



INVITATION

EABC Forum (by Videoconference)

‘Europe & Australia – Seizing the Opportunities for Recovery & Bounceback’



with keynote address by **Dr Stephanie Fahey**,
Chief Executive Officer, Austrade

chaired by the Hon **Simon Crean**,
EABC Chair and former Australian Minister for Trade

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Dear,

On behalf of the European Australian Business Council (EABC) I am pleased to extend an invitation to the Forum (by Videoconference) "Europe & Australia - Seizing the Opportunities for Recovery & Bounceback" with keynote address by **Dr Stephanie Fahey**, Chief Executive Officer, Austrade and chaired by the Hon **Simon Crean**, EABC Chair and former Australian Minister for Trade on **Tuesday 26 May 2020 from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm (sharp)**.

The continued flow of goods, services and investment between Australia and Europe has been vitally important for mitigating the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and securing essential supplies. Early estimates from the WTO are that global trade could fall by up to 32% in 2020, and the OECD forecasting a drop of 30% in FDI and the possibility of long-term decline.
The Australian Government is providing the largest support package ever implemented to support Australian businesses and jobs, and to maximise opportunities for a post-COVID economic 'bounceback', where trade and investment has a vital role to play.

Leading the Australian Government's efforts for the trade and investment agenda is **Dr Stephanie Fahey** and the global network of the **Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)**. Dr Fahey will outline the recovery strategy and reaffirm Australia's commitment to attracting productive FDI, where innovative European companies can add enormous value.

The Austrade team are supporting Australian exporters and foreign investors with critical support to preserve the flow of goods and services, particularly for essential items. Austrade's mandate is not only to support the trade and investment community, but also has specific responsibility to the international education and tourism sectors. The forum will bring together a wide range of representatives of major Australian and European companies, chambers of commerce, and other stakeholders, and will be chaired by EABC Chair, the Hon **Simon Crean**, who is also Deputy Chancellor of Monash University, and a former Australian Trade Minister, among other senior government appointments.

The Forum will offer a unique opportunity to hear from Austrade's CEO on the crucial work the agency is undertaking to support business. Equally as important, the videoconference will also provide insights into the Australian Government's strategy for post-COVID recovery and the vital role the trade and investment community will play in this effort. Participants will be encouraged to provide feedback on the challenges being faced by businesses large and small, areas where government can support exporters and investors, and new ways to improve collaboration between Europe and Australia.

Details for joining the forum will be circulated to confirmed participants closer to the event.

Speaker Biography – Dr Stephanie Fahey, CEO, Austrade

Stephanie Fahey has had over 30 years' experience both as an academic and executive working in Australia and overseas, including as a lead partner for education at EY, and a Deputy Vice Chancellor (Global Engagement) at Monash University, among other senior roles. Stephanie Fahey is Deputy Chair of the European Australian Business Council, and has been a board member of a range of organisations, including the Australia China Business Council, the Canberra Institute of Technology, the Foreign Affairs Council, the Australia Korea Foundation, and others.

Speaker Biography – Hon Simon Crean, Chair, EABC

Simon Crean served 23 years in the Australian Parliament, serving as Minister for Trade, Leader of the Opposition, and as Minister for Employment, Education and Training; Science and Technology; and Primary Industries and Energy; among many others. He currently serves as Chair of the European Australian Business Council (EABC), Deputy Chancellor of Monash University, and on the boards of Linfox International Group and the North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency. Prior to entering Parliament he was the President of the ACTU, and has also served on the boards of Qantas Airways, the Australian Industry Development Corporation, and as Chair of the Australian Live Exporters Council.

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