

Emily Lau

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主旨: Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2003
To: Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Dear Ms. Lau,

I have briefly read the new Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2003, which was today published in the Government gazette.

My understanding of the text is that importing, possession and use of a legitimate copy of a computer program, made in another country, will no longer be a criminal offence for an individual using this privately.

However it will remain criminal if the importation or possession is made for the purposes of selling the copy. This effectively still outlaws companies from selling "parallel imports" even though they are genuine items (and not pirated fakes).

Hong Kong's success depends on free trade and it should not be an offence to import any "parallel goods" ("Sui-For") even if these are to be sold. This has always applied to electronic goods and cameras etc and the same should apply to copyright software when it has been lawfully manufactured in another country.

Software programs are far more expensive in Hong Kong than overseas and it will be beneficial for consumers for cheaper imports to be permitted.

Yours sincerely,

Peter A. Crush