



JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

Report 83: **Treaties tabled on 20 June (2), 17 October, 28 November (2) 2006 and CO₂ Sequestration in Sub-Seabed Formations**

*Chair: Dr Andrew Southcott MP
Deputy Chair: Kim Wilkie MP*

Treaties Committee supports Agreement with Mexico promoting investments

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee has given the green light to an Agreement with Mexico which will promote and protect investments.

The Agreement will benefit investors by offering most-favoured-nation status in regard to Australian investments. It will also provide guarantees for investors (including on issues such as nationalisation) and establish mechanisms for resolving investment disputes.

Report 83 also contains the Committee's reports on three other treaty actions:

- Amendments which continue the moratorium on commercial whaling;
- An amendment to the London Protocol which will allow carbon dioxide to be captured and stored in sub-seabed formations; and
- A prisoner exchange agreement with Cambodia.

The Committee tabled its recommendation relating to the prisoner exchange agreement in December last year, approximately 3 months earlier than it was required to. It was important to the Committee that any Australian, who would apply for prisoner exchange under the Agreement would be able to do so as soon as possible. The Committee is aware that one Australian serving a prison sentence in Cambodia was arrested in 2005 when he was 16 years old.

The Committee strongly supports the ban on commercial whaling and is concerned by Iceland's decision to resume commercial whaling and Japan's continued whaling under the scientific research provision of the treaty. Japan took 853 minke whales and 20 fin whales as part of its whaling program in the Southern Ocean in 2005.

The Amendment to the London Protocol will allow Australia and other countries to capture and store carbon dioxide in sub-seabed formations, and is one of a range of measures to mitigate climate change and ocean acidification.

Report 83 is available on the Committee's website:

www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm

or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

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