

Spain Australia
Council Foundation

www.spain-australia.org





Bringing us closer together



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Council Foundation



WHO WE ARE



The Spain-Australia Council Foundation is a private non-profit organisation which forms part of the network of Council Foundations promoted and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Its goal is to strengthen and deepen bilateral relations with Australia, a priority country within Spain's foreign policy for the Asia-Pacific region.



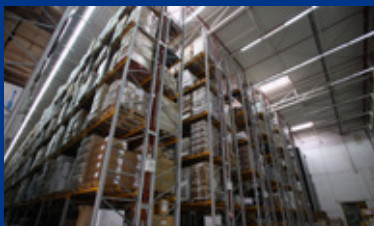


The aim is to unite the efforts undertaken by a broad range of sectors in Spain into a single civil society platform to promote common interests and tackle problems arising in fields of activity with links to Australia. The organisations behind this initiative believe that these activities are a way to give extra backing to these interests, given Australia's position as a key player in the world of the 21st century.



WHO WE ARE

The Spain-Australia Council Foundation participates in the top-level meetings and major activities organised by the central, regional and municipal governments to promote bilateral relations. These include actions such as investment forums and business meetings, cultural and educational activities and exchange programmes in fields like science and technology, energy, art, gastronomy and legal affairs.





The Foundation also promotes initiatives, meetings and actions which are considered priority by its Patrons and which represent a broad range of activities in the public and private sectors. This requires a coordinated, coherent approach, with all involved parties joining forces and showing great motivation.

KEY MILESTONES



15 / FEBRUARY / 2010

Presentation of the project for incorporation of the Foundation

Antonio Garrigues presented the project for the creation of the Spain-Australia Council Foundation during a trip to Spain by the Australian Foreign Minister, Stephen Smith. The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Miguel Ángel Moratinos, was also present.

At the event, the two ministers agreed to enhance cooperation between the countries to carry out joint programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean. They also analysed the collaboration between the Australian authorities and the companies Navantia and EADS-CASA, which have undertaken various projects for the Australian Armed Forces.

Minister Moratinos also covered topics of interest from the European agenda, given Spain's presidency of the Council of the EU.

27 / JULY / 2010

Incorporation of the Spain-Australia Council Foundation

The Spain-Australia Council Foundation was formally incorporated before a notary public on 27 July 2010, with Antonio Garrigues Walker formally appointed President of the Foundation.

Garrigues Walker is a renowned Spanish lawyer and Chairman of the law firm Garrigues, the top Spanish legal and tax services firm by turnover and number of employees.

The first President of the SACF has acted as Patron for most of the Council Foundations network and as President of the Spain-US and Spain-Japan Council Foundations.

Patron representatives from BBVA, Acciona and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation also participated in the formal incorporation of the SACF.



15 / DECEMBER / 2010

The SACF holds its first Board of Patrons meeting

The meeting was held at the Viana Palace, headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. At the session, the Action Plan was approved and an official presentation of the Foundation was given to a considerable audience comprising players from the business world and representatives of the Spanish government's foreign policy activity. Speeches were given at the event by the Foundation's President, Antonio Garrigues; the Australian Ambassador to Spain, Zorica McCarthy; Director General for North America, Asia and the Pacific, Luis Felipe Fernández de la Peña and the Director General for International Economic Relations and Energy Affairs, José Eugenio Salarich. The presentation highlighted the SACF's value as a tool for the combined representation of private interests in connection with Spain's foreign policy and the growing interest in Australia among Spain's society and companies.



07 / JUNE / 2011

Lunch with the Prince and Princess of Asturias and the Governor-General of Australia

The lunch with Governor Quentin Bryce was held at the Zarzuela Palace and was attended by representatives of the Spain-Australia Council Foundation.

In his speech, HRH The Prince of Asturias said "Australia and Spain have attractive opportunities for cooperation in the field of education via mobility and exchange programmes and language teaching, with a view to forging links between young people in the two countries."

The Governor-General paid tribute in her speech to the "vision, design and engineering" of the Spanish defence and aeronautics industry.

08 / JUNE / 2011

Quentin Bryce meets with the Spain-Australia Council Foundation

Governor-General of Australia Quentin Bryce scheduled a meeting on her agenda during her official visit to Spain with the Spain-Australia Council Foundation Board, which took place at the Ritz in Madrid. During this rewarding meeting, the Foundation's objectives were analysed, as well as the cultural, educational and business relations between the two countries.

The Governor-General of Australia visited Madrid after having visited the shipyards in Ferrol, where she had the chance to observe the evolution of the works being done at this Galician city by Spanish public company Navantia, to which the Australian Navy had commissioned the construction of two ships.



07 / MARCH / 2012

Juan-Miguel Villar Mir, new President

The 4th Board Meeting of the Spain-Australia Council Foundation took place at the headquarters of Grupo Villar Mir and was attended by Australian Ambassador to Spain Zorica McCarthy.

During the meeting, Juan-Miguel Villar Mir was officially appointed President, while Antonio Garrigues Walker became Honorary Patron.

Juan-Miguel Villar Mir is the founder, president and owner of Spanish business group Villar Mir. He is a civil engineer, has a BA in Law and a degree in Business Administration and Economics and was the Spanish Vice-President and Finance Minister during the first democratic government.

KEY MILESTONES

15 / FEBRUARY / 2013

Presentation of the SACF in Australia

The presentation took place during a formal dinner in Melbourne, which was attended by institutional and business representatives from both countries and the Spanish Minister of Defence, Pedro Morenés, during his official visit to the country.

Morenés praised the Foundation's work and the capacities of the Spanish defence industry. He also highlighted that Australia is key to Spain due to the transformation taking place in the global strategic landscape.

The dinner was attended by key Australian figures, such as Harold Mitchell and Mike Kelly, Minister for Defence Materiel. On the Spanish side, the SACF board participants were led by their president, Juan-Miguel Villar Mir.



15 / FEBRUARY / 2013

HMAS Canberra naming ceremony

The event was attended by the Prime Minister of Australia, Julia Gillard, and Spanish Minister for Defence Pedro Morenés.

The ship was built by Navantia, a patron of the SACF. The Foundation's delegation was headed by its president, Juan-Miguel Villar Mir, and Secretary General Manuel Cachó. After the naming ceremony, the Spanish and Australian Ministers for Defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding mutual cooperation in Defence, which included the loan of the Spanish combat support ship 'Cantabria' to the Australian Navy for one year.

28 / NOVEMBER / 2013

Seminar 'Australia, Spain and the EU: partnering in an uncertain world'

The event analysed the role played by the Asia-Pacific region in the international scene and its relations with the EU and highlighted the increasing economic relations between Spain and Australia in the areas of defence, infrastructure and renewable energies.

Organised by the SACF and Spanish think tank FRIDE, the event was attended by Ernesto de Zulueta, Director General for North America and Asia-Pacific, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; Jane Hardy, Australian Ambassador to Spain; Felix Patrikeef, President of the South Australian Branch; John Blaxland, Senior Fellow at the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, ANU College of Asia and the Pacific and Mike Callaghan, Director of the G20 Studies Centre at the Lowy Institute for International Policy, among others.





28 / NOVEMBER / 2013

Pedro Argüelles: “We must continue to strengthen Spain-Australia relations as an investment in the future”

Spanish Secretary of State for Defence Pedro Argüelles and the Australian Ambassador to Spain Jane Hardy closed the seminar ‘Australia, Spain and the EU: partnering in an uncertain world’, which took place at Casa América.

Pedro Argüelles paid tribute to Australia’s political and economic stability and highlighted the importance of working to increase collaboration between the two countries in the most promising areas. In turn, Jane Hardy praised this seminar, organised by the Spain-Australia Council Foundation and Spanish think tank FRIDE, and encouraged the organisation of further events to strengthen bi-lateral relations.

04 / FEBRUARY / 2014

Meeting with the European Australian Business Council

The President of the European Australian Business Council Alastair Walton and CEO Jason Collins held a meeting at the headquarters of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation with the Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Gonzalo de Benito, which was also attended by the Australian Ambassador to Spain Jane Hardy and Secretary General of the Spain-Australia Council Foundation Alonso Dezcallar.

The SACF applauded the work of the European Australian Business Council which, since its creation over ten years ago, has contributed to stronger trading activity and to strengthening institutional bonds between the European Union and Australia by working closely with official bodies at the European Commission and the Australian Government.



29 / APRIL / 2014

The SACF and Museo del Prado co-organise a visit to the art gallery

The event took place on the occasion of the exhibition ‘Italian Masterpieces from Spain’s Royal Court, Museo del Prado’ at the National Gallery of Victoria, in Melbourne.

This visit was attended by representatives of the Spain-Australia Council Foundation board, the Embassy of Australia in Spain and members of the Museo del Prado management team. The attendees visited some of the rooms of the permanent collection, during which they became acquainted with part of one of the best exhibitions, both in terms of quality and quantity, of Italian paintings outside of Italy. The collection forms part of the highly valuable Spanish Royal Collections, from which a careful selection was made for the exhibition in Melbourne.

ORGANISATION CHART

OHL

President

D. Juan-Miguel Villar Mir

ACCIONA

First Vice-President

D.ª Arantza Ezpeleta

D. Joaquín Mollinedo

BANCO BILBAO VIZCAYA

ARGENTARIA, BBVA

Second Vice-President

D.ª Eva Piera Rojo

D. Alejandro Moreno Alonso

MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS

EXTERIORES Y DE

COOPERACIÓN

Secretary General

D. Alonso Dezcallar

Honorary Patron

D. Antonio Garrigues Walker

PATRONS

ABENGOA



BBVA



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Navantia



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