

FONZ LETTER

NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE

Friends of New Zealand

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PM Ardern gives birth to baby girl

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern gave birth to a baby girl on 21 June. The baby arrived at 4.45pm, weighing 3.31kg. Ms Ardern announced the birth on her Instagram feed shortly after, posting a picture of her, her newborn daughter and her partner Clarke Gayford.

New Zealand deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters is now acting Prime Minister. Ms Ardern has previously said she would take six weeks maternity leave. It's Ms Ardern's first child, and Gayford will be a stay-at-home father.



Picture posted by PM Ardern on Instagram

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Ms Ardern is one of very few elected leaders to have given birth while in office. The only other recorded instance in recent times was of Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto, who was elected Prime Minister in 1988 and in 1990 gave birth to her second child.

Former Prime Minister Helen Clark shared her support for the new parents: "Really, both of them are very modern young parents. A fine example to young people in New Zealand."

Launch of EU-NZ trade negotiations

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EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström visited New Zealand, where she and NZ Trade Minister David Parker officially launched the negotiations for a free trade agreement between New Zealand and the EU.

“These negotiations offer significant economic gains for New Zealand and the EU. They are an example of like-minded countries working together at a time when the world faces a rising tide of protectionism,” Minister Parker said. “The EU is our third largest trading partner, with two-way trade worth more than \$20 billion. Even excluding the UK, our trade with the EU is worth about \$16 billion annually. Our recently-announced inclusive and progressive Trade for All agenda aims to benefit all citizens – an approach in line with the EU”.

Minister Parker added that he fully endorsed Commissioner Malmström’s ambition that we “negotiate a win-win deal that opens new opportunities for our businesses and safeguards high standards in areas such as sustainable development.”

Commissioner Malmström tweeted: “Great opportunity to shape globalisation & define ambitious common rules with a close, likeminded ally”. During her visit, she also met with now acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Winston Peters.

Commissioner Malmström’s visit comes after the EU’s Foreign Affairs Council had approved on 22 May the negotiating mandate put forward by the Commission.

The first rounds of talks is set to start in July in Brussels.



Commissioner Malmström and Acting PM Winston Peters

EU-NZ Customs Agreement enters into force

More streamlined trade between New Zealand and Europe will be one of the potential benefits of a Customs Cooperation Agreement with the European Union, which entered into force in May.

“I am delighted that both countries have now completed their respective processes to bring the agreement into force, demonstrating our joint ongoing commitment to close cooperation”, said Minister for Customs Meka Whaitiri.

The Agreement strengthens cooperation in terms of customs procedures and supply chain security and risk management.

It enables our customs authorities to learn from each other, particularly in areas such as research and

development of customs technology. It also sets the scene for possible further agreements between New Zealand and the European Union on other aspects of the customs relationship.

New Zealand also has secure trade schemes with China, Australia, South Korea, Japan and the United States.

Under these schemes, each country recognises the other’s security measures and customs processes, ensuring that imported and exported goods are fully compliant with customs requirements at each step along the supply chain.

Increase of New Zealand's development assistance

In May, Foreign Minister Winston Peters announced an increase in New Zealand's development assistance budget, with the Pacific as a key focus. The additional funding of \$NZ 714 million over the next four years represents a budget increase of 28%.

In the Pacific, New Zealand has long-standing development partnerships. Dialogue with partners has identified areas for further support. These include climate change; human development (e.g. health and education); inclusive development (e.g. gender equality, women empowerment and youth); and support for governance.

On climate change in particular, New Zealand will work with countries to help them reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and build climate resilience as well as reduce their own emissions, for example with reliable, efficient and renewable energy. In addition, New Zealand is also committed to representing climate change issues affecting small island developing states in international forums.

In his announcement, Minister Peters also noted that that New Zealand would also seek to do more through the multilateral system and to increase support for humanitarian action. In this space, we will be looking for the best opportunities to address pressing needs, have real impact, and best align with our strategic objectives. We will continue to work with our close partners in the Pacific, like the EU to achieve these goals.



New Zealand Development programmes in the Pacific

New Zealand tourism continues to grow

New forecasts released recently by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment show that international visitor spending in New Zealand is expected to grow 40 per cent to \$14.8 billion a year by 2024.

"New Zealand's tourism sector is forecast to grow steadily over the next seven years, reaching 5.1 million visitors annually by 2024, up 37 per cent from 2017," said Minister Kelvin Davis, responsible for Tourism.

Numbers are expected climb fairly rapidly over the next two years, due to favourable economic conditions and better air connectivity.

Mr Davis said a healthy tourism industry is great for New Zealand, though there is work to do to ensure the sustainability of the sector.



©Tourism New Zealand

"Tourism is a boon for New Zealand, creating jobs, supporting better transport links, boosting our regional economies and offering opportunities for Māori economic development through innovative Māori tourism ventures. It is important that the Government, councils and industry work together to meet the challenges that accompany the forecast growth."

To support the sector the Government has invested more than \$35 million so far in tourism related projects through the Provincial Growth Fund and is investing up to \$25 million each year over four years through the Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

#GetNZonthemap

New Zealand prime minister Jacinda Ardern and Rhys Darby, famous for his role on comedy series *Flight Of The Conchords*, have teamed up in a 2.5 minute video which aims to "put New Zealand back on the map".

The tongue-in-cheek tourism campaign raises a serious point: that New Zealand is frequently missed off world maps, as documented on the website www.worldmapswithout.nz

Darby's investigations reveal that New Zealand is missing from maps in Getty's stock photo library, Starbucks cafes, Ikea, in-flight magazines and at New York's Central Park Zoo.



Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

The #getnzonthemap campaign is part of a drive to encourage more visitors to discover New Zealand.

If you have not yet seen the video, watch it [here](#). If you spot a map without New Zealand on it, let us know! Send a picture to: Stephanie.Roy@mfat.govt.nz

Annual FONZ BBQ



The annual "Friends of New Zealand" BBQ will take place on 10 July at the Ambassador's residence. This will be the occasion to celebrate a year of successes and positive milestones in the relationship between the European Parliament and New Zealand.

The new Chair of the FONZ will also be announced; current Chair MEP Derek Vaughan will be passing the baton in anticipation of the United Kingdom's departure from the EU.

If you would like more information about this event or to request an invitation, please contact Stephanie.Roy@mfat.govt.nz