



## **Treaties Committee examines wine labelling, defence logistics, and electronic contracts agreements**

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee will hold a public hearing today on three international agreements with potential to: expand Australia's wine export markets; enhance Australia's defence co-operation with Japan; and to provide a consistent international framework for conducting business electronically.

**The World Wine Trade Group Agreement on Requirements for Wine Labelling** establishes a uniform set of labelling laws for wines from a range of non-European wine producing nations, such as Australia, Chile and South Africa.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries claims that the Agreement will enable Australia's wine exports to increase because of the consistent labelling arrangements across a large number of countries.

However, the Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics was unable to establish that the Agreement would measurably improve wine exports.

**The Japan–Australia Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)** will provide a framework for Australian and Japanese armed services to cooperate in the provision of logistics services when the two armed services are engaged in joint operations.

Both Australia and Japan already have cross servicing agreements with the United States. ACSA therefore completes a series of agreements underpinning the logistics of the Japan–United States–Australia Trilateral Framework.

**The United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts** aims to build legal certainty and commercial predictability to international electronic trade. The Convention is intended to ensure that a consistent set of rules apply to transactions, for example, over the internet between people in different countries.

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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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES**

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**PUBLIC HEARING AND PRIVATE MEETING  
PROGRAM**

**Treaties tabled on 28 October 2010 and referred to the Committee  
on 16 November 2010**

Monday, 7 February 2011  
10.15am - 12.15pm  
Committee Room 2R1

- 10.15am**            **Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Japan concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Australian Defence Force and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan**
- 10.45am**            **World Wide Trade Group Agreement on Requirements for Wine Labelling**
- 11.15am**            **United Nations Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts**