

Publication of the Competition Policy Advisory Group Report 2004-2005

The Competition Policy Advisory Group (COMPAG) published its 2004-2005 Annual Report today (9 July). In pursuance of the Government's "e-Government" initiative, the Report is published electronically and is available online at the COMPAG website (www.compag.gov.hk).

"Chapter 2 of the report highlights the Government's new initiatives in 2004-05 to promote competition in various sectors. One of the initiatives was the establishment of the Competition Policy Review Committee," a Government spokesman said, "While COMPAG has been operating effectively, to ensure that the Government's competition policy caters for present day's circumstances and meets the needs of time to enable Hong Kong to maintain its competitive edge, COMPAG has appointed a Competition Policy Review Committee chaired by a non-official and with a majority of non-official members to review the existing competition policy and the composition, terms of reference and operations of COMPAG."

"The commissioning of a consultancy study on the auto-fuel retail market in Hong Kong was another new initiative. The study will assess the competition situation in the auto-fuel retail market in Hong Kong, and examine whether the oil companies involved might have engaged in any anti-competitive practices," the spokesman said.

"During the period, COMPAG examined a total of 18 competition cases and advised on follow up action where appropriate. Details of these cases are set out in Chapter 4 of the report," the spokesman added.

Continuing, the spokesman said, "COMPAG is aware that promoting and ensuring fair competition is not just a government matter. The community, in particular the business sector, also has an important role to play. To this end, COMPAG has continued its efforts to promote the *Guidelines to maintain a competitive environment and define and tackle anti-competitive practices* (the Guidelines) and encourage the business sector to develop codes of conduct or self-regulation mechanism for voluntary compliance by each sector on the basis of the Guidelines."

"To further the efforts in promoting competition concepts at schools and among the youths, COMPAG organized, in 2004-05, three briefings for primary school principals and teachers, and teachers of the Economics and the Integrated Humanities courses on the Government's competition policy

and competition concepts. The general feedback had been positive," the spokesman supplemented.

COMPAG was established in December 1997 under the chairmanship of the Financial Secretary to co-ordinate the Government's efforts in promoting competition, to review competition issues that have substantial policy or systemic implications, and to direct bureaux and departments on such matters.

COMPAG Secretariat
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