



MINISTER FOR TOURISM; RACING AND GAMING; SMALL BUSINESS; DEFENCE ISSUES; CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS

From the Minister

Western Australia has had a longstanding relationship with the European Union (EU), both socially and economically, since it began as the European Economic Committee in 1957.

Since that time, countless Europeans have settled in our State and made valuable contributions to our population and commercial enterprises. Many of these families are now the owners of successful businesses across a diverse range of industries.

Global European companies such as Shell, Siemens, Veolia Environment, Schenker, Aggreko and Rio Tinto are also significant investors in Western Australia.

Europe has approximately 740 million people, located over more than 10 million square kilometres, representing strong markets for Western Australian goods and services. The fastest growing economies in Europe now include; Romania, Malta, Luxembourg and Poland.

The EU bloc, with 28 member countries, is a major trading partner for Western Australia with two-way trade exceeding \$11 billion. Last year we imported \$3.79 billion in goods from the EU and exported goods worth \$7.2 billion.

The impact of recent changes to the EU, primarily the planned exit of the United Kingdom, is yet to be fully realised. There is much discussion to be had on possible changes to the way we do business with EU markets into the future, and what new opportunities may arise for small and medium sized businesses in WA.

As WA Minister for both Tourism and Small Business, I am pleased to take part in the Western Australian European Business Association's business forum and to share information and knowledge. I look forward to meeting you during the proceedings.

Hon. Paul Papalia CSC MLA

**Minister for Tourism; Racing and Gaming; Small Business; Defence Issues;
Citizenship and Multicultural Interests**