



Minutes

**Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Europe Business Council.
Wednesday 13 July 2022 at 5.00 – 7 PM at Europe House.**

Meeting began at 5.20PM

1. Welcome

Frank Olsson welcomed all members, present and joining via Zoom.

2. Attendance Record

Attendees:

Company Name	First Name	Last Name	Active Memberships	Parent Country
British New Zealand Business Association	Philip	Wood	NZEBC full member; BNZBA	United Kingdom
Consulate of Finland	Chris	Linton	NZEBC associate member; NZSBA	Finland
Consulate of Ireland Auckland	Niamh	McMahon	NZEBC associate member	Ireland
Consulate of Poland	Boguslaw	Nowak	NZEBC associate member; POLANZ	Poland
Consulate of Spain	Amelia	Pais Rodriguez	NZEBC associate member	Spain
Consulate of Sweden	Catharina	Andersson	NZEBC associate member; NZSBA	Sweden
Consulate of the Czech Republic	Gregory	Shanahan	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee; CNZBA	Czech rep
Consulate of the Slovak Republic	Peter	Kiely ONZM	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee	Slovakia
Czech New Zealand Business Association	Michal	Kadlec	NZEBC associate member; CNZBA	Czech rep
Delegation of the European Union to New Zealand	Catherine	Grant	NZEBC 2nd contact	European Union
Dutch Business Association	Richard	Van Ark	DBA; NZEBC 2nd contact	Netherlands

Dutch Business Association	Martijn	Bakker	DBA; NZEBC committee; NZEBC full member	Netherlands
French New Zealand Chamber of Commerce	Thibault	Beaujot	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee; FNZCCI	France
German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Inc.	Monique	Surges	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee; GNZCC	Germany
Honorary Consul for Italy in Auckland	Lindsey	Jones	NZEBC associate member	Italy
Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany	Erich	Bachmann	NZEBC associate member; GNZCC; BNZBA	Germany
Irish Business Network of New Zealand	Brian	Walsh	NZEBC full member	Ireland
Italian Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand (ICCNZ)	Admir	Mullaaliu	NZEBC full member; ICCNZ; NZEBC committee	Italy
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade	Nicholas	Walbridge	NZEBC 2nd contact	New Zealand
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (Auckland Office)	Colin	Ballantine	NZEBC full member	New Zealand
New Zealand Scandinavia Business Assn. Inc.	Frank	Olsson	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee; NZSBA	Sweden
POLANZ, Polish - New Zealand Business Association Inc.	Robert	Holubicki	NZEBC full member	Poland
POLANZ, Polish - New Zealand Business Association Inc.	Kazik	Jasica	NZEBC 2nd contact	Poland
University of Auckland / Europe Institute	Maureen	Benson-Rea	NZEBC associate member	New Zealand

Apologies received were as follows:

ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA - Austrian Trade Commission	Karl	Hartleb
Auckland University of Technology	Simon	Mowatt
Consular Agency of France, Auckland	Aline	Hauter
Consulate of Switzerland in Auckland	Adrian	Blaser
Delegation of the European Union to New Zealand	Caroline	Lambert
Embassy of France	Jérôme	Pasquier

Embassy of Hungary	Zsolt	Hetesy
Embassy of Switzerland	Michael	Winzap
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany	Michael	Feiner
Embassy of the Netherlands	Mira	Woldberg
Embassy of the Republic of Croatia	Betty	Pavelich
Honorary Consul for Latvia	Dermot	Ross
Honorary Consul of Romania	Marian	Ioan
National Centre for Research on Europe	Martin	Holland
Royal Danish Consulate General	Inger	Mortensen
Trade and Consular Office of Hungary, Sydney	Zoltan	Szabo

Moved that the apologies be accepted.

Thibault Beaujot / Gergory Shanahan /CARRIED

3. Minutes of the 2021 AGM (BY ZOOM)

The minutes were approved by the committee and were circulated with the invitation.

Moved: That the minutes be received as a true and correct record.

Gregory Shanahan/ Monique Surges / CARRIED

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5. President's Report

Business around the world is facing turbulent times. Challenges include rising inflation and interest rates, rising demand for energy and food due to the war in Ukraine, supply chain pressures as a result of Covid and possible recession as a result and heightened, widespread concern about the business climate.

The NZ – EU Free Trade Agreement was signed 30th June 2022. This will be followed by the comprehensive ratification process expected to take 1-2 years before the implementation phase kicks in. We know from other similar FTAs that successful implementation will require dedicated effort by all involved.

During the 2021-2022 year there were five minuted meetings of the Council. The meetings have been mixed with attendees and remote participants to reflect the

Covid restrictions. These restrictions have now eased, enabling more in-person meetings. There was a discussion of seeking corporate membership and funding at last year's AGM but the decision was to defer that and focus on the project in cooperation with the MFAT, creating a EU/NZ business database and revising the NZEBC website.

That project has been brought to a conclusion and will now require quarterly updating to be really useful. Each member country or group of countries need to contribute to this ongoing review. Monique's role in managing this project was very extensive and valuable and on behalf of the board I again convey our thanks to her. The attached systems have been tested and are now in working order. This project would not have been possible

without the support of MFAT with whom we now share the data base.

During the year Marcel Roos and Stefano Riela have resigned from the committee and my sincere thanks go to them for their contribution. I have stayed in touch with them. I am pleased that the Dutch Business Association New Zealand and The Italian Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand have proposed new candidates for the NZEBC, ensuring the committee reflects a wide Europe coverage.

Publicity

The Employers and manufacturer's Association have welcomed articles from NZEBC members and Stefano Riela and I have contributed a few. The EMA is keen to continue this collaboration. I have also worked out an article on the NZ – EU FTA in cooperation with the EU delegation.

EU Delegation

Our cooperation with the EU delegation has been excellent and the Ambassador Nina Obermaier and Caroline Lambert, Councilor have generously supported us with their time. In connection with Europe Day the Ambassador hosted a Concert in support of Ukraine which was well attended by EU consuls and many others. Caroline Lambert has addressed us on several occasions with very useful updates, especially on EU climate change commitments.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

We have benefitted from several events by MFAT and appreciate those opportunities and our close relationship. The support for a new data base and some systems around it has been superb. We are looking at continued cooperation with MFAT to increase our capabilities.

Auckland University

Maureen Benson-Rea of Europe Institute Advisory Board did an interview with Vangelis Vitalis on 2nd May which was very well attended and highly informative and interesting. Well done – Maureen.

The majority of Europe oriented events are run by the respective countries' business organizations and quite a lot has been on offer from Germany, France, Britain, Italy, The Netherlands, Scandinavia, Poland and many others. Travel has been subdued for three years and is now coming back which should provide more opportunity for EU speakers to visit New Zealand.

Finances & Membership

Our financial position is strong with a year-end bank balance of \$ 27,231. Please note however that \$15 000 of this is to be accrued to the finalization of the MFAT project and will be paid out in 2022, leaving a year-end balance 2021 of \$12 231, an increase of \$50.00 on the previous year.

- *\$850 came from 17 Associate members*
- *\$2400 came from 24 Full members*

We believe there is no need to increase membership fees as the NZEBC is presently covering its expenditure with strict cost control, running events on a cost recovery basis. The majority of work done in our organization is pro bono by the president, vice president and treasurer.

Total members in the database stands at 76 (for some organizations we have two or three contacts noted).

EBO Conference in Brussels 8-10 June 2022

After two years hiatus there was a new meeting of the European Business Organization's members in June. I attended this meeting as well as the two previous ones in 2019. Key message for us was that EU representatives confirmed that NZ now is next in lined to conclude an FTA with the EU. This happened already 30th June when the FTA was signed by both parties. 48 EBOs had been invited and nearly all attended.

This was my 8th conference – six in Brussels, one in Beijing and one in Tokyo. Most EBOs have corporate members, and some have only other trade associations or chambers as members. Membership growth is especially steep in Africa, and this is likely to continue. Africa is a focus area for EU and has the potential for up to 30 EBOs in total.

The incumbent Chair, Jason Collins, CEO of the Australia European Business Council, was re-elected.

The expected GDP growth forecast for EU 2022 has been revised downwards from 4% to 2.7%. Global GDP growth has also been revised downwards. Actions to counter climate change are top priority for EU.

On Friday 10th June I visited the NZ Embassy in Brussels to meet with Carl Reaich, Ambassador to the EU and NATO to have his take on the current situation. On Tuesday 28th June I met up with NZ embassy for Scandinavia in Stockholm.

Moved: That the President's Report be received.
Peter Kiely / Gregory Shanahan / CARRIED

Looking forward

The world is moving into a slow growth high inflation period with supply constraints in many areas. Energy prices and consumer price inflation will be challenging. Higher inflation and interest rates are likely to restrain growth. The NZ-EUFTA will be a positive with a gradual effect and food and agriculture will offer opportunities.

Focus on NZ-EU FTA implementation must continue unabated to maximize mutual value.

NZEBC will benefit from having a part time admin person for support and MFAT have committed support to the tune of \$ 10,000. We should also seek synergies by co-operation with Australia European Business Council

Special thanks to:

All our members for their ongoing support.

Monique Surges has done a great job for the data base completion.

Council members for their support

MFAT for their ongoing support.

The EU delegation in Wellington for ongoing cooperation.

Frank Olsson, President NZEBC

6. Financial Report

Treasurer, Monique Surges tabled the financial report for the year ended December 2021, available online. Our financial position is strong with a year-end bank balance of \$ 27,231. Please note however that \$15 000 of this is to be accrued to the finalization of the MFAT project and will be paid out in 2022, leaving a year-end balance 2021 of \$12 231, an increase of \$50.00 on the previous year.

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Moved: That the financial report be received.
Thibault Beaujot / Boguslaw Nowak /CARRIED

7. Election of Officers

As required under the constitution, all current committee members stood down. Nominations were received for the following members whose election was *declared*:

President: Frank Olsson (New Zealand Scandinavia Business Association).

Vice President: Monique Surges (GNZCC).

Treasurer: Adrian Blaser (Swiss Honorary Consul) - in absentia

Committee Members:

- Martijn Bakker (DBA),
- Thibault Beaujot, (FNZCC),
- Robert Holubicki (Polanz),
- Peter Kiely (Slovakia);
- Admir Mullaaliu (ICCNZ), and
- Gregory Shanahan (Czech Republic).

Maureen Benson-Rea (EI), Martin Holland (EUCN) and Simon Mowatt (AUT) will continue as observers.

Moved that the nominated names be confirmed:
Boguslaw Nowak / Robert Holubicki / CARRIED

8. Annual Subscriptions

There was no need to increase membership fees as the NZEBC is presently covering its expenditure with strict cost control and running events on a cost recovery basis. The past year delivered a surplus of \$ 1,729.32.

Moved: That there be no change to the subscription rates: Full Members; \$100.00 and Associate Members; \$50.00

Gregory Shanahan / Thibault Beaujot/ CARRIED

Subscription invoices to be issued after the AGM for immediate payment.

9. Appointment of auditor

Due to the simplicity of the NZEBC accounts and audit seems excessive to the members.

Moved: That no auditor be appointed.

Peter Kiely/ Robert Holubicki / CARRIED

10. General Business:

- There is an ambitious China Business Summit scheduled for 1/8/2022. Monique had polled our membership on the idea of a Europe Business Summit be planned for later in 2023. Peter suggested we agree this be done and lay out the plan for the event as soon as possible. Given our relationship with the EMA we should consider working with them on this.

It was agreed that this be a priority item at the first convening of the new committee. Gregory said the NZ-EU FTA had some mixed reception and it is important we explain the value of the FTA more fully and a Summit would serve that aim well. Monique said the new database contains about 400 European subsidiaries in NZ and 400 NZ exporters to Europe. All agreed and supported the summit as proposed.
- Catherine Grant of Tutwa Consulting, who is working with the EU Delegation on FTA implementation, talked to their work and plans. During the time of the ratification process she is working on increasing readiness for FTA once implemented. They are focusing on specific sectors of the economy including government procurement, the building sector, Infrastructure including EV and Food & Beverage. She anticipated close cooperation over the next two years.

11. End of Meeting

The meeting ended at 6.10 PM.

Minute Keeper: Frank Olsson, Chair of meeting.