

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

List of issues to be considered

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Proposed discussion date</u>
<p>1. Consultancy study on the feasibility of developing an offshore fishing industry in Hong Kong</p> <p>At the Panel meeting on 18 December 2001, Hon WONG Yung-kan proposed to discuss the consultancy study commissioned by the Administration on the feasibility of developing an offshore fishing industry in Hong Kong.</p>	
<p>2. Alignment of fees and charges under the purview of the FEHD</p> <p>The subject was last discussed at the meeting on 30 November 2001. The Administration advised that as a majority of the fees and charges reviewed were below cost, the results of the initial examination and options to align the fees and charges would involve increases for a substantial number of them. However, in view of the present economic situation, the Administration decided to continue to freeze FEHD fees and charges at the existing levels up to 31 December 2002.</p> <p>Members agreed that the matter should be further discussed at a future meeting.</p>	September/October 2002
<p>3. Alignment of market rental adjustment mechanisms</p> <p>The subject was last discussed at the meeting on 5 October 2001. Members considered that it was not an opportune time to discuss the proposed alignment of market rental adjustment mechanism or to increase market stall rental under the current economic situation. The Panel requested the Administration to consider reducing the market stall rental to help stall tenants tide over difficult times and to take steps to enhance the business environment of the existing markets.</p>	October 2002

The Administration announced on 18 October 2001 that in view of the economic situation, it decided to further extend the rental freeze for all public markets to the end of 2002.

4. Labelling of genetically modified (GM) food

September/October
2002

The subject was last discussed at the meeting on 28 January 2002. The Administration undertook to report to the Panel the outcome of the economic assessment on the impact of GM food labelling and proposals on the way forward in September/October 2002.

5. Sale of liquor to people aged below 18

This item was proposed for discussion by the Panel Chairman, who was concerned about the lack of control of retail outlets selling liquor to people aged below 18. The Administration suggested that the subject could be discussed at a joint meeting with the Panel on Home Affairs.

6. Follow up discussion on the supply of pork

The Panel discussed the problems relating to the supply of pork at a special meeting on 14 May 2002. The Environment and Food Bureau will submit an investigation report on the incident to the Competition Policy Advisory Group for deliberation to see whether the operation of the market of pork complies with the competition policy.

7. Control of drugs and chemicals for food animals and fish

The Subcommittee on Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Chemical Residues) Regulation & Harmful Substances in Food (Amendment) Regulation 2001 has recommended that the following subjects be followed up by the Panel -

- (a) Extension of control under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Chemical Residues) Regulation to cover fish;

- (b) Legislative amendment to separate control of drugs for humans and animals in order that drugs for food animals could be regulated under one ordinance (Cap. 139) and one department (the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department); and
- (c) Establishment of a designated zone for food animal farming.

The Administration has provided further information on the above. The information paper was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1083/01-02(01) on 20 February 2002.

8. Overall review on the levels of penalties under the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) and the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance (Cap. 139)

The Subcommittee on Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Amendment) Regulation 2001, Public Health (Animals and Birds) (Animal Traders) (Amendment) Regulation 2001 and Food Business (Amendment) Regulation 2001 has recommended that the Administration should conduct an overall review on the levels of penalties in Cap. 132 and Cap. 139 to ensure that the penalties were appropriate having regard to those imposed on similar offences in other legislation. The proposal was referred to the Panel for follow-up discussion.