

**Submission No. 2
Treaties Referred on 16 November 2010**

**Public Hearing
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Monday 22 November 2010**

**Universal Postal Union: Eighth Additional Protocol to the Constitution of 10 July 1964,
as amended;
Convention, and Final Protocol; First Additional Protocol to the General Regulations and
the Postal Payment Services Agreement,
done at Geneva on 12 August 2008**

Question on Notice:

How does Australia's contribution rate compare with other countries, in particular with the United States of America and European countries?

Response:

The financing of the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) activities is independent of the larger United Nations system.

All budget expenses are financed jointly by the member countries, based on a contribution class system. Upon admission to the Union, new member countries are free to choose one of ten contribution classes ranging from one to 50 units.

Class of 50 Units – for example: United States of America, France, Germany, Great Britain

Class of 45 Units – no example found

Class of 40 Units – for example: Canada

Class of 35 Units – no example found

Class of 30 Units – no example found

Class of 25 Units – for example: Spain, China, Italy

Class of 20 Units – for example: Brazil, Australia, India

Class of 15 Units – for example: Belgium, Sweden

Class of 10 Units – for example: Mexico, Denmark

Class of 5 Units – for example: New Zealand

Class of 3 Units – for example: Argentina, Greece

Class of 1 Unit –for example: The Philippines

Class of 0.5 Unit – for example: Burundi, Eritrea

Paying 20 contribution units results in an annual payment of some \$0.83m AUD by Australia Post. The total budget for the UPU in 2010 is 37,000,000 Swiss francs.