

United Kingdom Treaty Action Bulletin for September 2013

TREATIES FOR WHICH UNITED KINGDOM IS DEPOSITARY

(No depositary activities to report in September 2013)

BILATERAL TREATIES

(No activities to report in September)

MULTILATERAL TREATIES

Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances (adopted at Beijing signed on 24 June 2012) has been published as Miscellaneous No.4 (2013), Cm 8699. The Treaty has not been ratified by the United Kingdom.

Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Official in International Business Transactions signed in Paris on 17 December, 1997

Action: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Gibraltar and British Virgin Islands (extension)

On 12 September 2013, the Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic, Co-Operation and Development, as depositary, received a notification from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland relating to the following communication:

Gibraltar -Territorial extension Note dated 21 May, UK deposited on 12 August 2013. Further letter dated 17 September 2013 confirms effective date to be the date of deposit (not 60th day following deposit, as referenced in the original Extension Note).

British Virgin Islands- Extension Note dated 19 July 2013, UK deposited on 12 August 2013. Acknowledged by OECD, Director for Legal Affairs' letter dated 19 September 2013.

MULTILATERAL TREATIES (continued)

Protocol of 1997 to amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, as amended, signed in London on 26 September 1997

And

International Convention on the Civil Liability for Bunker Oil on Political Damage, 2001 signed in London on 23 March 2001

And

International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships, 2001 signed in London on 23 March 2001

Action- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland-British Virgin Islands (extension)

On 16 September 2013, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as depositary, received a notification dated 5 September 2013 from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the extension of the above-referenced treaties to the British Virgin Islands. The extension of the treaties to the British Virgin Islands took effect on 9 September 2013.

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, signed in New York on 10 December 1984

Action- United Kingdom - Objection to Declaration made by Lao People's Democratic Republic on ratification (under UN notification C.N.541.2012.TREATIES-IV.9 dated 26 September 2012)

On 23 September 2013, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as depositary, received from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland the following objection:

The Government of the United Kingdom have examined the Declaration made by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in respect of article 1, paragraph 1 of the Convention: "It is the understanding of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic that the term "torture" in Article 1, paragraph 1, of the Convention means torture as defined in both national law and international law".

MULTILATERAL TREATIES (continued)

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, signed in New York on 10 December 1984 (continued)

The Government of the United Kingdom consider that the Declaration is capable of being understood as an attempt by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to exclude or modify the definition of torture set out in under Article 1 of the Convention. To the extent that the Declaration is intended to exclude or modify the definition of torture under Article 1 of the Convention, and is accordingly a reservation, the UK objects to the said reservation.

This objection shall not preclude the entry into force of the Convention between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.