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24 October 2006

Mr Frederick MA Si-hang, JP
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury
Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau
8/F, West Wing, CGO
Hong Kong

Dear Mr MA,

Panel on Environmental Affairs
Follow-up to meeting on 23 October 2006

On behalf of Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, Chairman, I am writing to relay the Panel's concern about the Administration's recent decision of replacing 36 existing vehicles with a model which is said to be low in fuel efficiency. The subject was raised when the proposal to retrofit long idling pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles with emission reduction devices was discussed at the captioned meeting. Members were disappointed that the Administration had failed to take into account the repeated requests of the Legislative Council on the use of more environment friendly vehicles with a view to improving the air quality of Hong Kong. The decision also ran contrary to the Chief Executive's policy direction of encouraging people to purchase vehicles with low emissions and high fuel efficiency. In this connection, members would like to know if consideration could be given to withholding the purchase, despite that the tender process for the replacement vehicles has already been completed, so that alternative arrangement could be made for the switch to more environment friendly models.

I should be grateful if the Administration's response, in both Chinese and English, could reach the Secretariat on or before **7 November 2006**. Please also send a soft copy of the paper for the Web Site of the Legislative Council on the Internet. You may wish to note that unless you state otherwise, the papers will be made available to the press and members of the public.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Miss Becky YU)
Clerk to Panel

cc Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP (Chairman)