

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 7 November 2003)

Proposed timing
for discussion*

1. Policies and role of the Trade Development Council (TDC) in organizing trade fairs/exhibitions

Item proposed by Mr SIN Chung-kai at the Panel meeting on 13 October 2003. Having regard to a letter dated 8 October 2003 from Kenfair International Limited (Kenfair) objecting to the TDC's recent plan to organize trade exhibitions for toys, gifts, premiums and household products in July every year, members were concerned about the policies and role of the TDC in organizing trade fairs/exhibitions and whether TDC's activities in this area would amount to unhealthy competition with the exhibition industry in the private sector. TDC is in the course of discussion with Kenfair on the feasibility of holding a joint event. The Administration will provide a paper to the Panel once the outcome of the discussion between TDC and Kenfair is available, and attend a Panel meeting if members consider appropriate. The Administration's letter is at the Appendix.

To be confirmed

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

**Proposed timing
for discussion***

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.

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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 the first quarter of 2004.

First quarter of
2004