



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

Treaties referred 16 November 2010,
tabled 24 November 2010 & 9 February 2011.

MEDIA ALERT

Issued 23 February 2011

Chair: Mr Kelvin Thomson MP

Harmonisation of standards, air services & promotion of fraternity with South East Asia

Federal Parliament's Joint Committee on Treaties will hold a public hearing in Canberra on Friday 25th February 2011 to evaluate the impact of six treaties recently tabled or referred to the Committee following last year's election.

The Committee recently heard that the **World Wine Trade Group Agreement on Requirements for Wine Labelling**, will provide substantial cost savings and trade benefits to Australia's wine industry.

The National Institute of Measurement of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research will next discuss measurement harmonisation issues under the Agreement, followed by CHOICE and the Queensland Consumers Association to voice the consumer perspective.

Amendments to the **Implementation Procedures for Airworthiness** (IPA), under Australia's Agreement on the **Promotion of Aviation Safety** with the United States of America (or BASA), also aim to harmonise standards to promote an Australian niche industry, in this case the aeronautical parts and accessories sector.

The Committee's Chair Kelvin Thomson MP stated:

'Australia signs many international instruments a year. Some are minor but others can have major import for Australian industry sectors, such as by promoting international recognition of certification standards'.

'Balancing domestic interests with the international drive for harmonisation of standards can have its challenges. The Committee's task is to ensure stakeholders have their say on any treaty prior to ratification, and that procedures for implementation reflect any concerns, should the treaty be endorsed'.

The Committee will also review:

- **Air services agreements with Brazil, the United Mexican States and the Republic of Turkey**, to put in place direct reciprocal air services; and
- the **Third Protocol to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia**, to allow for accession by regional organisations, such as the European Union, to the Treaty.

Copies of the National Interest Analysis and treaty texts are available under Treaties for the 43rd Parliament at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm>
Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

MEDIA CONTACTS

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PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

**Treaties referred on 16 November 2010, and tabled on 24
November 2010 and 9 February 2011**

Friday, 25 February 2011
9.00am – 12.30pm
Committee Room 1R6

- 9.00am** **World Wine Trade Group Agreement on Requirements for Wine Labelling**
- 10.00am** **Agreement between Australia and the Slovak Republic on Social Security**
- 10.30am** **Break**
- 10.45am** **Air Services Agreement between the Government of Australia and the
Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil;
Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of
the United Mexican States relating to Air Services and
Air Services Agreement between the Government of Australia and the
Government of the Republic of Turkey**
- 11.30am** **Third Protocol Amending the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in
Southeast Asia**
- 12.00pm** **Implementation Procedures for Airworthiness Covering Design Approval,
Production Activities, Export Airworthiness Approval, Post Design
Approval Activities, and Technical Assistance Between Authorities under
the Agreement on the Promotion of Aviation Safety Between the
Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of
America**
- 12.30pm** **Close**