



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PARIS

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

On 15 June 2021, the Embassy of Australia to France and MEDEF International joined forces to organise a high-level meeting with Mr. Scott MORRISON, Prime Minister of Australia at MEDEF Headquarters in Paris, chaired by Mr. Geoffroy ROUX DE BEZIEUX, Chairman of MEDEF, the largest employer federation in France, in the presence of H.E. Ms. Gillian BIRD, Ambassador of Australia to France, and Mr. Pierre-Eric POMMELLET, Chairman of France-Australia Business Council of MEDEF International and Chairman and CEO of Naval Group.

Fifteen heads of French companies had the opportunity to hear Prime Minister Morrison's vision and priorities for the post-pandemic period, at a time where Australia's economy is recovering quickly and strongly. The Prime Minister welcomed French investment in Australia and underlined the mutual benefits of finalising the Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA). An ambitious and comprehensive FTA will help support the COVID-19 economic recovery, diversify trade and reinforce a shared commitment to the rules-based order. His remarks reinforced the importance of cooperation and business partnerships between Australia and France.

French delegates asked questions about trade and investment opportunities in Australia across a range of diverse sectors, including infrastructure, engineering, hospitality, transport, aerospace, defense and energy.

This session is part of MEDEF International France-Australia Business Council's increasing program of activities with Australia, and is an illustration of the growing partnership with the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade). It follows the many high-level webinars held over the past year with Commonwealth, State and Territory authorities, including a discussion with Mr. Simon BIRMINGHAM, the then Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, in September 2020.

MEDEF International, the first international French private business network, has been active in Australia since 1994. The France-Australia Business Council of MEDEF International regularly meets with Australian Government representatives in France and leads business missions to Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra.

Austrade works closely with MEDEF International and is the Australian Government's international trade promotion and investment attraction agency.