

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

Question No. 70

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 13 February 2007:

a) Have negotiations with the European Union regarding access to airline reservation data concluded?

i) If so:

- 1) What was the outcome of the negotiations?
- 2) Has Customs begun to access airline reservation data?
- 3) If so, when did this begin? If not, why not?

b) Has an agreement been signed and, if so, what is the form of the agreement?

i) If not:

- 1) When are the negotiations expected to conclude?
- 2) Are any temporary arrangements in place to access the data (give details, including the data that can be accessed under the temporary arrangements and when the temporary arrangements expire)?
- 3) If access to the information has ceased, what effect has this had on security screening?

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

a) Negotiations with the European Union have not concluded and are continuing. Negotiations have been slightly delayed pending the finalising of the agreement between the European Union and the United States of America that is expected to be concluded in June 2007.

(i)

- 1) Not Applicable
- 2) Not Applicable
- 3) Not Applicable

b) An agreement has not yet been signed as negotiations are continuing. Australia intends to conclude negotiations in the second half of 2007.