



Hong Kong Watch & Clock Council

Federation of Hong Kong Industries

香港鐘表工業協會

10 April 2003

The Hon. Kenneth Ting
Chairman
Panel on Commerce and Industry
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Ting,

Ban Imposed by the Swiss Government on Hong Kong Exhibitors at the World Jewellery and Watch Fair in Basel

The Hong Kong Watch and Clock Council would like to submit the following views on the ban imposed by the Swiss Government on Hong Kong exhibitors at the World Jewellery and Watch Fair in Basel.

1. We believe that the ban was unfair and unreasonable to Hong Kong exhibitors, particularly as all of them were willing to undergo medical examination by the Swiss health authority to establish that they were infection-free.
2. Based on our preliminary estimation, the ban would affect some 20 to 30 percent of Hong Kong watch makers' orders in this year.
3. We support the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council to resort to any means of legitimate action to win compensation from the Fair organiser.
4. We also want this issue to be raised to the World Trade Organisation in order that a fair adjudication of the matter takes place.

Finally, we would appreciate the opportunity to express our views at your Panel meeting to be held next Tuesday.

Yours sincerely,

Stanley Lau
Chairman