



Public hearing on the trade in wine with the European Community and banning the use of names such as ‘port’

Federal Parliament’s Treaties Committee will hold a public hearing on Monday 16 March to consider two treaties tabled in Parliament on 3 February 2009: the *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* and an *Agreement between Australia and the European Community on Trade in Wine*.

The *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* identifies the expressions of culture by a country’s citizens as tangible entities. The Convention requires signatories to endeavour to protect and promote the diverse range of these ‘cultural expressions’ through regulatory, legislative, financial and technical assistance both within Australia and abroad. Representatives of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and the Attorney-General’s Department will be giving evidence about this treaty.

The *Agreement between Australia and the European Community on Trade in Wine* facilitates and promotes trade in wine originating in the European Community and Australia. The Agreement sets out authorised wine making techniques and requirements in relation to wine labelling and the use of geographical indications and traditional expressions.

The European Community is a significant export market for Australian wine growers, with 421 million litres of wine worth \$1.3 billion exported in 2006-07. The Agreement could lead to changes for Australia’s fortified wine industry, including prohibition of the use of well known terms such as ‘port’. Representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Attorney-General’s Department will be giving evidence about this treaty.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM

10.00 am – 11.00 am, Monday, 16 March 2009

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, 1st floor, Parliament House, Canberra

10:00am	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions
10:30am	Agreement between Australia and the European Community on Trade in Wine

This hearing will be webcast live on: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Further information is available on the Committee’s website: www.aph.gov.au/jsct

MEDIA CONTACTS

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