



Review of treaties on extradition and assistance on criminal matters with the United Arab Emirates and film co-production with China and Singapore

The Federal Parliament’s Treaties Committee will hear evidence on seven treaties tabled on 12 March 2008. These treaties include two proposed agreements with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). One treaty is concerned with extradition arrangements, the other provides for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between Australia and the UAE.

The proposed extradition treaty with the UAE will add to our existing network of bilateral extradition treaties and follows the international trend towards a ‘no evidence’ standard. This means that the information required for extradition does not need to include evidence of the alleged offence. Mutual legal assistance treaties allow Australia to obtain information and evidence for the investigation or prosecution of a crime.

Also proposed are two treaties with China and Singapore concerning the co-production of films which will open new markets for Australian film makers, foster cultural and technological exchange and strengthen existing diplomatic ties.

An important aspect of these agreements is that each country must treat co-production as local content. This includes providing producers with the benefits that would ordinarily be reserved for local productions, such as tax incentives, financing arrangements and more liberal broadcasting rights.

PUBLIC HEARING PROGRAM 10.00 am-12.10 pm, Thursday 8 May 2008

Venue: Committee Room 2R1, 2nd floor, Parliament House, Canberra

- 10.00 am Treaty on Extradition between Australia and the United Arab Emirates and a Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
- 10.40 am Fourth Amendment to Extend the 1987 Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology
- 11.00 am Film Co-operation Agreements between Australia and China and between Australia and Singapore.
- 11.30 am Amendments on Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- 11.50 am Convention between Australia and Japan on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on Income and Protocol.

The public hearing will be broadcast on the House Monitoring Service, radio and webcast live on the Parliament House website at: <http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>.

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

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