



Public Hearing on four treaties including nuclear cooperation with Russia and a free trade agreement with Chile

The Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will hear evidence on four treaties tabled on 14 May, 17 June and 25 June 2008 including an agreement with the Russian Federation on cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The treaty will allow Australian uranium to be used in approved Russian nuclear power plants, subject to strict safeguards conditions. It will also promote cooperation between the two countries for the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

The final hearing on the Agreement will hear evidence from the Medical Association for Prevention of War who state in their submission that they have grave concerns regarding the proposed sale of uranium to Russia.

An Australian free trade agreement with Chile will remove most barriers for Australian business to enter into Chile and would provide a high degree of economic integration for markets through comprehensive commitments in a range of areas. Although bilateral trade with Chile is modest, involving \$856m in 2007 Australia is the fourth largest source of foreign investment in Chile, with investments amounting to US\$3b in 2007.

The Committee will also consider an agreement to enhance bilateral defence engagement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by facilitating cooperation in a range of mutually agreed fields including, but not limited to, military training and education, joint military exercises, defence materiel and equipment, security and defence policy and protection from weapons of mass destruction.

Australia's interest in cooperation with the UAE stems from Australian involvement in the Middle East and the developing potential for defence material cooperation.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM 9.00 am-11.30 pm, Monday, 25 August 2008

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, 2nd floor, Parliament House, Canberra

- 9.00am** Agreement with the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes
- 9.30am** Australia - Chile Free Trade Agreement
- 10.10am** Headquarters Agreement between Australia and the Secretariat to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels
- 10.50am** Agreement with the UAE on Defence Cooperation
- 11.30am** Close

The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service, radio and webcast live on the Parliament House website at: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

Further information is available on the Committee's website: www.aph.gov.au/jsct

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