



Public hearing on tax treaty with Singapore

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will hold a public hearing in Canberra on Monday 1 February 2010 on a tax treaty with Singapore that will significantly expand the information available to the Australian Taxation Office in its efforts to prevent tax evasion.

The Australian Government has been negotiating Exchange of Information tax treaties with a number of countries over recent years. These treaties represent the world's best practice for exchange of information, containing provisions approved by the OECD and the G20.

"These Agreements are important in combating offshore tax evasion," Committee Chair, Mr Kelvin Thomson MP, said. "They will broaden Australia's ability to enforce its domestic tax laws and make it harder for taxpayers to evade Australian tax. The Treaties Committee will be making sure these agreements are as thorough and effective as they need to be."

The new agreement will:

- require Singapore to provide tax information to Australia that is foreseen to be relevant;
- oblige Singapore to collect information at the request of Australia; and
- allow for information to be obtained from banks and other financial institutions in Singapore.

The Committee will also be examining treaties on:

- cooperation on child protection and welfare with Lebanon;
- social security payments with Poland; and
- the addition of porbeagle and mako shark species to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

10.00am – 12.00pm, Monday, 1 February 2010

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

10.00am	Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Lebanon regarding Cooperation on Protecting the Welfare of Children
10.30am	Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Poland on Social Security
11.00am	Amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
11.30am	Second Protocol amending the Agreement between Australia and Singapore for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income
12.00pm	Close

This hearing will be broadcast live on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/> (audio only)

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

MEDIA CONTACTS

**For Mr Kelvin Thomson MP (Chair) contact Mr Anthony Cianflone (03) 9350 5777
Background: Committee Secretary (02) 6277 4002**