

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1) 106/06-07
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB1/PL/EA/1

Panel on Environmental Affairs

Minutes of meeting
held on Thursday, 12 October 2006, at 5:40 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP (Chairman)
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon CHOY So-yuk, JP
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP

Members absent : Hon Martin LEE Chu-ming, SC, JP
Hon SIN Chung-kai, JP
Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP
Hon TAM Heung-man

Clerk in attendance : Miss Becky YU
Chief Council Secretary (1)1

Staff in attendance : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Mrs Mary TANG
Senior Council Secretary (1)2

Miss Queenie LAM
Senior Legislative Assistant (1)2

Miss Mandy POON
Legislative Assistant (1)4

I Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Election of Chairman

Miss CHOY So-yuk, Chairman in office, invited nominations for the chairmanship.

2. Ms Emily LAU nominated Ms Audrey EU for the chairmanship. The nomination was seconded by Mr LEE Wing-tat and accepted by Ms Audrey EU.

3. There being no other nominations, Ms Audrey EU was declared Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session.

Election of Deputy Chairman

4. Ms Audrey EU took the chair and invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship.

5. Mr LEE Wing-tat nominated Ms Emily LAU and the nomination was seconded by Mr LAU Kong-wah. Ms Emily LAU accepted the nomination.

6. There being no other nominations, Ms Emily LAU was declared Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session.

II Schedule of meetings for the 2006-2007 session

7. Members agreed that all meetings of the Panel would be held on the fourth Monday of each month at 2:30 pm except for the meeting in December 2006, which would be held on Thursday, 21 December 2006, at 10:45 am.

III Items for discussion at next meeting

(Appendix V to LC Paper No. — List of outstanding items for
CB(1) 13/06-07 discussion)

Appendix VI to LC Paper No. — List of follow-up actions)
CB(1) 13/06-07

8. Members agreed to discuss “A proposal to mandate long idling pre-Euro heavy vehicles to be retrofitted with emission reduction devices” at the next regular meeting to be held on Monday, 23 October 2006, at 2:30 pm. As a related issue, members noted that the Chief Executive had announced in his 2006-2007 Policy Address that \$3.2 billion would be earmarked to encourage early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I vehicles by Euro IV models. While welcoming the announcement, which was a repeated request by the Panel, they questioned if this would render the previous incentive schemes for the retrofitting of pre-Euro vehicles

with catalyst and emission reduction device a waste of public money. Members were concerned about the affordability of the transport trades as well as the availability of suitable replacement vehicles. In addition, there were technical problems which had to be resolved since some Euro IV models required special additives in fuels which were not available in most filling stations. They would also like to know if surveys had been conducted to gauge the views of the trades on the proposed replacement scheme given the keen competition and difficult time for business nowadays. In the event that the scheme was welcomed by the trades, consideration should be given to advancing the timing for funding allocation with a view to fostering early replacement of more polluting vehicles, thereby bringing more immediate improvements to roadside air quality.

9. Noting that there remained public concern about the use of chlorination for disinfection under the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme Stage 2A, Miss CHOY So-yuk and suggested that the subject be discussed in a forthcoming Panel meeting. She also considered it necessary for the Panel to follow up on the environmental aspects of the future development of the electricity market. As Chairman of the Panel on Economic Services (ES Panel), Mr Jeffrey LAM said that it had been agreed that the progress of development of the electricity market would be discussed by the ES Panel. Given that the Administration would report to the ES Panel issues relating to tariff and the environment later this year, members of the Panel on Environmental Affairs would be invited to attend the meeting when the subject was discussed.

10. Miss CHOY So-yuk also proposed to discuss the regulation of environmental industries having regard to the increased numbers of complaints about fire hazards and other nuisances associated with their operation by District Councils. In the absence of a licensing regime for environmental industries, Ms Miriam LAU considered it more appropriate to discuss the subject in the context of the proposed legislation on Producer Responsibility Schemes which would cover all aspects ranging from collection, recycling, treatment to disposal of end-of-life products. The Chairman added that district issues should best be followed up by the Panel on Home Affairs while complaints against nuisances associated with environmental industries should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis if these were found to have contravened environmental legislation.

11. Miss CHOY So-yuk further requested for discussion of the operation of animal crematoria. Noting that the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had indicated to the Legislative Council Secretariat that the subject fell outside EPD's purview, the Chairman said that it might not be appropriate for the Panel to discuss the subject. Given that the subject might be more related to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill 2006, it was agreed that the relevant Bills Committee should follow up on the subject. In the event that there were difficulties in identifying the responsible policy bureau to take up the issue, the Bills Committee could seek the advice of the House Committee.

12. To address members' grave concern about air quality, the Chairman suggested that the Administration should be requested to provide a consolidated paper on all aspects of air pollution, both local and regional, and the existing and proposed measures, such as emissions trading and control of cross-boundary vehicles using inferior fuel from the Mainland, to tackle the problem in a holistic manner.

IV Any other business

13. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 6:10 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
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