

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0368) PROGRAM – 3.1: Border Management

Senator Cash (written) asked:

APEC Business Travel Card: Does the Department expect the number of countries involved with the Business Travel Card program to be expanded? If yes, please provide details.

Answer:

All 21 APEC economies participate in the APEC Business Travel Card Scheme, three of these economies are transitional members (The Russian Federation, Canada and the United States of America).

Transitional members do not offer reciprocal arrangements for entry to their economy. They only provide fast track immigration processing lanes.

Russia is currently moving towards full participation in the scheme as other economies are currently preparing for Russia's ascent to full membership of the scheme.

The remaining other two transitional members, the United States of America and Canada, are currently considering legislative changes that would allow them to become full participating members of the ABTC Scheme.