

Senate F&PA Committee

Tabled Document

Press Release

Paris, 27 April 2015

Inquiry: Budget Estimates 2015/16

Date/Time: 26/05/15

Witness Name: Dr Margot McCathy

Organisation: PM&C

Prime Minister Abbott and President Hollande met at the Elysee Palace in Paris

The two leaders discussed in detail the threat posed by terrorism and foreign fighters to both countries and to global security and agreed to strengthen police, security and intelligence cooperation.

They issued a joint declaration setting out enhanced cooperation in this important area.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the international coalition to disrupt, degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL, or Daesh and discussed progress with the military campaign in Iraq.

The Prime Minister updated President Hollande on Australia's Building Partner Capacity deployment to Taji.

The two leaders also discussed the prospects for an agreement on Iran's nuclear programme and the situation in Syria.

They agreed to work closely together on climate change leading up to the December COP meeting, and to ensure the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank has high standards of governance and transparency.

The Prime Minister welcomed President Hollande's support for an Australia-EU free trade agreement.

Other topics included French participation in the Competitive Evaluation Process for Australia's future submarine project; and the possible execution of Australian and French citizens in Indonesia – which both leaders deplored.

JOINT STATEMENT WITH PRESIDENT FRANCOIS HOLLANDE

28 April 2015

Prime Minister

President of the French Republic

E&OE

We have agreed to deepen the security aspects of our bilateral relationship, including our counter-terrorism cooperation and our shared efforts to deal with the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters.

We recognise the challenges we both face on national security, as demonstrated by the terrorist attacks in Sydney in December 2014 and in Paris in January 2015.

We acknowledge that ISIL, or Daesh, poses a significant threat to global security and to both our countries.

We reaffirm our commitment to working with our international coalition partners to disrupt, degrade and ultimately destroy it.

Our renewed efforts will focus on counter-terrorism and national security policy.

Building on the Security Cooperation elements of our Strategic Partnership of 2012, we have decided to:

- enhance our high-level dialogue on global security and terrorism;
- deepen our exchanges on national security policy, including responses to terrorism, countering violent extremism and on-line radicalisation;
- extend our dialogue on the challenges posed by the phenomenon of foreign fighters;
- further strengthen intelligence cooperation; and
- establish a program of exchanges in counter-terrorism policing, including on tactical response policing.

28 April 2015