

NEW ZEALAND - EUROPE BUSINESS COUNCIL INCORPORATED

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NZEBC
on 21 May 2026 at L35, Vero Centre, 48 Shortland Street, Auckland 1010

The meeting opened at 5.30pm.

1. Welcome

Peter Kiely, President, welcomed everyone present (in person and online), and thanked those unable to attend for their apologies (details **attached** in **Schedule 1**).

Moved: The apologies are accepted: Frank Olsson / Marie Gaspar.

2. Minutes of 2025 AGM

The minutes of the 2025 AGM held on 29 April 2025 were approved by the Committee, and circulated before the AGM. There were no matters arising.

Moved: The minutes be accepted: Peter Kiely / Chris Linton.

3. President's Report

Peter Kiely provided members with a detailed report on NZEBC's activities for the past year (**attached** in **Schedule 2**). In addition, to highlight NZEBC's upcoming events:

- Adrian Blaser, Treasurer, mentioned the EU NZ Relationship Update with Ambassador Larence Meredith on 27 May. Adrian explained this may be the last opportunity to see Lawrence in person before he takes up his new post as EU Ambassador to Australia;
- Martijn Bakker, Vice President, discussed NZEBC's stand at Fieldays on 10 June; and
- Frank Olsson, President Emeritus, mentioned the NZ Economic Update with Sharon Zollner, ANZ's Chief Economist, on 23 July 2026.

Peter thanked Adrian, Martijn and Frank for their updates, and thanked members and the Committee for their support.

Moved: The President's Report be received: Frank Olsson / Adrian Blaser.

4. Financial Report

Adrian Blaser, Treasurer, provided members with a detailed report on NZEBC's finances for the past year (**attached** in **Schedule 3**).

Moved: The Financial Report be accepted: Adrian Blaser/ Gregory Shanahan.

5. Election of officers

In accordance with the Constitution, all current committee members stood down. The following nominations were received:

President: Peter Kiely

Vice President: Martijn Bakker

Treasurer: Ignacio Fernandez de la Vega

Secretary: Marie Gaspar

Committee: Frank Olsson, Piotr Bieganski, Gregory Shanahan, Thibault Beaujot, Marian Ioan

Moved: The President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee nominations be confirmed. [By acclamation]

Peter Kiely thanked retiring Committee members, Monique Surges, Maureen Benson-Rea, Adrian Blaser and Chris Linton for their contributions, and in particular Maureen and Monique who had been longstanding NZEBC Committee members.

6. **Members and Membership fees**

Adrian Blaser, Treasurer, explained that the current membership fees are: Associate member \$50; Full member \$100; and Corporate member \$200. Adrian recommended that the membership fees remain unchanged.

Moved: Membership fees remain unchanged: Gregory Shanahan / Rory MacGillycuddy.

7. **Appointment of auditor**

Adrian Blaser, Treasurer, explained that NZEBC does not (yet) meet the legal threshold requiring its accounts to be audited, and accordingly recommended no auditor be appointed.

Moved: No auditor be appointed: Adrian Blaser / Marie Gaspar.

8. **General Business**

Diane Lacoste, Head of Trade and Economy, EU Delegation, provided an update on:

- EU NZ FTA implementation and successes (as confirmed by Minister of Trade, Todd McClay's press release on the second anniversary of it coming into force);
- Horizon Europe growth. Figures released today by the EU showed that New Zealand entities are involved in 29 projects, which is huge;
- Upcoming EU Delegation events, including the EU NZ Cleantech Forum (26 May), NZEBC's EU NZ Relationship update (27 May), and Fieldays (10 / 11 June), and
- Government to government engagement, to ensure smooth FTA implementation.

Christian Dietrich explained that the NZ Domestic Advisory Committee (**NZDAG**):

- is led by MFAT (Felicity Roxburgh), and its purpose is to advise the NZ government and MFAT on how to implement the FTA;
- has 13 members (New Zealand organisations interested in New Zealand business and environment), including NZEBC (who is represented by Christian).

For context, Diane Lacoste, EU Delegation, explained that DAGs are a Free Trade Agreement structure, and are widely used to help with implementation.

10. **Meeting closed 6.40PM**

The AGM concluded at 6.40 PM. Peter Kiely thanked our host, Gregory Shanahan, and everyone present for their support of NZEBC. The conversations continued over refreshments until 7.30 PM.

Secretary Chris Linton (outgoing) / Marie Gaspar (incoming)

SCHEDULE 1
Details of attendees and apologies

Attendees

Adrian Blaser	HC for Switzerland
Algis Mak	HON CONSUL Lithuania
Chris Linton	NZSBA / Hon. Consul for Finland
Frank Olsson	NZEBC, NZSBA
Gregory Shanahan	Czech HC, CSBA
Marian Ioan	Consulate of Romania
Marie Gaspar	HC Luxembourg
Martijn Bakker	VP+Dutch Business Association
Monique Surges	GNZCC
Peter Kiely	HC Slovakia
Petra Lipoth	Consulate of Hungary
Piotr Bieganski	POLANZ
Rory MacGillycuddy	IBNNZ
Ignacio Fernández de la Vega	NZEBC
Boguslaw Nowak	HC Poland
Lindsey Jones	Italy
Bart Brichau	HC Belgium, Teltrac
Thibault Beaujot	France
Christian Dietrich	DAG NZ
Christina Stefanidou	Trade commissioner of Greece in Australia
Isaac Henderson	Droneshows Ltd
Maureen Benson-Rea	UoA, Europe Institute, BNZBA
Tomaz Trampus	Slovenia Australia Chamber
Mrs Andreja Kerševan Draksler	Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia
Diane Lacoste Chevalier	Delegation of the European Union to New Zealand

Apologies

Tom Butler	MFAT
Catharina Andersson	HC Sweden
Erich Bachmann	Honorary Consul for Germany
Winsome Dormer	HC Poland (South Island)
Dermot Ross	HC Latvia
Karen Pullar	Danish Consulate Wellington
Michal Kadlec	Czech & Slovak Business Association
Sake Hitman	HC Netherlands

SCHEDULE 2 President's Report

NEW ZEALAND EUROPE BUSINESS COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Membership

Membership is at an all-time high. We are also particularly pleased that some Embassies accredited to New Zealand from Canberra, and more particularly relevant Trade Commissioners based in Sydney, have joined New Zealand Europe Business Council (NZEBC). After the amended Constitution came into force, allowing corporate NZEBC members, we now have 10 such members, and I'm particularly delighted that new corporate member, Ignacio Fernández de la Vega, is set to join the committee this year. Ignacio will bring with him valuable new connections to Spain and the tourism industry.

Diplomatic Breakfast Event – Europe House

In June 2025, we hosted 8 New Zealand Ambassadors accredited to Europe and over 50 invited guests. H.E. Trevor Mallard (Ireland), H.E. Mark Trainor (Russia), H.E. David Taylor (Scandinavia), H.E. Tara Morton (Spain), H.E. Jackie Frizelle (Italy), H.E. Paul Ballantyne (Poland), H.E. Craig Hawke (Germany) and H.E. Susannah Gordon (Netherlands). Each Ambassador spoke for about 5 minutes about the countries they were responsible for providing an update on the then-existing political and business environment. The event was highly successful, attendees gained useful insights, forged valuable connections and not only did it sell out, but there was a waiting list.

Economic Breakfast

In October 2025, we hosted an economic briefing breakfast at Europe House with keynote speaker, Jarrod Kerr, Chief Economist at Kiwibank introduced by Frank Olsson. It was an insightful presentation on the current economic landscape in New Zealand. Again, the event was also a sellout function with a waiting list.

Several EU Ambassadors in attendance shared their perspectives ahead of the EU-NZ Business Summit. Including, Austrian Trade Commissioner, Ulrike Straka, Slovak Trade Commissioner, Dana Krsakova, and Danish Trade Commissioner. Ulrik Dahl, who are all Sydney-based. Along with the Wellington-based Dutch Ambassador, Ard van der Vorst, and the Canberra-based Finnish Ambassador, Arto Haapea.

Field Days

In 2025, NZEBC hosted an event and hospitality at Field Days 2025, the southern hemisphere's largest agricultural event, showcasing recent innovation in agricultural technology and manufactured goods. Spanning 4 days, the event consisted of over 1000 exhibitors and received a base attendance of 100,000 attendees. Vice President Martijn Bakker is again coordinating the 2026 arrangements.

From 10-13 June 2026, the agricultural field days will again be held at Mystery Creek Hamilton. NZEBC will host an event while several of the bilateral Chambers will have their own pavilions, and the EU Delegation will have a presence as well.

European Union – NZ Business Summit 2025

In October 2025, the EU-NZ Business Summit was held at the Viaduct Events Centre. The stunning event involved 500 Delegates from NZ, Europe, Australia and the Pacific considering how best to promote trade growth between the EU and NZ. NZEBC was a key partner both in preparation for and during the Summit EU Commissioner for Trade and Economics Security, Maroš Šefčovič, attended with many EU Ambassadors from Wellington and Canberra, as well as several Trade Officials. They were joined by New Zealand Prime Minister, Christopher Luxon, and Minister of Trade, Todd McClay. There were various side events as well, such as the French Chamber of Commerce's carbon reduction function. Ireland and Spain also had separate programmes, as did the Central European countries whom arranged a function at our corporate member, DLA Piper's offices.

The overwhelming consensus appears to be that NZEBC was a key partner with an instrumental effect on the success of the Summit.

A particular acknowledgement must go to EU Ambassador and his team Lawrence Meredith and Team Europe Ambassadors and their teams. They worked so hard to make it one of the best Europe Business Summit's held in the world – and it was! We have also worked closely with the EU Ambassador's resident in Wellington. H.E. Patryk Błaszczak (Poland), H.E. Luis Alfonso Sánchez-Vellisco Sánchez (Spain), H.E. Laurence Beau (France), H.E. Nicole Menzenbach (Germany) H.E. Ard van der Vorst (Netherlands), H.E. Jane Connolly (Ireland) and H.E. Gábor Tamás Nagy (Hungary) It's no coincidence that shortly after the Summit, French Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Attractiveness Nicolas Forissier visited New Zealand, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl as well as the Deputy Prime Minister of Poland Krzysztof Gawkowski.

The New Zealand Ambassador to European Union in Brussels H.E. Simon Draper is in regular liaison and contact while the Divisional Head of the Europe Division of MFAT in Wellington Dr Rod Harris and his team are very collaborative and effective.

The next step will be to seize the opportunity and follow up on the connections formed at the Summit. The fact that so many are attending this AGM today, including virtually from Sydney and Canberra, is a testament to that. Let's build upon it!

NZ-EU FTA

Exports to the EU were almost \$9 billion up to December 2025. That's a 29% increase. Up nearly \$2 billion in 2 years. This growth has significantly exceeded forecasts and surpasses expectations. Butter exports are up 121%. Cheese up 400% and services exports are up 11% from Europe to New Zealand. I particularly observed the growing investment from Europe to New Zealand.

Some examples have been extremely high-profile such as Fonterra's sale of its consumer brands to Lactalis. Irish meat processor, Dawn Meats, also acquired 65% in Alliance Group in December 2025. More recently, Chanel has entered into a joint venture with Lammemoor Station in respect of certified organic fine wool. But there are many smaller yet important alternative investments which have been made, such as Pacific Bio Lubricants Limited, a subsidiary of the Czech company, Biona and an excellent example of growing interest in New Zealand's green technology industry.

Infrastructure is a particular highlight. This month, KiwiRail inaugurated its Christchurch yard, ensuring the long-term maintenance of the 66th Swiss Stadler locomotives, engineered with Swiss provision and manufactured in Spain with Ambassador Viktor Vavricka and Spanish Ambassador Luis Sánchez-Vellisco Sánchez attending.

Three bidders have been confirmed for the next section of the northern expressway between Auckland and Whangarei. Major European infrastructure companies are in each of the consortia including from Italy, France and Spain.

In December 2025, Auckland's Sylvia Park came to a standstill when 20,000 people attended the opening of Ikea. The Swedish Ambassador, Klas Moln, cut the ribbon of the store himself at the opening, alongside New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon.

The FTA can be described as "ambitious". It's groundbreaking and innovative and creates a huge opportunity having improved market access, lowered costs and the removal of trade barriers. We look forward to working with the businesses and our partners to maximise the opportunity.

Horizon Europe Research Fund

New Zealand is an associated country in Horizon Europe, the world's largest multilateral research and innovation programme. This association creates a real opportunity for New Zealand researchers to work collaboratively with peers internationally and use scientific innovations and new technologies to address major global challenges, such as climate change, energy and health, and the United Nations' sustainable development goals. These projects are closely connected to business in New Zealand and represent ongoing commercial opportunities.

European Business Organisations

NZEBC is a member of the worldwide network of European Business Organisations, chaired by Jason Collins from Australia. Having attended the meeting in Brussels last June I met with Jason, who is extremely collaborative and helpful to us in NZ. He visited us in Auckland for the Europe Summit and I

believe their model is one worth emulating in New Zealand going forward with significant corporate and business members.

Thank you

I acknowledge the huge contribution of the volunteers on the committee. I've already acknowledged the retiring officers, but I want to make a special mention of the Vice President, Martijn Bakker. Martijn's work, particularly on Field Days, has been outstanding and valuable. He's a real team player for Europe.

Frank Olsson is President Emeritus and has given the best transition I could hope for. Even now, he is still working so hard, particularly on membership and events.

Piotr Bieganski brings his technical knowledge to the table regularly, meanwhile Greg Shanahan is full of commonsense, professional expertise and offers great connections to the commercial community.

We couldn't have a better relationship than we do with the European Union Delegation in Wellington and in particular, Ambassador Lawrence Meredith and his team. All are so positive, collaborative and working constantly for Team Europe.

Part of our function is to be collaborative and work with other organisations. We do that with Simon Bridges and the Auckland Business Chamber. They led a business trade mission late-last year to Poland, Hungary, Romania and Czech Republic. This was the first such trade mission to Central Europe and included some of our members.

Roger Partridge and Oliver Hartwich from the New Zealand Initiative continue to be very supportive of NZEBC. They led business missions, which comprised one-third of last year to the Netherlands, a mission which I joined and which comprised one-third of NZ's economy, and previously to Denmark, Switzerland and Ireland. Next year, their trip is to Slovakia and Austria.

Then of course are the individual European business chambers. All are represented in NZEBC. They stick to their bilateral relationships, and we focus on wider EU issues and policies. Where there is no bilateral chamber such as Spain and Hungary, we are performing that function as best we can.

Acknowledgement of Retiring Officers

We have four committee members retiring at this Annual Meeting.

Monique Surges is synonymous with European trade. She joined the German Chamber of Commerce in 1993 and became CEO in 2000.

The German Chamber has been a real powerhouse and so successful thanks to her dedication, hard work, intelligence and collaboration. She was a founding member of the NZEBC, having since served as President, on the committee and as Treasurer at various times. Monique – now a proud grandmother – thank you very much for all that you have done. As I say, your name and face are synonymous, not only with the German Chamber of Commerce, but NZEBC.

Secondly, Maureen Benson-Rea has been a key person in promoting the European relationship with the University of Auckland and the NCRE. The Foundation became an Associate Member at the inaugural meeting of NZEBC in September 2005. Ironically, it was hosted at the British Consulate-General. Maureen, you've been a foundation member of NZEBC from 2005 until even today and have been a key committee member since 2015. What a length of service. Thank you for your contribution, dedication, intelligence and commitment.

Thirdly, Dr Adrian Blaser, the Honorary Consul for Switzerland. Dr Blaser became Treasurer in 2022, replacing Monique, and has been a hardworking and efficient Treasurer throughout that period. In recent years, he has also managed the database and sent out communications, always supporting as needed. Adrian continues his role as Honorary Consul for Switzerland, a critical part of Europe which just doesn't happen to be in the European Union!

Finally, Chris Linton. Chris has only been on the committee for a year but has worked very hard as a dedicated Secretary. Chris will now return to her functions as Honorary Consul for Finland, a role she has held for 8 years now, and to her position on the NZ Scandinavian Business Association. We look forward to seeing you in the future at our functions Chris.

Peter Kiely
President
NZ-Europe Business Council
22 May 2026

**SCHEDULE 3
Financial Report**

NEW ZEALAND -EUROPE BUSINESS COUNCIL INCORPORATED

Society No 1732763
Incorporated 22nd day of November 2005
Re-Incorporated 22nd day of November 2024

Statement of Revenue & Expenses
as at 31/12/2025

	2025	2024
Opening Balance from 2024 financial year	24,772.46	
Total Income Associate Member Subscriptions 2025	1,351.50	1201.00
Total Income Full Member Subscriptions 202	1,600.00	1800.00
Total income from Corporate Members 2025/26	1,184.86	
Total income from economic breakfast	3,768.11	
Total Interest on savings	158.23	507.35
DAG income	766.80	
	8,829.50	3,508.35
TOTAL INCOME	8,829.50	33,601.96
Total Tax on interest	71.15	228.25
Event catering AGM	425.33	590.52
Event catering Fielddays	971.76	239.20
Banner Printing and Design		749.80
Event Catering November/December SGM	283.46	308.56
Event catering HOMs breakfast	1,541.00	-
Event Catering Econ. Breakfast	2,392.26	-
EBO Membership subscription 2025	559.00	178.16
DAG payments	766.80	-
PayPal fess	3.20	2.18
Lynch & Associates Constitution rewrite		1,150.00
Total website maintenance expenditure	1373.1	752.68
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8,387.06	4,199.35
NET SURPLUS	25,214.90	
Savings Account balance 1 Jan 2025	20,265.96	
Cheque account balance 1 Jan 2025	4,457.68	
Paypal Account balance 1 Jan 2025	48.82	
Accumulated Funds start of year		24,772.46
plus income	8,829.50	
minus expenditure	8,387.06	442.44
Accumulated funds & liabilities		25,214.90
Represented by cash at bank -Savings account	20,353.04	
Represented by cash at bank -Cheque Account	4,861.86	
Represented by cash at bank -Paypal Account	0.00	
NET ASSETS YEAR END 2025	25,214.90	
		0.00

Date: **31/12/2025**

 Signed: President Peter Kiely	 Treasurer Adrian Blaser
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