



Arms, science and space

The long-awaited Arms Trade Treaty is to be examined by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties at a public hearing to be held on Monday 3 March in Canberra.

To date the agreement has been signed by 116 states, including Australia, and ratified by 11. It is expected to reach the ratification target of 50 states by mid-2014.

Committee Chair Wyatt Roy said Australia has been a strong supporter of the treaty and has worked hard to see it come into being.

“The treaty will have an important impact on our humanitarian objectives and on international security,” he said.

“It is important that we do all we can to combat the invidious effects of the illicit arms trade.”

Australia has played an important role in developing and promoting the agreement since it was first proposed in 2006. For the first time the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms - from tanks and missiles to small arms and light weapons - will be subject to common global standards. The treaty is aimed at curbing the multi-million dollar illicit arms trade which destabilises global peace and security.

The committee will also examine an agreement to improve scientific cooperation between Australian and Vietnam, opening up opportunities for researchers in both countries, and examine an amendment to Australia’s Agreement with the United States regarding space vehicle tracking.

Public Hearing: Monday 3 March 2014, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

- 11.20am Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**
- 11.50pm Exchange of Notes, done at Canberra on 21 November 2013, constituting an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia to amend the Agreement concerning Space Vehicle Tracking and Communication Facilities**
- 12.20pm Arms Trade Treaty**

The hearing will be broadcast through: www.aph.gov.au/live

Copies of the treaties and submissions received can be found at: http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsct/under_review.htm.

Alternatively, interested parties may email jsct@aph.gov.au or phone (02) 6277 4002.

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