



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Trade

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Australia to sign Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)

Trade Minister Craig Emerson will travel to Tokyo today to sign an international treaty which will help the fight against the piracy and counterfeiting of artistic, scientific and industrial endeavour.

Australia is among 10 countries, and the European Union, attending the signing ceremony, on October 1, for the new Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA).

The agreement was concluded in October last year and Australia played a leading role in the negotiation process.

Dr Emerson said the new ACTA showed Australia's determination to secure international cooperation to develop trade in the most innovative areas of the global economy.

"ACTA builds on World Trade Organization standards to promote international trade in legitimate intellectual property, by elevating standards of enforcement," Dr Emerson said.

"This treaty will help stem the burgeoning global trade in counterfeit and pirate materials, worth many billions annually."

Dr Emerson said the treaty would support market-oriented innovation in Australia and other signatory countries by giving creators and exporters the confidence to promote their products overseas without fear of counterfeiting and piracy.

"The treaty will also help stop the unwitting purchase by consumers of low-quality counterfeit and pirated material," he said.

The implementation of ACTA will not require legislative changes in Australia. Rather, trading partners will adapt their laws to the high standards of IP enforcement that already apply in Australia.

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