

# The Southern Cross Group

*Promoting Mobility in the Global Community*



HE Mr Bernard Lauwaert  
Ambassador  
Royal Belgian Embassy  
19 Arkana Street  
Yarralumla ACT 2600

30 November 2001

Your Excellency,

You may remember that last December, you were kind enough to take the time to meet with John MacGregor and John Russell in Canberra, and at that time we had the pleasure of introducing you to the work of our Group, which was founded in Brussels in January 2000.

As you will probably recall, The Southern Cross Group is an international non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to enhancing the mobility of those who choose to live and work outside of their country of nationality. Our membership includes Australians in many countries and we have a broad network of contacts with many Australian expatriate groups around the world. We have been particularly concerned at the lack of a bilateral social security agreement between Australia and Belgium, as you will recall, and we understand that tentative positive steps have been taken in the last twelve months which may lead to a bilateral agreement sometime in the future.

As well as working towards further bilateral social security agreements, we have been active on dual citizenship under Australian citizenship law, the rights of non-EU nationals in the EU, and most recently, the right to vote in Australia for Australian citizens living overseas.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to update you on our work in the last twelve months. We will both be in Canberra during December, and wonder if a meeting could be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

Anne MacGregor will be available in Canberra from Wednesday 5 December to Friday 14 December. During that time she can be reached at 02 6247 6952 or 0419 232 016 or by e-mail at [anne@southern-cross-group.org](mailto:anne@southern-cross-group.org). In addition, both the undersigned will be in Canberra on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 December. John Russell may be reached in Belgium until Friday 14 December at the address below or by e-mail at [john@southern-cross-group.org](mailto:john@southern-cross-group.org).

We hope that there will be an opportunity for a meeting with you and look forward to a continuing constructive dialogue with you.

Yours sincerely,

Anne MacGregor / John Russell  
SCG Co-founders  
Washington DC and Brussels