

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 6 October 2003)

Proposed timing
for discussion*

1. Updating on the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Central People's Government have reached agreement and signed the six Annexes to the main text of CEPA on 29 September 2003. The Administration had provided a paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)2524/02-03(01)) which was circulated on 29 September 2003 for members' reference. The Administration has proposed to brief the Panel in November 2003 and update members on the latest development.

November 2003

2. Proposed retention of the supernumerary post of Head of the Hong Kong Guangdong Cooperation Coordination Unit (HKGCCU) for two years from 1 February 2004

The HKGCCU was set up in August 2001 to coordinate and spearhead initiatives aimed to foster closer links between Hong Kong and Guangdong and to facilitate joint development of the Pearl River Delta region. The Administration has sought the approval of the Establishment Subcommittee and Finance Committee of the Legislative Council on 21 November and 7 December 2001 respectively for the creation of a supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) post to head the HKGCCU for two years starting from 1 February 2002. The Administration intends to submit a proposal for the retention of the post for another two years from 1 February 2004 and will brief the Panel accordingly.

November 2003

3. Briefing by the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology (SCIT)

The SCIT proposes to brief the Panel on the work plans and initiatives within the purview of the Commerce and Industry Branch of the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau in 2003-04.

November 2003

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

**Proposed timing
for discussion***

4. 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 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.

5. Draft Copyright (Prescription of Copyright Registers) Regulation

Item proposed by the Administration and 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 due course.

first half of 2004

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

**Proposed timing
for discussion***

**6. 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 will report the findings and recommendations to the Panel when ready.

To be confirmed

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 October 2003

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