

**MACGREGOR, Anne**

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**From:** Dennis.Roche@facs.gov.au  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 07, 1999 07:28  
**To:** axmacgregor@freshfields-deringer.be  
**Subject:** Australia Bilateral Social Security Agreements



Rich Text Format

Dear Ms MacGregor

Thank you for your enquiry of 15 September about Australia's bilateral social security agreements. I have been asked to reply to your enquiry. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Australia currently has 11 bilateral social security agreements. The agreements are with Austria, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Canada, Cyprus, Malta and New Zealand.

Australia and Denmark signed a social security agreement on 1 July 1999. The agreement still needs to be ratified by the respective Parliaments. We anticipate that the agreement will commence to operate from 1 October 2000 (but this is subject to ratification and formal treaty process being completed on schedule. I have attached an electronic copy of the English language text of the Agreement for you information. The text is in Rich Text Format (rtf).

(See attached file: DenssflE.rtf)

During the mid 1980s Australia approached the EU countries about negotiating bilateral social security agreements. Formal negotiations have taken place with Finland, Germany and Greece. France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Sweden have all expressed interest but have not entered into any formal negotiations.

The last round of negotiations with Finland was in December 1997; with Germany was in 1994 and with Greece was in 1996. While discussions are continuing about agreements by correspondence with these countries, agreements have not yet been concluded and it is not possible to say when, or if, agreements might be put in place.

I hope this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Dennis Roche  
Assistant Director  
International Agreements 1  
International Branch