



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone: (02) 6277 4002 | Fax: (02) 6277 2219 | Email: jsct@aph.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Review of Convention to Mark Plastic Explosives

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, chaired by Mrs Margaret May MP, will hold a public hearing on Monday 7 November to examine the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the purpose of detection.

The Convention, which is one of thirteen of the United Nations (UN) conventions and protocols on terrorism, was drafted in response to the 1988 bombing of PAN Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The Convention would oblige Australia to incorporate a detection odour into plastic explosives during manufacture and control the possession and transfer of existing stocks of unmarked plastic explosives. The detection odour to be incorporated into plastic explosives, 2,3-dimethyl-2,3-dinitrobutane (DMNB) is the preferred explosive odour agent, identified as the most effective from four agents recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

'Australia is already Party to 11 UN conventions and protocols on terrorism which signifies Australia's continuing commitment to combating the threat of terrorism in the region. The Committee will review the treaty and consider whether the Treaty should be ratified,' Mrs May said.

The Committee will also hear evidence in relation to two other treaties: Amendments to the Convention for the Regulation of International Whaling and an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The public hearing will be held in **Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra** on **Monday, 7 November 2005** from **10.00 am**. A public hearing program is attached. The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service on Channel 10, radio frequency 98.3MHz and on the Parliament House website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/live/webcast3.asp#>

Further information about the inquiry is available on the Committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/13sept2005/tor.htm>
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/11october2005/tor.htm>

MEDIA CONTACTS

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PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

Treaties tabled on 13 September and 11 October 2005

Monday, 7 November 2005

10.00 am to 11.00 am

Committee Room 2R1

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| 10.00 am | Amendments to the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, done at Washington on 2 December 1946 |
| 10.20 am | Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, done at Montreal on 1 March 1991 |
| 10.40 am | Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, done at New York on 25 May 2000 |
| 11.00 am | Close |