



Treaties Committee approves International Convention on Nuclear Terrorism

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee has approved the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

This treaty will establish an international framework for criminalising certain conduct relating to nuclear material and other radioactive substances or devices.

The Convention lists a series of crimes specifically related to nuclear terrorism, including performing an act of terrorism with nuclear materials, planning or threatening such acts, or acting in support of such acts.

The Convention encourages international cooperation to prevent such crimes and investigate, prosecute and extradite persons who commit these crimes.

Although Australian legislation largely covers the treaty requirements, the treaty's provisions will strengthen our already existing legislation.

"The issue of international terrorism has, of course, had a high profile over the past decade since the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. The idea that terrorists could get access to either nuclear weapons or nuclear material is one of grave concern to the international community and Australia supports all international efforts to ensure that this outcome does not occur." the acting Chair, Senator Simon Birmingham, said.

The Treaties Committee has also approved a series of other agreements, including two air services agreements between Australia and the Czech Republic, and Australia and Vietnam as well as an *Exchange of Notes between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia concerning Space Vehicle Tracking and Communication Facilities*.

The Committee's views on all these treaties are covered in Report 122 which 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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