

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES Treaties tabled 20 August 2009 Issued: 21 August 2009

Chair: Mr Kelvin Thomson MP

Treaties Committee to examine nine new treaties

Federal Parliament's Treaties Committee has commenced an inquiry into nine treaties tabled in the Parliament yesterday. Organisations and members of the public with an interest in these treaties are encouraged to make a submission to the Committee. Submissions are requested by Friday, 18 September 2009.

The treaties cover a diverse range of subjects, including: taxation agreements with New Zealand, Jersey and Belgium; defence agreements with the United States and Singapore; and amendments to the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to improve the participation of developing countries in these institutions.

The treaties being examined by the Committee are the:

- Proposed Amendment of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund to Enhance Voice and Participation in the International Monetary Fund;
- Proposed Amendment of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund to Expand the Investment Authority of the International Monetary Fund;
- Proposed Amendment of the Articles of Agreement of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development to Enhance Voice and Participation in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
- Convention between Australia and New Zealand for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and Fringe Benefits and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion;
- Second Protocol amending the Agreement between Australia and the Kingdom of Belgium for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income;
- Agreement to Amend the Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States Of America concerning Certain Mutual Defense Commitments (Chapeau Defense Agreement);
- Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Jersey for the Allocation of Taxing Rights with Respect to Certain Income of Individuals and to Establish a Mutual Agreement Procedure in Respect of Transfer Pricing Adjustments;
- Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of Jersey for the Exchange of Information with Respect to Taxes; and
- Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Singapore Concerning the Use of Shoalwater Bay Training Area and the Use of Associated Facilities in Australia.

For more information visit <u>www.aph.gov.au/jsct</u>, or email <u>jsct@aph.gov.au</u> or phone (02) 6277 4002.

MEDIA CONTACTS

For Mr Kelvin Thomson MP (Chair) contact: Mr Anthony Cianflone on (03) 9350 5777 For background information contact: Committee Secretary on (02) 6277 4002