

Introduction

Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report contains the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties' review of three treaty actions. Two treaty actions were tabled on 16 June 2015:
 - *The Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled*; and
 - *The Agreement between Australia and the European Union Establishing a Framework for the Participation of Australia in European Union Crisis Management Operations*.
- 1.2 The third treaty action was tabled on 23 June:
 - *Ratification of the Decisions of the 2012 Doha Congress: Universal Postal Union: General Regulations of the Universal Postal Union, Universal Postal Convention, Final Protocol of the Universal Postal Convention and Postal Payment Services Agreement*.
- 1.3 The Committee's resolution of appointment empowers it to inquire into any treaty to which Australia has become a signatory, on the treaty being tabled in Parliament.
- 1.4 The treaties, and matters arising from them, are evaluated to ensure that ratification is in the national interest, and that unintended or negative effects on Australians will not arise.
- 1.5 Prior to tabling, major treaty actions are subject to a National Interest Analysis (NIA), prepared by the Government. This document considers arguments for and against the treaty, outlines the treaty obligations and any regulatory or financial implications, and reports the results of

consultations undertaken with State and Territory Governments, Federal and State and Territory agencies, and with industry or non-government organisations.

- 1.6 A Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) may accompany the NIA. The RIS provides an account of the regulatory impact of the treaty action where adoption of the treaty will involve a change in the regulatory environment for Australian business. The treaties under consideration in this report did not require a RIS.
- 1.7 The Committee takes account of these documents in its examination of the treaty text, in addition to other evidence taken during the inquiry program.
- 1.8 A copy of the treaty and its associated documentation may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website at:
 - http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Treaties.

Conduct of the Committee's review

- 1.9 The treaty actions reviewed in this report were advertised on the Committee's website from the dates of tabling. The Committee invited written submissions. The Committee also invited all State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and the Presiding Officers of each Parliament to lodge submissions.
- 1.10 The Committee held the following public hearings:
 - In Canberra on Monday 10th August for the treaties tabled on 16 June 2015; and
 - In Canberra on Monday 17th August for the treaty tabled on 23 June 2015.
- 1.11 The transcript of evidence from the public hearing may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's website under the treaties' tabling date, 16 June 2015 or 23 June 2015.
- 1.12 A list of submissions received and their authors is at Appendix A.
- 1.13 A list of witnesses who appeared at the public hearing is at Appendix B.