australian Financial Services Advisory Council (FSAC), reporting to the Federal Treasurer.

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This lecture is free and open to the public

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