

Introduction

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report contains advice to Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of a series of proposed treaty actions tabled on 2 and 3 December 2003 specifically:

2 December 2003

- *Exchange of letters constituting an Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Italian Republic on the Civil Registry Documentation to be Submitted by Australian Citizens Wishing to Marry in Italy, done at Rome on 10 February and 11 April 2000*
- *Agreement Establishing an International Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank, done at London 26 June 1985.*¹

3 December 2003

- *Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships of 2 November 1973, as Modified by the Protocol of 17 February 1978 (London, 26 September 1997)*
- *United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 15 November 2000)*

¹ *Senate Journal*, 2 December 2003, p. 2803 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 2 December 2003, p. 1354.

- *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (New York, 15 November 2000)*
- *Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (People Smuggling Protocol), supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (New York, 15 November 2000).*²

Briefing documents

- 1.2 The advice in this report refers to the National Interest Analyses (NIAs) prepared for these proposed treaty actions. Copies of the NIAs are available from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm> or may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat. These documents were prepared by the Government agency (or agencies) responsible for the administration of Australia's responsibilities under each treaty.
- 1.3 Copies of treaty actions and NIAs can also be obtained from the Australian Treaties Library maintained on the internet by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Australian Treaties Library is accessible through the Committee's website or directly at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat>.

Conduct of Committee's review

- 1.4 The Committee's review of the treaty actions canvassed in this report was advertised in the national press and on the Committee's website.³ In addition, letters inviting comment were sent to all State Premiers and Chief Ministers and to individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of proposed treaty actions such as these. A list of submissions and their authors is at Appendix A.

2 *Senate Journal*, 3 December 2003, p. 2827 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 3 December 2003, p. 1366.

3 The Committee's review of the proposed treaty actions was advertised in *The Australian* on 10 December 2003. Members of the public were advised on how to obtain relevant information and invited to submit their views to the Committee.

- 1.5 The Committee also took evidence at a public hearing held on 13 February 2003. A list of witnesses who gave evidence at the public hearing is at Appendix B. A transcript of evidence from the public hearing can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's internet site at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm>.