



Australia's accession to the Convention on Cybercrime under review

In Canberra on Friday 25 March 2011, the Joint Committee on Treaties will conduct hearings for treaties tabled in November 2010, and February and March 2011.

The role of Parliament's Treaty Committee is to review proposed treaty actions to ensure they are in Australia's best interests. At the meeting, the Committee will examine amendments to two existing treaties and two proposed treaty actions. Set down in order of consideration, the treaties comprise:

- *Resolution MEPC.186(59), Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*
- *Accession by Australia to the Convention on Cybercrime*
- *Amendments to Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement*
- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of South Africa concerning the Co-Production of Films*

These treaties cover a range of matters affecting Australia including the protection of the marine environment, international regulation of computer and internet related crime, the maintenance of our strong bilateral trade relationship with Singapore, and the fostering of a creative partnership for film and television production with South Africa.

Commenting on the two new proposed treaty actions, the Chairman Mr Kelvin Thomson MP stated:

'The proposed agreement for film co-production with South Africa follows a successful model; Australia has similar agreements with 10 other nations. The *Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime*, by contrast, is the first international treaty proposed to combat computer and internet related crime'.

'While international co-operation to attack commercial cybercrime and circulation of child pornography are clear priorities, the Convention also raises concerns about the protection of privacy and personal information. The Committee will investigate these issues with key agencies,' Mr Thomson said.

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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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

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PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

Treaties tabled on 25 November 2010, 9 February and 1 March 2011

Friday, 25 March 2011

9.00am – 11.00am

Committee Room 2R2

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|----------------|---|
| 9.00am | Resolution MEPC.186(59), Amendments to the Annex of the Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships |
| 9.20am | Accession by Australia to the Convention on Cybercrime |
| 10.00am | Amendments to Singapore-Australia Free Trade Agreement |
| 10.25am | Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of South Africa concerning the Co-Production of Films |
| 11.00am | Close |