



Trio of treaties supported: Cooperating with Brazilian police, Laos air services and safety at sea

Australia and Brazil will cooperate to investigate international crime under a mutual assistance treaty approved today in a [report](#) released by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

The treaty will let Australia and Brazil swap requests to investigate, arrest suspects, and confiscate the proceeds of crime. It will also give the police in each country a bigger range of powers to help each other.

Committee Chair, Mr Angus Taylor MP said the treaty permits police in Australia and Brazil to work together to investigate serious and organised crime such as drug trafficking, money laundering, human trafficking, people smuggling, cybercrime and terrorism.

Police can cooperate on all investigations into matters that are crimes in both countries, with the consent of both countries. Crimes punished by the death penalty or investigations that are motivated by political, racial, sexual or other prejudice are excluded from scope of the agreement.

Additionally, while Brazil retains the death penalty for crimes of treason during war, the death penalty has not been applied in Brazil since 1855, Mr Taylor said.

The Report also includes the Committee's views on an air services agreement with Laos and amendments to the Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea.

The air services agreement with Laos details the number of flights; and the number of passengers and amount of freight that can be transported between Australia and Laos using commercial air services.

Australian and Lao airlines can now set up in either country: selling tickets; reaching code sharing arrangements with other airlines; and offering package deals combining international air travel and domestic travel.

The amendments to the Convention on the Safety of Life at Sea will make sure seafarers who are abandoned have funds for basic necessities and their passage home.

The amendments also require the Australian Government to ensure ship owners can adequately compensate seafarers and their families in the event of workplace related disability or death.

The Committee supports all three treaties.

The [report](#) is available on the committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jsct> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4002.

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