

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of follow-up actions
(position as at 6 October 2003)

Subject	Date of Meeting	Follow-up action required	Administration's response
1. Update on the operation of the Applied Research Fund (ARF)	11.12.2000	Members were briefed on the operation of ARF. It was agreed that the Administration would submit quarterly reports to the Panel to keep members informed of the latest development of ARF.	The Administration has issued ten updates (LC Paper Nos. CB(1) 989/00-01, 1834/00-01, 939/01-02, 1232/01-02(04), 2185/01-02, 24/02-03, 582/02-03, 1415/02-03, 2008/02-03 and 2522/02-03(01)) on the operation of ARF since January 2001. The next report will be due for December 2003/January 2004.
2. Licensing requirements for transshipment cargoes	14.4.2003	The Administration undertook to consult other governments, in particular the governments of European countries and the United States, on measures to relax the licensing requirements for transshipment of strategic commodities, firearms and ammunition through the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices. It would report to the Panel the outcome in due course.	The Administration does not have an imminent plan of relaxing the licensing requirements for strategic commodities, firearms and ammunition. When such relaxation measures are to be considered, the Administration will put forward proposals for consultation with Hong Kong's major trading partners and brief the Panel accordingly. The subject matter will be included in the Panel's "List of outstanding items for discussion".

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<p>3. Measures to re-launch Hong Kong after the containment of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)</p>	<p>12.5.2003</p>	<p>The Administration was requested to provide in due course an information paper on the various initiatives/measures adopted by the Commerce and Industry Branch (CIB) of the Bureau with a view to restoring the confidence of the international business community, as well as the proposed timing for their implementation and an assessment of their effectiveness.</p>	<p>Measures undertaken by CIB form part of the Government's "Campaign to relaunch Hong Kong's economy" after the SARS outbreak. The Administration will provide members with an update on activities carried out /to be carried out by various Government bureaux/departments and agencies, including details of financial arrangements and cost-effectiveness of activities at a special meeting of the Panel on Financial Affairs scheduled for 11 October 2003. All Legislative Council members are invited to participate and an Administration's paper was circulated for members' reference vide LC Paper No. CB(1)14/03-04(02) on 6 October 2003.</p>
<p>4. Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement</p>	<p>30.6.2003</p>	<p>A member was concerned that some of the 273 types of Hong Kong products which would enjoy zero tariff from 1 January 2004 might no longer be of an appeal in the market. The Administration was requested to provide statistics in the past few years on Hong Kong's exports to the Mainland with a view to identifying those products which had greater market potentials and could benefit more from the zero tariff.</p>	<p>The Administration's response (in English version) was circulated for members' reference vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2534/02-03(01) on 2 October 2003. The Chinese translation of the response will be issued to members once available from the Administration.</p>

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5. Review of the operation of the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme (PSDAS)	18.7.2003	The Administration would try to compile and provide information on the number of applications for funding submitted by agents and the projects where universities or other organizations had participated as implementation agents.	The Administration's response was circulated for members' reference vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2539/02-03(01) on 3 October 2003.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
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