



STATEMENT

ERT welcomes EU-Australia Trade and Security Agreements as a Milestone for Strategic Cooperation

Brussels, 24 March 2026: The European Round Table for Industry (ERT) welcomes the deepening of ties between the EU and Australia, thanks to the conclusion of negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement and the signature of a Security and Defence Partnership between the EU and Australia.

These achievements demonstrate a clear commitment from both the EU and Australia to uphold open, rules-based trade, especially during a period marked by considerable geopolitical uncertainty. They also reinforce the importance of partnership in navigating complex global challenges.

The trade agreement opens business opportunities for European companies in a fast-growing market, supports supply chain diversification and facilitates greater access to critical raw materials.

EU exports to Australia totalled €37 billion in goods and €28 billion in services in 2024, with the deal set to eliminate tariffs on almost all EU goods and many services. The agreement could boost that by one third in 10 years according to estimates by the European Commission.

ERT urges both parties to proceed promptly with ratification and to focus on effective implementation, ensuring that businesses can take full advantage of the opportunities presented by this landmark agreement.

Note to Editors:

A full list of the Membership of ERT is accessible [here](#).

About the European Round Table for Industry (ERT)

The European Round Table for Industry (ERT) is a forum that brings together around 60 Chief Executives and Chairmen of major multinational companies of European parentage, covering a wide range of industrial and technological sectors. ERT strives for a strong, open, and competitive Europe as a driver for inclusive growth and sustainable prosperity. Companies of ERT Members are situated throughout Europe, with combined revenues exceeding **€3 trillion**, providing around **6 million** direct jobs worldwide - of which half are in Europe - and sustaining millions of indirect jobs. They invest more than **€120 billion** annually in R&D, largely in Europe.

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