



EU IN THE INDO-PACIFIC JEAN MONNET NETWORK

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2

PROJECT UPDATE

IN THIS ISSUE

- A closer look at the EU in the Indo-Pacific
- Focal location spotlight: New Zealand
- Recent outputs and future events

The project is now seven months old. While there is little concrete research developments to report, it is nevertheless exciting to be able to confirm that primary research has begun in a number of our nine focal locations. Taiwan deserves credit for leading the way in this regard!

The primary research involves researchers from partner universities interviewing foreign policy officials and influencers from their location and ascertaining what they think of the EU's Indo-Pacific strategy. The methodology of this research was decided upon at the launch event in Bangkok and this project aims to complete more than 100 interviews across the nine focal locations by the end of 2023, offering a rich dataset for analysis.

The EUIP newsletter, in conjunction with a broader focus on the EU in the Indo-Pacific, will also showcase the ongoing research in each of the nine focal locations, starting with New Zealand in this issue (followed by Taiwan in issue 3 and India in issue 4).

Nāku noa, nā

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'N. Smith'.

Nicholas Ross Smith

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE EU IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

By Cassidy Russell, EUIP Intern and NCRE MA student

In May 2019, France was the first member state of the EU to publish a strategy centred on the region of the Indo-Pacific. This was followed by Germany in September 2020 and the Netherlands in November 2020. These initiated a debate at the EU level, where in 2021, the EU published the EU Co-operation Strategy for the Indo-Pacific. This focus carried through to the EU's 2022 Strategic Compass, where it is sited how maintaining stability and security in the Indo-Pacific is important for Europe's own prosperity.

The EU highlighted seven priority areas for the Indo-Pacific:



SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE PROSPERITY

- Work with Indo Pacific partners to reinforce value chains, strengthen and diversify trade relations, implement existing trade agreements, finalise ongoing trade negotiations and develop cooperation in strategic sectors.
- Strengthen rules to protect international trade against unfair practices, such as industrial subsidies, economic coercion, forced technology transfers and intellectual property theft.



GREEN TRANSITION

- Work with partners to fight, mitigate and adapt to climate change and to counter biodiversity loss, pollution and other forms of environmental degradation.



OCEAN GOVERNANCE

- Strengthen ocean governance in the region in full compliance with international law, in particular UNCLOS.
- Continue to support partners in the region to fight against IUU fishing and to implement Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements.



HUMAN SECURITY

- Support healthcare systems and pandemic preparedness for the least developed countries in the Indo Pacific region.
- Reinforce the EU's disaster risk reduction and preparedness engagement in the Indo Pacific.



DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

- The EU will strengthen connections between Europe and the Indo Pacific and help partner countries address the digital divide and further integrate into the global digital ecosystem.
- Support partners to establish a good regulatory environment and facilitate funding to improve connectivity on the ground between Europe and the Indo Pacific.



SECURITY AND DEFENCE

- Promote an open and rules based regional security architecture, including secure sea lines of communication, capacity building and enhanced naval presence in the Indo Pacific.
- Explore ways to ensure enhanced naval deployments by EU Member States in the region.
- Support Indo Pacific partners' capacity to ensure maritime security.
- Facilitate capacity building for partners to tackle cybercrime.



DIGITAL GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

- Expand the network of digital partnerships with Indo Pacific partners, and explore potential new Digital Partnership Agreements.
- Strengthen cooperation on research and innovation with like minded regional partners under the 'Horizon Europe' programme.

Global Gateway

The Global Gateway initiative was launched in 2021, with an aim to mobilise €300 billion in investments by 2027. This began when COVID-19 exposed the lack of digital connections and infrastructure, leading to negative consequences on people and country's economies. To solve this, the EU's investments will be channeled into these infrastructure gaps.

The partnerships from Global Gateway are based on 6 principles:



Democratic values and high standards



Good governance and transparency



Equal partnerships



Green and clean



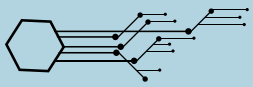
Security focused



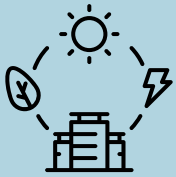
Catalysing private sector investment



Five main investment areas of the Global Gateway:



Digital sector



Climate and energy



Transport



Health

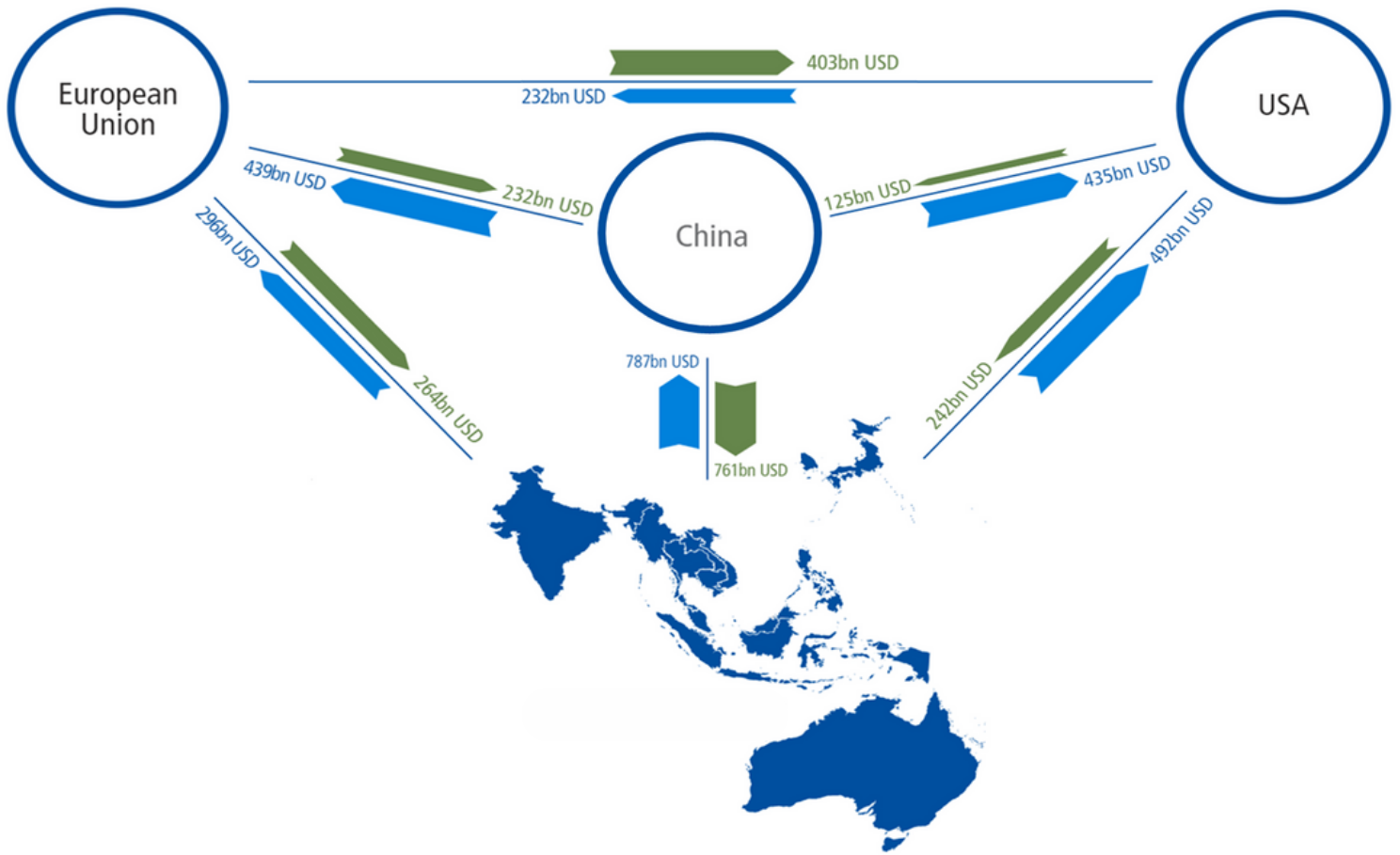


Education and research

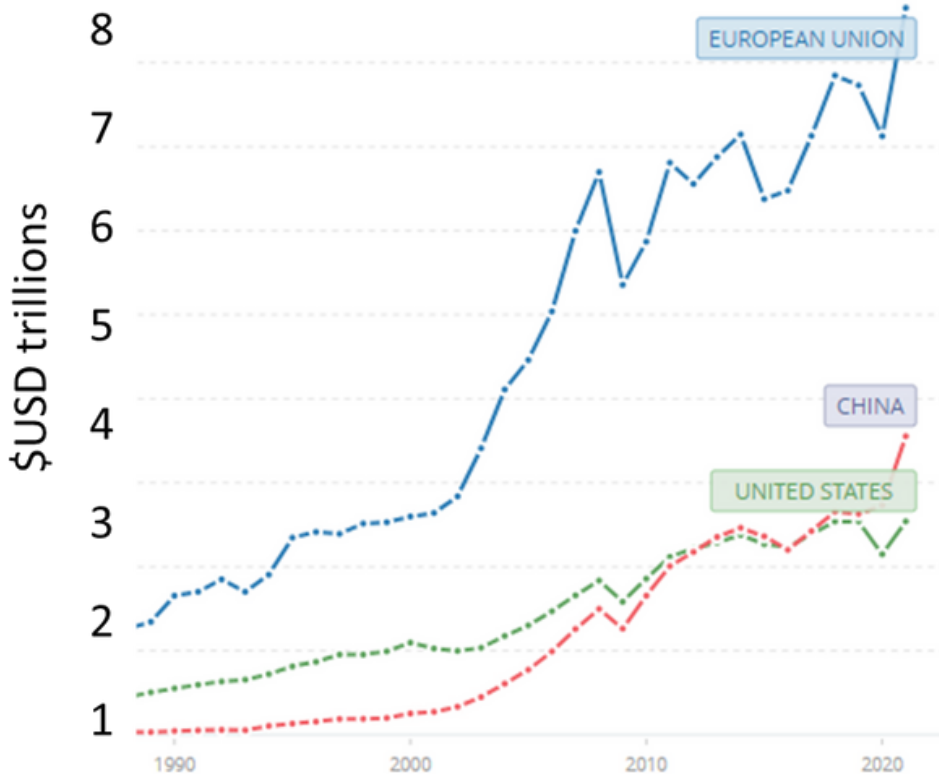


In the Pacific, the Global Gateway has been predominately used for climate and energy investments with a 2023 project in Fiji being the construction of hydro power plants Qaliwana and Vatutokotoko. This is to reduce the reliance Fiji has on fossil fuels, contribute to the electrifying of their transport sector as well as to meet the demand of electricity that has been increasing with Fiji's economic growth.

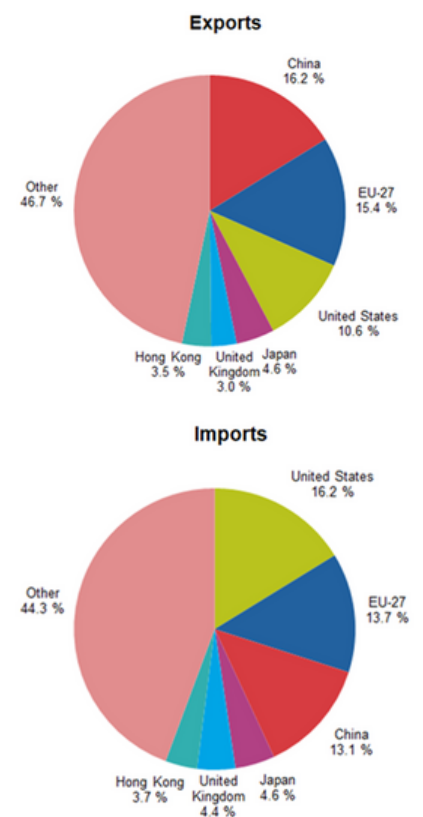
THE EU AS A TRADE POWER IN THE INDO-PACIFIC (2022)



TOTAL TRADE



EU TRADING PARTNERS



FOCAL LOCATION SPOTLIGHT: AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Aotearoa New Zealand (New Zealand) and the European Union (EU) have a strong and friendly relationship built off the back of decades of formal relations and recently bolstered by the signing of a Free Trade Agreement in 2022 which comes in to force in 2024.

However, when it comes to the Indo-Pacific, the EU has been largely absent in New Zealand's strategic communications to date (New Zealand has no official Indo-Pacific strategy), other than a brief acknowledgement of the importance of the ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting) initiative.

Under former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's leadership (and likely to continue with her replacement, Chris Hipkins), New Zealand, like other smaller powers, has sought a middle-ground position in the Indo-Pacific – a kind of asymmetrical alignment in which New Zealand has strong security relations with the US but at the same time has increased trade relations with China.

New Zealand's inherent multivectorism suggests a natural openness to a greater EU presence in the Indo-Pacific, particularly as it could possibly help pacify the threat of a new Cold War emerging (something New Zealand seems keen to avoid). Furthermore, there is a significant overlap between New Zealand's Indo-Pacific strategy and that of the EU's, especially a strongly aligned interest in maintaining a rules-based Indo-Pacific.

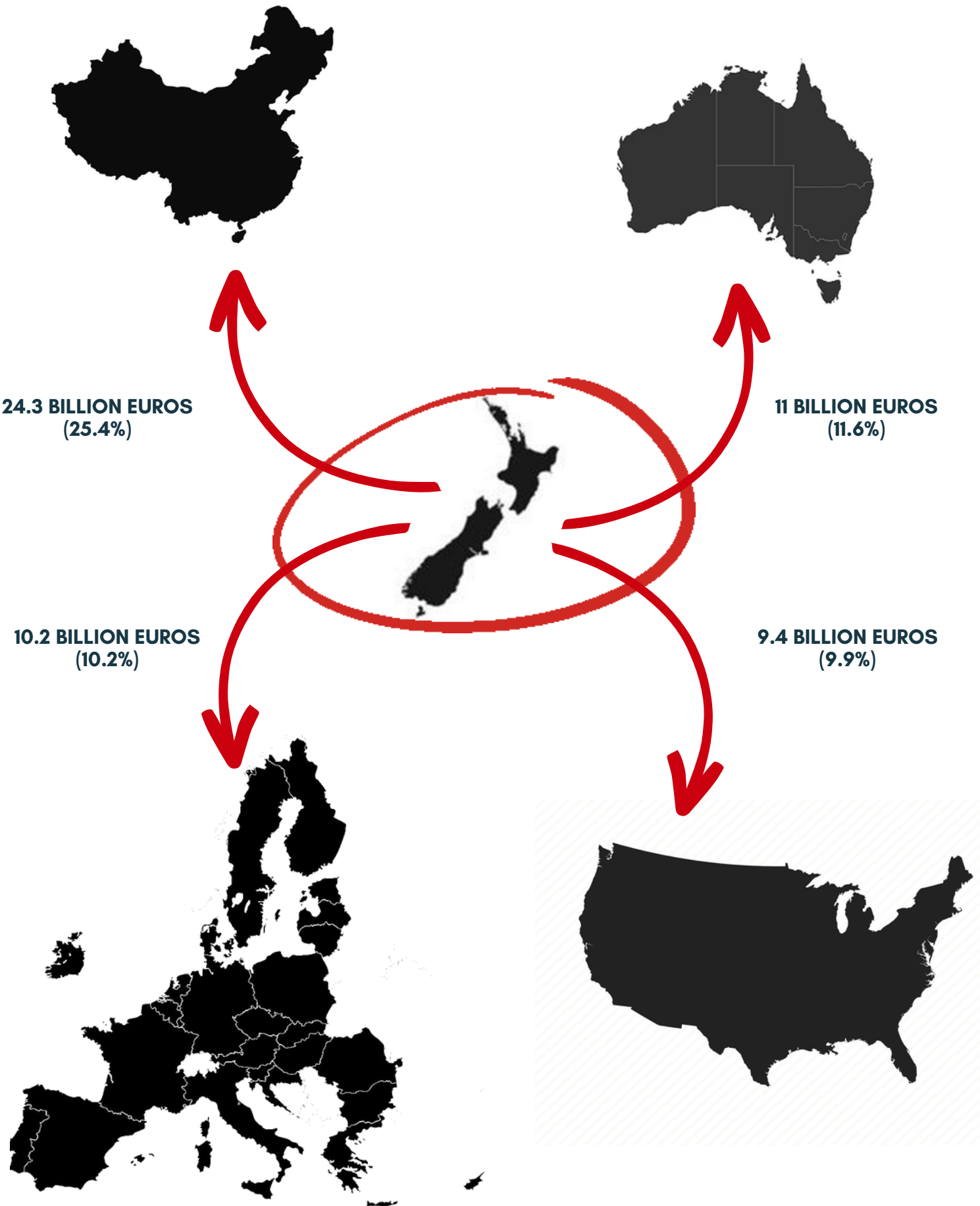
Regarding specific domains for security cooperation, New Zealand and the EU have issued joint statements mentioning a desire to cooperate on “ocean governance and maritime security” as well as the areas of counter-terrorism, violent extremism, and foreign interference and disinformation.

However, the appropriate conclusion is that for New Zealand, the EU is not currently a particularly relevant security actor in the Indo-Pacific. Importantly, though, this is not a fixed conclusion and given the strong underlying relationship and the compatibility of their Indo-Pacific strategies portends future engagement.

Perhaps an early indication of a changing stance in how New Zealand sees the EU was demonstrated in Nanaia Mahuta's May 2023 speech in which she called the EU a likeminded actor to New Zealand.

The research undertaken in this project aims to add nuance to the above assessment by ascertaining what New Zealand foreign policy officials and influencers know of the EU, how they perceive the EU in the Indo-Pacific, and what areas they believe the EU and New Zealand can cooperate on.

NEW ZEALAND'S TRADE (2022)



THE NEW ZEALAND RESEARCH TEAM



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RESEARCH BRIEF: NEW ZEALAND'S MAORI FOREIGN POLICY

EUIP lead academic Nicholas Ross Smith recently published a research article (with Bonnie Holster) in the journal *International Affairs*, titled: "New Zealand's 'Maori foreign policy' and China: a case of instrumental relationality?".

In 2021, Aotearoa New Zealand's Foreign Minister, Nanaia Mahuta, sketched out a *kaupapa Māori* (collective Māori vision) foreign policy for New Zealand based on four *tikanga Māori* (Māori customary practices and behaviours): *manaakitanga* (hospitality), *whanaungatanga* (connectedness), *mahi tahi* and *kotahitanga* (unity through collaboration), and *kaitiakitanga* (guardianship and the protection of intergenerational wellbeing).

Mahuta prefaced her introduction of a Maori foreign policy by stating that "the principles of partnership and mutual respect embodied in the Treaty [Treaty of Waitangi] provide the foundation for how New Zealand conducts its foreign policy today." Indeed, New Zealand has already had a strong indigenous focus in its foreign policy, evident in the non-negotiable inclusion of Treaty of Waitangi Exception Clauses in Free Trade Agreements - including in the recently concluded EU-NZ FTA - and the signing of Indigenous Collaboration Arrangements.

New Zealand's putative Maori foreign policy is important with regards to how it views the Indo-Pacific. Of particular importance is the Pacific which has long been central to New Zealand's foreign policy. New Zealand was previously in colonial control of Western Samoa, seizing it from Germany in 1914, while Niue and the Cook Islands (although no longer part of New Zealand) remain in free association with New Zealand. New Zealand has been instrumental in helping set up key Pacific institutions, most notably the Pacific Islands Forum while also one of the largest aid donors to the Pacific.

With regards to the Pacific, Mahuta emphasised that "Aotearoa has historical, cultural, social, linguistic and kin connections across the Pacific all of which links us to the significant diaspora communities here. We refer to the Blue Pacific Continent as Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa." The *tikanga kaitiakitanga* is of particular importance to New Zealand's relationship with the Pacific as it forwards a belief, in the words of Tania Waikato "that humans are the current holders of taonga [the material world] received from their ancestors, with a duty to protect and eventually pass the knowledge on to the next generation". Unsurprisingly, climate change emerges as the greatest challenge to *kaitiakitanga* in the context of the Pacific.

Although New Zealand has been less overt in its use of a Maori foreign policy with its Western partners, EU-NZ engagement in the Indo-Pacific is likely to be heavily influenced by its recent embrace of te ao Maori.

RECENT OUTPUTS FROM PROJECT MEMBERS

Journal articles

Smith, Nicholas Ross and Bonnie Holster. "New Zealand's 'Maori foreign policy' and China: a case of instrumental relationality?", *International Affairs* 99.4 (2023): 1575–1593

Kelly, Serena, and Mathew Doidge. "Beyond trade: The European Union-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement." *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies* 15.1 (2023): 23-32.

Whitman, Richard G., and Amelia Hadfield. "The diplomacy of 'Global Britain': settling, safeguarding and seeking status." *International Politics* (2023). Online first.

Lai, Suetyi. "Not seeing eye to eye: perception of the China-EU economic relationship." *Asia Europe Journal* 21 (2023): 1-18.

Juncos, Ana E., and Karolina Pomorska. "The Role of EEAS Chairs in Council Negotiations on Foreign and Security Policy Post-Lisbon." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* (2023). Online first.

Lai, Suetyi, Paul Bacon, and Martin Holland. "Three Decades on: Still a Capability–Expectations Gap? Pragmatic Expectations towards the EU from Asia in 2020." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 61.2 (2023): 451-468.

FUTURE EVENTS



Non-traditional panel:

What Role For The EU In The Indo-Pacific?

Wednesday, 06/Sept/2023: 9:00am - 10:30am



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