

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Question No. 24

Senator Stott-Despoja asked the following question at the hearing on 14 February 2006:

What is the latest assessment by the European Union on the adequacy of Australia's privacy laws (as assessed by the European Union in relation to impacts on trade with European countries)?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

We are not aware of any formal reassessment by the European Commission (EC) of the adequacy of Australia's *Privacy Act 1988*. But we are aware that in June 2005, the EC engaged consultants to report on Australia's data protection regime. We have been advised by the EC that the consultants' report will be used by the Article 29 Working Party when it is asked by the EC to provide a new formal assessment of Australia's Privacy Act.