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NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2024

In this edition of Policy Futures, we are pleased to highlight the key milestones in the EU-NZ relationship in recent times: the entry into force of the EU-NZ free trade deal, offering immediate duty-free access for NZ exporters and long term gains for both European and New Zealand businesses.

We had a fantastic launch event in Auckland and have started the rollout of roadshows across the country. We also celebrated Europe Day in Wellington! One year after the formal association to the Horizon Europe science and innovation programme, New Zealand can pride itself in a very successful start.

This edition of your newsletter also includes foreign policy, trade and green deal developments within the EU, as well as EU-New Zealand cooperation on maritime security in the Pacific.

Key milestones in the EU-NZ relationship

EU-NZ FTA enters into force - 1 May 2024

The EU-NZ free trade deal has officially gone live. It brings new trade opportunities, from traditional tariff lifting to creating potential for cutting edge collaborations.

NZ exporters benefit immediately from 91% duty-free access immediately, rising to 97% after seven years.



To celebrate the entry into force, Minister for Trade, Hon Todd McClay and the European Union Ambassador Lawrence Meredith held an event on 15 May with Ministry for Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT), NZ Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) and NZ Story in Auckland.

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More information: [EU-New Zealand Trade Agreement](#) | [Ambassador's Interview with RNZ](#) | [Zespri](#) | [NZTE](#) | [ExportNZ](#) | [EU Press Release](#) | [EU-New Zealand trade agreement - Entry into force](#)

Europe Day celebrations in Wellington

On Europe Day, 9 May, the EU celebrates its achievements of unity and prosperity, commemorating the signing of the Schuman Declaration in 1950. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister the Rt Hon. Winston Peters held a Europe Day celebration at Parliament to mark the occasion, to celebrate the strong partnership between the EU and NZ. He underlined the strong values shared and the importance of upholding the rules-based international order, anchored in democracy, rule of law and protection of human rights.

Ambassador Lawrence Meredith thanked New Zealand and emphasised New Zealand & EU solidarity with Ukraine as an example of the shared values cited by the Foreign Minister, as well as the opportunities created by the EU-NZ FTA.



More information: [Ambassador's Interview with RNZ](#) | [EU Press Release](#) | [EP Europe Day Website](#) | [Inter-institutional Europe Day 2024 Website](#)

New Zealand students model the European Parliament ahead of elections

On 5-6 June, in the week of the European Parliament elections, 77 New Zealand school students met at the New Zealand Parliament in Wellington and took on the role of Members of the European Parliament. The negotiation skills and insights displayed by the students over the two-day simulation game were remarkable. They are emerging as global citizens, ready to take on future challenges.

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Trade Developments

European Union at Fieldays Hamilton June 2024

The EU Delegation engaged at this major four day agricultural event: the #EnjoyItsFromEurope stand was buzzing with activity as more than 6,500 visitors came to have a taste of Europe and exchange about the EU-New Zealand relationship.



A highlight was geographical indications, as the FTA that protects the names of unique products such as wine, cheese, and spirits for both European and New Zealand producers in each other's markets.

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FTA events across New Zealand

Together with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs & Trade and New Zealand business partners, the EU Delegation to New Zealand organised a regional roadshow of events to promote and inform about the FTA in Tauranga, Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington.

The events gave opportunities for exporters to learn more about how they could leverage the benefits of the FTA. More FTA events will take place further in the year and 2025.



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European Parliament passes law banning products made from forced labour

A new regulation prohibiting the placing on the EU market of all products made with forced labour has entered the final stages of the legislative process. The European Parliament has given its final approval in April 2024. The text must now get final formal approval from the Council which is expected in Q4 2024. Application will start three years after the final adoption of the regulation.

The draft regulation is based on international standards and will apply to all products manufactured in the EU for domestic consumption or export, as well as imported products.

Suspected use of forced labour may be investigated and, if proven, products will have to be withdrawn from the market. Attention will be given to products coming from areas with a high risk of forced labour, including State-imposed. If forced labour is eliminated from the supply chain, products may be allowed back on the market.

More information: [EP Press Release](#)

Horizon Europe Developments

Strong start after one year of New Zealand participation in Horizon Europe

New Zealand has had strong results since it joined Horizon Europe just over a year ago. Currently, 13 out of 54 applications involving New Zealand researchers have been successful. This translates to a high 24% success rate. One of the exciting features of Horizon Europe is that it is open to a diverse range of actors, from universities to business to city councils for instance.

New Zealand entities engagement encompass 126 partners across 40 countries. The 13 successful projects have been awarded around \$218 million in total funding, with \$9.9 million allocated to New Zealand partners involved, with a further \$4.7 million top-up from the NZ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

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PARTNERS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
New Zealand works with Horizon Europe



More information: [MFAT Market Intelligence Report](#)

Expansion of the group of Horizon Europe associated countries

On 3 July, Canada joined the growing group of non-EU countries who have associated to Horizon Europe. 19 countries are now associated. Formal negotiations to associate to Horizon Europe were recently concluded with the Republic of Korea. Negotiations are ongoing with Switzerland, while preparatory talks are taking place with Japan and Singapore.

Foreign Policy Developments

New Zealand and CRIMARIO cooperate to boost maritime safety and security

On 13 June, the New Zealand Ministry of Transport, representing the 11 agencies of the New Zealand Maritime Security Oversight Committee signed a partnership agreement with CRIMARIO (Critical Maritime Routes Indo-Pacific).

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More information: [CRIMARIO Press Release](#) | [TransportNZ Press Release](#)

EU marks 20 years since enlargement

On 1 May 2024, the European Union marked 20 years since its enlargement to include Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. Since then, the pace of change across the Union has been remarkable, offering tremendous opportunities to people and businesses alike.



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More information: [20 Years Together](#) | [EP Press Release](#) | [EU Enlargement](#) | [Euronews](#) | [Euractiv](#)

EU adopts 14th sanctions package against Russia for continued illegal war against Ukraine

On 24 June the Council adopted the 14th package of sanctions against Russia. The new package responds to the needs and findings on the ground, and tackles enforcement issues. As Russian aggression against Ukraine continues, the EU remains determined to keep acting to further reduce Russia's sources of revenue and capacity to wage war. These measures send a clear and strong signal of EU unity and of our support to Ukraine and its people.

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More information: [Commission Press Release](#)

Green Deal Developments

Latest developments on Green Deal

Adoption of the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive: Following adoption by the Parliament in April and the Council in May, the directive on corporate sustainability due diligence was published early July in the EU Official Journal. Member States will have two years to transpose the new rules into their national laws. One year later, the rules will start to apply to companies, with a gradual phase-in between 3 and 5 years after entry into force.

The aim of this Directive is to foster sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour. It seeks to anchor human rights and environmental considerations in companies' operations and corporate governance.

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More information: [EP Press Release](#) | [Blog by Josep Borrell EU HRVP](#) | [Published Directive](#)

Commission establishes new finance hub to support ambitions of pioneering cities in climate mitigation and adaptation. The Commission is setting up a new Climate City Capital Hub, an international finance resource to further support cities participating in the EU Mission on [Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities](#).

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More information: [Commission Press Release](#)

Digital Developments

EU Digital Identity Regulation sets model for citizen engagement with the online world

On 21 May, the Digital Identity Regulation entered into force. The new legislation will empower EU citizens with a digital identity wallet, enhancing their online engagement with greater ease and security.

The wallet will be a mobile app enabling users to identify themselves to public and private online services, all over Europe. In addition, users will be able to store, present and share digital documents (everything from university diplomas to train tickets) as well as electronically sign or seal documents.

The strengthened EU-Aotearoa relationships mean Kiwis could benefit from the EU's advancements in digital identity and privacy.

More information: [EU Identity Wallet](#)

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