



## **ILO conventions to promote safe, flexible working conditions and maritime reform**

In Canberra on Monday 21 March 2011, the Joint Committee on Treaties will take evidence from lead agencies on six international treaties, four being International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions. The ILO oversees an international code of labour standards for workers in a wide range of industries and occupations, implemented in conventions, protocols and recommendations.

The ILO conventions before the Committee propose frameworks for healthy, safe and flexible working arrangements to be applied under the:

- *Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (No. 186);*
- *Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981;*
- *ILO Convention 162, Asbestos, 1986; and*
- *ILO C175 Part-Time Work Convention, 1994.*

Of these treaties, the *Maritime Labour Convention* has attracted most interest. This treaty proposes a certification and inspection regime that would not only apply to working conditions on Member State ships, but to all ships over 500 tons entering Member State ports.

The Committee Chairman Kelvin Thomson MP stated:

‘Stakeholders have high expectations of the *Maritime Labour Convention*, which has potential to simultaneously set decent work and living conditions for seafarers and to create a more level playing field for Australia’s shipping industry. The Committee will be particularly interested in hearing how the Australian Maritime Safety Authority plans to administer the compliance process for the treaty, should it be ratified.’

The two other treaties being considered propose amendments to the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*, to add and remove species, and to the *Australia–United States Free Trade Agreement*, to change Product Specific Rules for yarns made of mixed synthetic staple fibres.

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

### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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**For background information contact: Committee Secretary on (02) 6277 4002**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES**

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**PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM**

**Treaties referred on 16 November and tabled on 24 November 2010**

Monday, 21 March 2011

10.15am - 12.15pm

Committee Room 2R1

- |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10.15am</b> | <b>2010 Amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>10.40am</b> | <b>Exchange of Notes Amending Annex 4-A of the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>11.05am</b> | <b>International Labour Organisation Conventions, covering:</b><br><br><b>Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (No. 186)</b><br><b>Protocol of 2002 to the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981</b><br><b>ILO Convention 162, Asbestos, 1986</b><br><b>ILO C175 Part-Time Work Convention, 1994</b> |
| <b>12.15pm</b> | <b>Close</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |