



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone: (02) 6277 4002 | Fax: (02) 6277 2219 | Email: jsct@aph.gov.au

29 February 2012

The Hon Barry House MLC
President
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000



Dear Mr President

Treaties tabled on 28 February 2012

I am writing to advise of the most recent tabling of treaties, and to invite comments as part of the review process undertaken by the Commonwealth Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

Before action is taken to bind Australia to the terms of treaties, the Treaties Committee considers and reports on whether the proposals are in Australia's national interest. The Committee is currently inquiring into the following proposed treaties tabled in both Houses of the Parliament this week:

Treaties tabled on 28 February 2012

- *Agreement between Australia and the European Union Amending the Agreement on Mutual Recognition in relation to Conformity Assessment, Certificates and Markings between Australia and the European Community (Brussels, 23 February 2012)*
- *Amendments to the Agreement Establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development adopted at London on 30 September 2011*
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (New York, 18 December 2002)*
- *Convention providing a Uniform Law on the Form of an International Will (Washington D.C., 26 October 1973)*

The subject matter of international treaties can be of interest to State and Territory Governments and Parliaments and we are keen to provide an opportunity for comment on any issues arising from proposed treaties. Treaty texts and copies of the National Interest Analysis (which accompany each treaty tabled) are available from the Committee's website at

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=jsct/28february2012/index.htm

As the Treaties Committee has periods of 15 and 20 sitting days in which to complete its reviews, it would be helpful if you could forward any comments you might wish to make to the Committee Secretariat by **Friday, 30 March 2012**. If substantial issues of concern are raised about the proposed treaties and the Committee's usual period of review is extended, it may be possible to arrange for a submission to be lodged after this date. Your comments may be accepted as a submission to the review and authorised for publication.

Should your officials have any questions about the treaties or about our review procedures, they should contact James Catchpole, Committee Secretary on telephone (02) 6277 4002, facsimile (02) 6277 2219 or e-mail jsc@aph.gov.au.

Yours faithfully



Kelvin Thomson MP
Chair