



MEDIA RELEASE

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Minister for Trade

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Minister for the Arts

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***** EMBARGOED *****

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BREAKTHROUGH IN ANTI-COUNTERFEITING AND PIRACY TALKS

New international standards for intellectual property enforcement are close to agreement, following a significant breakthrough in negotiations on a new Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA).

Only a very few remaining issues now await resolution in the negotiations. The breakthrough comes as a result of an extensive ten-day round of talks in Tokyo in late September and early October, three years after the commencement of the initiative.

“ACTA will create a more secure trading environment for Australia’s creative and knowledge-intensive industries by ensuring copyright and trademarks are enforced in a number of important foreign markets,” Trade Minister, Dr Emerson said.

“This is good for our film and music industries, our computer programmers, our authors, and for the protection of famous Australian brands.”

Minister for the Arts, Simon Crean, has also welcomed the breakthrough.

“ACTA will provide for the same strong and balanced approach to copyright enforcement that Australia has at home,” Mr Crean said.

“Internationalising these standards will support our creative arts industries - in film, music and other areas - and result in more sustainable jobs in the arts.”

Participants in the ACTA negotiations are Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States.

Dr Emerson said Australia already has strong intellectual property laws and enforcement standards.

“ACTA reflects these laws and standards, which we now want to see adopted by other countries.

“ACTA is important because we are concerned at the scale and growth of the global trade in counterfeit and pirated goods.”

“Progress on ACTA also sends a positive signal on the outlook for cooperation at the multilateral level on the trade and intellectual property agendas,” Dr Emerson said.

Dr Emerson said he hoped the negotiations would be finalised in the coming weeks.

The text of the agreement will be released publicly overnight and will be placed on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website (<http://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/acta/>).

A decision on ratifying any final new ACTA treaty will only be taken after full public and parliamentary scrutiny.

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