

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA WHAT IS THE STATUS?

**ONLINE: THU 15 DECEMBER 2022
09:00–10:00 CET / 19:00–20:00 AEDT**

In a world that is trying to reorganise itself, many a trade relationship is under scrutiny. Free Trade Agreements are one way to bring certainty to the parties involved based on negotiations that culminate in a mutually beneficial outcome...a Free Trade Agreement.

Christophe Kiener is the chief FTA negotiator for the EU in this process and together with **Nils Weller**, responsible for EU trade relations with Australia and New Zealand, they will provide an overview of the current state of these negotiations between the EU and Australia and will be glad to answer any questions from viewers on the topic. Both Christophe and Nils keen to hear from businesses as to what the stumbling blocks are that a Free Trade Agreement may eliminate. To ensure an open discussion Chatham House rules will apply and there will be no recording.

CHRISTOPHE KIENER



Head of Unit for South and South East Asia,
Australia and New Zealand, European
Commission, Directorate-General for Trade

NILS WELLER

Trade Relations with
Australia & New Zealand
European Commission

MODERATED BY



SABINE PITTROF

Chair, German Australian Business
Council

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Registered attendees will receive the Zoom login details upon approval and reminders within 24 hours of the event. Please note the Chatham House rules apply. In the case of booking difficulties, contact office@gabc.eu.

MEET THE SPEAKERS

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CHRISTOPHE KIENER

Head of Unit for South and South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand
European Commission, Directorate-General for Trade

Christophe Kiener is Head of Unit for South and South East Asia, Australia and New Zealand in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Trade. In this position, which he holds since March 2022, he serves as EU Chief Negotiator for the Free Trade Agreements with India and Australia.

Before taking up this role, Mr. Kiener served as Head of Unit for Services and Digital Trade for 6 years. During this time, he co-chaired the negotiations on the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) and served as EU Chief Negotiator in the WTO Joint Statement Initiative on e-commerce. In 2020, he also played an active part in the negotiations on the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the UK.

Among his earlier assignments, Mr. Kiener served as Deputy Head of Unit for WTO and as Policy Assistant to the Deputy Director-General of DG Trade. Before joining the European Commission in 2001, Mr. Kiener was posted in Geneva as a national Delegate to the WTO. He had also worked on trade relations between EFTA and Central European countries.

Mr. Kiener studied at the University of Geneva (Graduate Institute for International Studies) and the College of Europe (in both Bruges and Warsaw).

NILS WELLER

European Commission, Directorate-General for Trade

Nils Weller works presently as coordinator for the EU trade negotiations with Australia. Beforehand he had worked in the same Directorate-General for Trade in different positions on China, South Korea, market access and industry relations. He was also Head of the Economic Section in the EU Delegation in Buenos Aires. In previous functions in the Commission, he worked on EU enlargement and on the European Satellite Navigation Programme Galileo. His professional career started in the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research.

Nils Weller studied law and international relations in Passau, Toulouse, Saarbrücken and Mainz, with work experiences in London and Kuala Lumpur. He speaks fluently German, English, French and Spanish.

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