

Conference Rare Earths, Europe and Australia: Trade, Security and Sustainability (UPDATED with presentations)



(11/17/10)

The presentations of the speakers are now available for download.

This event is organized jointly by the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS), the Australian Embassy in The Hague, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the support of TNO, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture, and Innovation and the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment.

Rare earth elements are key to a number of high-tech domains, such as ICT, aerospace and automotives, as well as the crucial green energy sector. One supplier (China) currently provides 97% of global rare earths stocks. Media reports have recently highlighted the exposure of this trade to supply disruptions.

Rare earths have recently moved to the top of the EU's list of critical raw materials as European companies have focused on supply security for their industries. Supply chain bottlenecks have the potential to slow the transition to a low-carbon economy and threaten EU efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change. Rare earth industries in countries such as Australia and the United States have begun to increase production and to develop alternative rare earths supply chains.

At this high-level event, we bring together a selection of Australian and European industry leaders, key experts and decision-makers to discuss how Europe and Australia can cooperate to meet the global challenge of securing supplies of sustainably produced rare earths.

The conference will take place on Wednesday 1 December 2010 at the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This conference is by invitation only. If you are interested to attend this conference, please contact info@hcss.nl.

Programme

Chairman of the day: Mr. Michel Rademaker

08:30 ENTRANCE AND SECURITY CHECK

09:00 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

09:30 **Drs. Simon Smits**, Acting Director General European Cooperation

[Video Ben Knapen](#)

09:50 **H.E. Lydia Morton**, Australian Ambassador to the Netherlands

10:10 **Mr Dudley Kingsnorth**, CEO, Industrial Minerals Company of Australia [Presentation](#)

10:30 COFFEE BREAK

10:55 **Mr Nicholas Curtis**, Executive Chairman, Lynas Corporation Ltd [Presentation](#)

11:20 **Prof. dr Diethard Mager**, Head of Division on Mineral Resources, German Ministry of Economics and Technology [Presentation](#)

11:40 **Mr Richard Sellers**, Director-General, Western Australian Government Department of Mines and Petroleum [Presentation](#)

12:00 **Panel Discussion**: The rare earths challenge, investments and possibilities for Australian-European cooperation

12:30 LUNCH

13:35 **High-level representative EU-Commission**

13:55 **Mr Jaakko Kooroshy**, Policy Analyst, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS) [Presentation](#)

14:20 **Mr Michel Nestour**, Director, Mines and Metals, Ernst & Young [Presentation](#)

14:45 **Ir. Jan Mengelers**, CEO Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) [Presentation](#)

15:05 AFTERNOON TEA

15:40 **Dr Bart Follink**, Chief of Process Science and Engineering, Minerals Down Under Flagship Programme, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia [Presentation](#)

16:05 **Frans Beckers**, Secretary to the Board of Directors at Van Gansewinkel Groep [Presentation](#)

16:30 **Panel Discussion**: Strategies for increasing sustainability and supply security of strategic metals

17:00 Closing Remarks

17:10 RECEPTION

Later added speaker – Richard Brescianini
[Presentation Arafura Resources Limited](#)