

**Panel on Commerce and Industry**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 4 December 2003)

**Proposed timing  
for discussion\***

**1. Amendments to the Patents (General) Rules (Cap.514 sub.leg. C) and Registered Designs Rules (Cap.522 sub.leg. A)**

The Administration intends to brief the Panel on the proposed amendments to the above rules after consultation with the legal profession and practitioners.

January 2004

**2. Financial implications for hosting the Sixth World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference**

Item discussed by the Panel at the meeting on 7 July 2003. The Finance Committee has given its approval in principle for the financial commitment (estimated to be in the region of \$250 to \$300 million) of the project at the meeting on 18 July 2003.

To be confirmed

The Administration has advised that it is still awaiting confirmation from WTO on the timing for the conference. Upon confirmation, the Administration will brief the Panel on a more detailed budget of the project, including a staffing proposal for the planning and preparation of the event, prior to submission of the relevant proposals to the Establishment Subcommittee and Finance Committee for consideration.

**3. Review of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices (HKETOs)**

The Administration is now reviewing the deployment of resources and the outfit of HKETOs having regard to the operational requirements. The Administration has proposed to report the findings and recommendations to the Panel in February 2004.

February 2004

\* The meeting where the item will be discussed will be subject to confirmation nearer the time.

**Proposed timing  
for discussion\***

**4. Briefing on the work of Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK)**

Item proposed by Mrs Selina CHOW at the Panel meeting on 9 October 2003. Members would like to be briefed by InvestHK on the investment environment and measures to attract foreign investments in Hong Kong. The Administration has proposed to brief the Panel in March 2004.

March 2004

**5. Draft Copyright (Prescription of Copyright Registers) Regulation**

Item discussed at the meeting on 12 May 2003. Members noted the Administration's proposal of prescribing the copyright registers maintained by the United States, Canada and India with a view to simplifying the proof of copyright ownership in legal proceedings under section 121(2) of the Copyright Ordinance (Cap.528). Members asked the Administration to consider the setting up of a copyright register in Hong Kong. The Administration undertook to consider members' views and revert to the Panel in about April 2004.

April 2004

**6. Implementation of Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)**

The Panel has been briefed on CEPA on 30 June and 13 October 2003. The Administration will brief the Panel on further progress of implementation of CEPA.

May / June 2004

**7. Transition before implementation of electronic submission of cargo manifest (EMAN)**

Item referred by the Bills Committee on Import and Export (Electronic Transaction) Bill 2001. The Bill, which was passed by the Legislative Council in July 2002, is to provide the legal framework for processing electronic submission of cargo manifest (EMAN).

To be confirmed

In scrutinizing the Bill, the Bills Committee considered that the transitional period during which both paper and electronic submission of cargo manifest were allowed should be extended

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to ensure the industry would have ample time to adapt to the new system. The Administration was requested to review the take-up rate by users of the EMAN and to brief the Panel in due course before deciding on the end date of the transitional period.

The Import and Export (Electronic Transactions) Ordinance 2002 and the EMAN have come into operation on 11 April 2003. The Administration has been reviewing the take-up rate by users and will brief the Panel before deciding on the end date of the transitional period.

**8. Review of the Trade Descriptions Ordinance (TDO) and related subsidiary legislation in the light of the development of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)**

A Subcommittee was formed at the House Committee meeting on 31 October 2003 to study the Trade Descriptions (Country of Origin) (Watches) (Amendment) Order 2003 (the Amendment Order) and the Trade Descriptions (Place of Manufacture) (Piece-Knitted Garments) Notice (the Notice).

To be confirmed

While scrutinizing the Amendment Order, members questioned whether the current approach of making an Amendment Order to dis-apply the existing Order to certain products was the best approach to provide for the origin of the products in question. While members did not seek to amend the Amendment Order, they urged the Administration to critically review the relevant provisions in TDO and related subsidiary legislation with a view to devising a better approach to deal with necessary legislative amendments arising from CEPA origin rules. The Administration noted members' concern and undertook to look into the issue. The Panel will keep in view the Administration's review and follow up where appropriate.

**9. Improving the business environment**

Issues relating to improving the business environment were last discussed at the Panel meeting on 10 June 2002. An information paper on "Government programme and initiatives

To be confirmed

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for improving business environment" had been provided by the Administration and subsequently issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)423/02-03 on 3 December 2003 for members' reference.

Mrs Sophie LEUNG has proposed that the Administration should discuss with the Panel on the Government's policy and measures taken or to be taken for improving the macro-business environment.

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
4 December 2003

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