



Wine labelling and air services

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties will examine two treaties at a public hearing to be held on Monday 24 March in Canberra.

The first treaty establishes an air services agreement between Australia and Croatia. Air service agreements allow the airlines of Australia and other signatory countries to develop international air services, expanding opportunities for trade and tourism. These type of agreement covers such matters as safety, security, competition laws, customs regulations and the commercial aspects of airline operations.

The second treaty under consideration will facilitate the wine trade between Australia and the other members of the World Wine Trade Group (WWTG). There are over 2 500 wine producers in Australia. The industry employs over 30 000 people and contributes \$5.5 billion to the economy. There are also over 6 000 wine growers in the country.

The protocol to an existing agreement on wine labelling will address long-standing trade irritants for Australian wine exporters. Currently Australian winemakers need to make different blends of wines for different markets in order to meet the relevant labelling requirements of importing countries. The protocol will make it easier to market a single blend of wine to the member countries of the WWTG who make up 39 percent of Australia's wine exports.

Committee chair Wyatt Roy said the protocol will improve access for Australian wines in global markets.

'The protocol will provide a consistent approach to wine labelling, minimise unnecessary labelling-related barriers and significantly reduce costs for Australian wine exporters,' he said.

Public Hearing: Monday 24 March 2014, Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra

11.10am Air Services Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Croatia

11.35am Protocol to the 2007 World Wine Trade Group Agreement on Requirements for Wine Labelling Concerning Alcohol Tolerance, Vintage, Variety, and Wine Regions

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

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

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

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