

Introduction

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report contains advice to Parliament on the review by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of a series of proposed treaty actions tabled on 9 September 2003¹ specifically:
- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Mexican States for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, and Protocol, done at Mexico City on 9 September 2002*
 - *Convention between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital Gains, done at Canberra on 21 August 2003, and an Associated Exchange of Notes*
 - *Agreement between the European Community and Australia amending the Agreement between Australia and the European Community on Trade in Wine, and Protocol, of 1994*
 - *Agreement, done at Townsville on 24 July 2003, between Solomon Islands, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tonga concerning the operations and status of the Police and Armed*

¹ *Senate Journal*, 9 September 2003, p. 2309 and *House of Representatives Votes and Proceedings*, 9 September 2003, p. 1142.

Forces and Other Personnel deployed to Solomon Islands to assist in the restoration of law and order and security

- *International Labour Organization Convention No. 155: Occupational Safety and Health, 1981*
- *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), done at Stockholm on 22 May 2001*
- *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, done at Rotterdam on 10 September 1998*
- *Amendments, done at Berlin, Germany on 19 June 2003, to the Schedule to the International Convention for Regulation of Whaling, done at Washington on 2 December 1946.*

Briefing documents

- 1.2 The advice in this report refers to the National Interest Analyses (NIAs) prepared for these proposed treaty actions. Copies of the NIAs are available from the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm> or may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat. These documents were prepared by the Government agency (or agencies) responsible for the administration of Australia's responsibilities under each treaty.
- 1.3 Copies of treaty actions and NIAs can also be obtained from the Australian Treaties Library maintained on the internet by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The Australian Treaties Library is accessible through the Committee's website or directly at <http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat>.

Conduct of Committee's review

- 1.4 The Committee's review of the treaty actions canvassed in this report was advertised in the national press and on the Committee's website.² In addition, letters inviting comment were sent to all State Premiers
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2 The Committee's review of the proposed treaty actions was advertised in *The Australian* on 17 September 2003. Members of the public were advised on how to obtain relevant information and invited to submit their views to the Committee.

and Chief Ministers and to individuals who have expressed an interest in being kept informed of proposed treaty actions such as these. A list of submissions and their authors is at Appendix A.

- 1.5 The Committee also took evidence at a public hearing held on 15 September 2003. A list of witnesses who gave evidence at the public hearing is at Appendix B. A transcript of evidence from the public hearing can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat or accessed through the Committee's internet site at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/index.htm>.