



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Trade Sub-Committee

MEDIA RELEASE
Issued: 11 June 2010

Chair: Ms Janelle Saffin MP
Deputy: Hon Bruce Scott MP

Dr Andrew Elek to discuss Australia's trade relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America

Federal parliament's Trade Sub-Committee will hear from Dr Andrew Elek, an internationally recognised trade researcher, in Canberra next Wednesday (16 June), for its trade inquiry. The Sub-Committee is investigating Australia's trade and investment relations with Asia, the Pacific and Latin America.

Chair of the Trade Sub-Committee, Janelle Saffin, welcomed the opportunity to hear from Dr Elek. She said that "Dr Elek has been one of the leaders in researching and writing about trade issues in Australia. He has been involved in the development of APEC since its inception".

Ms Saffin continued, "we look forward to hearing Dr Elek's assessment of Australia's trade and investment prospects and some ideas that will help to overcome the challenges Australia faces in establishing solid and sustainable growth in the regions we are examining."

"The aim of the inquiry is to find ways to further expand Australia's trade and investment opportunities in the regions included in the terms of reference. The importance of the inquiry is underlined by the fact that the countries of these regions already account for three-quarters of Australia's total trade."

Ms Saffin said "the effects of the world financial crisis are still being felt and we need to aid the recovery process by grasping any new opportunities to develop our trade and investment relations. These countries will be a very important part of that process. The Sub-Committee will be seeking to put some solid recommendations to the Government on ways to reinforce the recovery process and achieve our trade and investment goals".

The Trade Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade will hear from: **Dr Andrew Elek on Wednesday, 16 June 2010**. The hearing, from **11.00am** until **12 Noon**, will be in Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra.

Submissions to the inquiry are still being accepted and may be emailed to jscfadt@aph.gov.au.

For all inquiries: please contact the Principal Research Officer of the Trade Sub-Committee by phone on (02) 6277 4547, via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm>