



## 5,000 Australians to get Hungarian age, disability or survivor's benefit

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties has released Report 120 today recommending Australia ratify the Agreement between Australia and the Republic of Hungary on Social Security and also amendments to the Antarctic Treaty to help protect the polar environment from tourism.

"The Agreement provides access to Hungarian age, disability or survivor's benefit for the estimated 5,000 Australians of Hungarian descent who have an entitlement to any of these benefits," the acting Chair, Senator Simon Birmingham, said. "The Agreement will also mean that people who move between Australia and Hungary during their working life will have their entitlements recognised by both countries."

The Agreement is one of a number of social security agreements Australia has negotiated with Eastern European countries, from which Australia accepted a significant number of refugees in the decades following the Second World War.

The agreements overcome barriers to pension payments, such as citizenship requirements, minimum contribution periods, and current country of residence.

The Report also recommends the Government ratify three amendments to the Antarctic Treaty in relation to environmental and tourism issues, and five taxation treaties.

The three proposed amendments to the Antarctic Treaty will:

- establish an environmental liability regime so that those operating in the Antarctic have enough funds to repair environmental damage they have caused;
- require tourist operators in the Antarctic to have contingency plans and insurance to pay for medical emergencies in the Antarctic; and
- make mandatory regulations previously self imposed by the tourism industry relating to health and safety, and the Antarctic environment.

The five taxation treaties relate to the Marshall Islands, Mauritius and Montserrat. These treaties are part of Australia's implementation of the OECD's standards on the elimination of harmful tax practices.

Report 120 is available on the Committee's website:

**[www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jsct/reports.htm)** or by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

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