



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Transport

File Reference: 11/6006

The Hon Richard Marles MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Marles

Subject: JSCOT public hearing 24 June 2013

I refer to the public hearing of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties on 24 June 2013, at which this Department answered questions in relation to:

- Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Solomon Islands relating to Air Services, done at Canberra on 21 August 2012, [2012] ATNIF 16;
- Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines relating to Air Services, done at Canberra on 24 October 2012, [2012] ATNIF 28;
- Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium relating to Air Services, done at Canberra on 23 November 2012, [2012] ATNIF 30; and
- Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia relating to Air Services, done at Canberra on 7 February 2013, [2013] ATNIF 4.

During the hearing, in response to a question from Senator Smith, I undertook to provide further information in relation to requests over the last five years to the Australian Government to negotiate access to domestic passenger air services by foreign airlines, otherwise known as cabotage. During this time, cabotage rights have been raised by the European Commission in the course of on-going negotiations on a comprehensive air services agreement with the European Union, which commenced in 2008 and are yet to be finalised.

In response to your question about the number of air services arrangements Australia has in place, I can confirm that the total number of economies with which Australia has air services arrangements, including treaty-status air services agreements and less-than-treaty-status arrangements (Memorandum of Understanding and similar) is 87.

I trust this information will assist the Committee in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely

Gilon Smith
Acting Director, Air Services Negotiations
Aviation Industry Policy

24 June 2013