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Panel on Home Affairs

**Paper prepared by Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 8 June 2007**

**Proposed overseas duty visit to study experience
in built heritage conservation**

Purpose

This paper invites members to consider a proposal for the Panel on Home Affairs (the Panel) to conduct an overseas duty visit to study experience in built heritage conservation.

Background

2. The Panel on Home Affairs (the Panel) held two meetings on 9 March and 20 April 2007 to discuss the progress of the built heritage conservation policy review. Members in general expressed concern that buildings or sites with unique heritage value, particularly those which had been included as redevelopment projects, would be damaged or even destroyed in the rapid progress of redevelopment.

3. At the meeting on 11 May 2007, members agreed in principle that the Panel should undertake a duty visit during the summer recess to study overseas experience in the conservation of built heritage in the redevelopment process.

The proposed visit

Objective of the visit

4. The objective of the proposed duty visit is for members to get first-hand information on overseas experience in the conservation of built heritage so that members would be in a better position to advise and monitor the Government or relevant parties in implementing redevelopment or preservation projects relating to buildings or sites with heritage value. The proposed scope of the duty visit is as follows -

- (a) to obtain first-hand information on the strategies and conservation measures designed specifically for preserving built heritage in the redevelopment process;
- (b) to study the experience in adapting historic buildings or sites to modern use as well as the integration of historic buildings or sites with new ones ; and
- (c) to exchange views with the relevant parties involved in the conservation work of built heritage.

Proposed timing of the visit

5. Taking into account the flight time and the time required to exchange views with the relevant parties, it is suggested that the proposed visit lasts seven days, tentatively from 9 to 15 September 2007. Subject to members' decision on the proposed visit, the Secretariat will liaise with relevant Consulates-General and Economic and Trade Offices to work out the best timing of the visit.

6. Members may wish to note that the Subcommittee to Study the Subject of Combating Poverty is scheduled to visit the United Kingdom and Spain from 16 to 22 September 2007 to study the experience in the development of social enterprises in these countries. On the other hand, the Panel on Manpower is scheduled to visit the United Kingdom and France from 23 to 29 September 2007 to understand their experience in implementing statutory minimum wages.

Proposed places to be visited

7. The Panel on Planning, Lands and Works visited Singapore, Berlin and London from 4 to 13 September 2002 to study the experience in heritage conservation in these cities.

8. Owing to the tight timeframe, it is proposed that the Panel should visit two cities during the seven-day visit. The following options are proposed for members' consideration -

Option one - a visit to Athens and Rome; or

Option two - a visit to Athens and Munich.

9. To assist members in deciding on the places to be visited, the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat (RLSD) has been requested to conduct a preliminary research on heritage conservation in Athens, Rome and Munich. The fact sheets providing basic information on built heritage conservation in Athens and Rome are in **Appendices I and II** respectively; information about Munich is not available.

10. A rough estimate of costs for the aforesaid options has been prepared in **Appendix III**.

Size and composition of the delegation

11. The broad guidelines are that members of the Panel should have priority in participating in the visit, and the delegation should be of a manageable size in order not to create difficulties in logistical arrangements. Non-Panel Members may join the visit with the consent of the Panel.

Funding and proposed budget of the visit

12. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member is provided with an overseas duty visit account of \$55,000 for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organised by committees of the Council. The fund in the account is for use by the Member in a four-year term. Any expenditure incurred in excess of the available balance in a four-year term has to be paid by the Member personally.

Advice sought

13. Members are invited to consider -

- (a) the proposed scope of study in paragraph 4 above;
- (b) the tentative timing of the visit as proposed in paragraph 5 above;
- (c) the option as set out in paragraph 8 above which should be adopted; and
- (d) whether non-Panel Members should be invited to join the proposed duty visit.

14. Subject to members' agreement with the overseas duty visit, the Secretariat will proceed with the preparatory work. The House Committee's permission will be sought, in accordance with House Rule 22(v), for the Panel to undertake the visit.

FACT SHEET

Heritage conservation in Rome

1. Introduction

1.1 The Panel on Home Affairs is considering an overseas duty visit to study heritage conservation in Athens and Rome. As such, the Research and Library Services Division has prepared two separate fact sheets providing some basic information on heritage conservation in Athens and Rome. This fact sheet presents facts relating to heritage conservation in Rome.

2. Background of the city

Physical geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rome is the capital of Italy with an area of 1 285 sq km. • Located in the Lazio region, Rome is the most populated city in Italy with a population of about 2.7 million. • An enclave of Rome is the State of the Vatican City, the sovereign territory of the Holy See⁽¹⁾ and the smallest nation in the world. The whole Vatican City was registered as a World Heritage Site in 1984.
Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rome is one of the oldest cities in the world with more than 2 500 years of history. It conserves a rich historical and architectural heritage, ranging from the monuments of Ancient Rome to the Fascist architecture in the 1920s-1940s. • Famous archaeological sites and monuments include the Aurelian Wall, the Basilica di San Clemente, the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore, the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, the Baths of Caracalla, the Castel Sant'Angelo, the Capitoline Hill, the Colosseum, the Largo di Torre Argentina, the Monument to Vittorio Emanuele II, the Palazzo Barberini, the Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana, the Palazzo della Farnesina, the Palatine, the Piazza Navona, the Piazza di Spagna, the Roman Forum, the Santa Maria in Trastevere, the Sistine Chapel, the St.Peter's Basilica, the Trevi Foundatin and the Villa Borghese.
World Heritage Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The historic centre of Rome was registered as a World Heritage Site in 1980. In 1990, the designated area was extended to include the properties of the Holy See located in the historic centre of Rome.

Note: (1) The term "Holy See" primarily refers to the diocese of Rome, presided over by its bishop (i.e. the Pope), but the meaning has widened to include the central government of the Roman Catholic Church.

3. Institutional arrangement

The Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italy has developed a decentralized system for heritage conservation with active involvement of the local authorities (regions, provinces and municipalities) in heritage work. At the national level, the Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities was created in 1998 to administer the cultural policies in Italy, including the conservation of historic assets.
Soprintendenze	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities administers the heritage conservation policies through its local administrative branches (Soprintendenze) specializing in various aspects of cultural heritage. For example, the Soprintendenza Architettonica is responsible for the management and conservation of buildings and sites of architectural interest. The Soprintendenza Archeologica handles the management and conservation of archaeological sites.
The regional authority of Lazio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional authority of Lazio is tasked with the responsibility of formulating the regional heritage conservation policies and exercising administrative responsibility for its historic assets in the Lazio region. Recent constitutional reform allows the regional authorities to possess concurrent legislative power with the central government in managing the historic assets and promoting cultural activities.
The provincial authority of Rome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provincial authority of Rome is entrusted with the duties of co-ordinating the cultural policies among the municipalities in Rome, such as the allocation of regional funding to different municipalities.
The Cultural Department of the Rome Municipality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cultural Department of the Rome Municipality is responsible for the restoration and maintenance of historic assets under the supervision of the Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities. The Department also organizes a wide range of cultural activities and events to promote and support heritage conservation in Rome. For example, it organizes the annual event – "White Nights" – to offer free access to monuments during the event period.

4. Legal framework

The Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 9 of the Italian Constitution establishes the country's obligation to protect and preserve the landscape and the historical and artistic national heritage.
Legislative Decree No. 42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative Decree No. 42, <i>Code of the Cultural and Landscape Heritage</i>, was passed in 2004 as the principal legislation governing heritage conservation in Italy. It unifies all Italian laws with respect to cultural and natural heritage, as well as incorporating the relevant international conventions of which Italy is a signing party. • The <i>Code of the Cultural and Landscape Heritage</i> serves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) identify the assets of historic, artistic, archaeological, architectural or landscape interest for conservation; (b) prescribe for the protection measures governing the conservation of the historical and architectural heritage; (c) set out the penalties for damage and unauthorized works to historic assets; and (d) provide the legislative basis for the Ministry for Heritage and Culture Activities to devolve additional functions of heritage conservation to the regional authorities.
Planning Ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional planning ordinances and municipal regulations are passed by the local and regional authorities for the protection of historic areas and buildings.
Constitutional amendment in 2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The constitutional amendment in 2001 opens up Italy's heritage conservation system to a more federal-oriented structure by introducing concurrent legislative power of the central government and the regions in cultural heritage policies.

5. Heritage protection system

Scope of protection	
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Legislative Decree No. 42 governs the protection of cultural heritage in Italy, which consists of cultural properties and landscape assets.
Cultural properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural properties consist of immovable and movable things which are of artistic, historical, archaeological, ethno-anthropological, archival or bibliographical interest, and of any other thing identified by law or in accordance with the law as testifying to the values of civilization.
Landscape assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape assets consist of buildings and areas which are the expression of historical, cultural, natural, morphological and aesthetic values of the land, and any other assets identified by law or in accordance with the law.
Protection of historic assets	
Protection measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major protection measures applicable to cultural heritage include listing, maintenance of listed buildings and pre-emption.
Listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural properties are protected if they are listed by the Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities. Works of any kind on cultural properties are subject to authorization by the Soprintendenze. Each province sets up a committee with the responsibility for determining those landscape assets to be listed. Details of any proposed works to the listed landscape assets must be submitted to the relevant regional authorities for approval.
Maintenance of listed buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities has the power to enforce the carrying out of any necessary works to a listed building and require the owner to reimburse the costs so incurred.
Pre-emption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owners of listed buildings who plan to sell their properties must notify the Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities such intention. The Ministry has the power to purchase the listed building concerned by pre-emption at the same price offered by a potential buyer.

6. Approach adopted for heritage conservation

Emphasis on preserving the historic layout of the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The historic fabric in the city centre of Rome has been preserved almost in its entirety with minimal alternation to the old spatial layout of the city. This strategy has constrained the city's expansion and development. For example, the narrow and irregular streets in Rome are not designed to cope with the hectic traffic demand, thus resulting in a high level of congestion and pollution.
Blending of old and new buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rome has managed to blend old and new buildings in the city, with most of the new constructions sited along its periphery, particularly in areas devoid of significant monuments. Famous contemporary architecture in the city's periphery includes the Jubilee Church, the Contemporary Art and Architecture Centre, and the Auditorium Music Hall.
Large-scale renovation works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2000, Rome carried out a large-scale renovation project, aiming at: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> restoration and extension of artistic, environmental, archaeological, architectural and monumental heritage, including both the renovation of existing cultural areas and the creation of new ones; and renovation of the city's architectural heritage.
Public participation in heritage conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government encourages public participation in heritage conservation through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> heritage promotion through websites, exhibitions and free admission to monuments (e.g. the "White Nights" and the Italian Culture Heritage Week); educational programmes (e.g. seminars and short courses on heritage conservation)⁽²⁾; non-profit organizations involved in the promotion of heritage conservation (e.g. associations and foundations); and development of public-private partnership in the management of historical properties and sites.

Note: (2) For example, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage runs a regular training course on the conservation of built heritage in Rome. The Centre is an inter-governmental organization dedicated to the conservation of cultural heritage.

7. Funding mechanism

Government funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities and the local and regional authorities provide public funding for heritage conservation.
Lottery fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fixed percentage of the national lottery revenue is allocated for the restoration and preservation of cultural properties.
Bank Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundations established by local savings banks play a key role in financing cultural activities in Italy.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising and contributions from non-governmental organizations and private associations serve as another funding source.

8. Economic incentives available for heritage conservation

Tax incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax incentives include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> exemption of the listed buildings from inheritance tax; deduction from taxable income of all donations and sponsorship given by individuals and corporations; and allowance for property owners to deduct from their taxable income the expenditure incurred in the maintenance and restoration of their listed buildings.
Interest subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government subsidizes interest on loans taken out by private owners for carrying out authorized conservation works to their listed properties.
Government's financial assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry for Heritage and Cultural Activities may contribute not more than 50% of the expenses incurred by property owners for restoration and conservation of their cultural properties.

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6 June 2007
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FACT SHEET

Heritage conservation in Athens

1. Introduction

1.1 The Panel on Home Affairs is considering an overseas duty visit to study heritage conservation in Athens and Rome. As such, the Research and Library Services Division has prepared two separate fact sheets providing some basic information on heritage conservation in Athens and Rome. This fact sheet presents facts relating to heritage conservation in Athens.

2. Background of the city

Physical geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athens is the capital and the largest city of Greece with an area of 412 sq km. • Located in the Attica Periphery⁽¹⁾, Athens is the most populated city in the country. It has a population of over 3 million, representing approximately one-third of the total population in Greece.
Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named after Athena (the patron goddess of the city), Athens is one of the oldest cities in the world with a recorded history of at least 3 000 years. It has a vast variety of Roman and Byzantine monuments, as well as a small remaining number of Ottoman monuments. • Famous archaeological sites and monuments include the Acropolis, the Agora, the Arch of Hadrian, the Monument of Lysicrates, the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, the Stoa of Attalos, the Temple of Hephaestus, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the Theatre of Dionysus. • Modern landmarks can also be found in Athens, dating back to as far as 1830 when Greece won her independence from the Turkish Ottoman Empire. The Greek Parliament, the National Gardens and the Athens Trilogy (the University of Athens, the National Library and the Athens Academy) built in the 19th century are some notable examples of the architectural landmarks.
World Heritage Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Acropolis of Athens was registered as a World Heritage Site in 1987. It is a flat-topped hill capped with the ruins of ancient temples, monuments, and works of art. The ruins include temples such as the Parthenon, the Erechtheum, and the Temple of Athena Nike, as well as the Propylaea (a monumental marble gateway that provides the main entrance to the Acropolis).

Note: (1) Greece consists of 13 administrative regions or peripheries, of which Attica is a periphery in central Greece.

3. Institutional arrangement

The Ministry of Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greece has a centralized system for heritage conservation, which is administered centrally by the Ministry of Culture through its regional departments (Ephorates) established throughout the country. • The Ministry of Culture was founded in 1971 as the main governmental body responsible for formulating and administering the heritage conservation policies in Greece. It also sets out the guidelines and general policies for the management of the monuments and historical sites to be implemented by the competent Ephorates.
The Cultural Organization of the City of Athens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cultural Organization of the City of Athens serves as the executive body for heritage conservation in Athens, including repair and restoration of historic buildings for cultural or social purposes. • The Greek government does not delegate any major decision-making power to local authorities. Nevertheless, the Cultural Organization of the City of Athens can enter into "programme contracts" with the Ministry of Culture so that they jointly undertake promotion, enhancement and restoration projects on heritage conservation.
The Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry is responsible for formulating the overall planning policies and administering the legislative framework for physical planning, urban development, housing and building regulations. • The Ministry protects monuments, archaeological sites and buildings of historical or architectural interest through the integration of heritage conservation with the urban planning policies.
The Archaeological Receipts Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Archaeological Receipts Fund is established as a statutory body to collect and manage the revenues from the admission fees to the archaeological sites and museums. • The income collected by the Fund is used to finance works carried out to improve public access to monuments, museums and archaeological sites.
The Hellenic Cultural Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hellenic Cultural Organization was established in 1997 for promoting cultural heritage in Greece.

4. Legal framework

The Constitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 24 of the Greek Constitution establishes the country's obligation to protect monuments and the overall cultural environment in perpetuity and within the context of sustainable development.
Law No. 3028/2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law No. 3028/2002, <i>On the Protection of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage in General</i>, is the principal legislation governing heritage conservation in Greece. The law stipulates the statutory protection of antiquities and cultural heritage in Greece, which include monuments, archaeological sites and historical buildings. It also provides for the introduction of fiscal incentives to encourage heritage conservation, as well as setting out the penalties for damage and unauthorized works to historic assets.
Planning Ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law No. 2742/1999, <i>Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development</i>, provides for the preservation and protection of the natural and cultural environment through strategic planning at both the national and regional levels. Law No. 2508/1997, <i>On Sustainable Development of Towns and Settlements</i>, sets out the general principles and the means for sustainable development. It also stipulates the formulation of the Master Plan in the metropolitan cities (including Athens) to protect their historical and architectural heritage.
The General Building Construction Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulation focuses specifically on the protection of listed architectural heritage. The protection is not limited to individual buildings, but also extended to groups of buildings and architectural ensembles, as well as to their surroundings and the overall landscape.

5. Heritage protection system

Scope of protection	
Ancient monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monuments and archaeological sites dating back from the Prehistoric Age to 1830 are protected by law, without any need for any administrative measures (such as listing).
Modern monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monuments and archaeological sites founded after 1830 are protected if they are listed by the Ministry of Culture due to their historical, scientific, artistic or cultural value.
Historical sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is statutory protection for (a) areas that were the domain of important mythical or historical events, even where no monuments are visible or evident, and (b) sites that contain monuments or groups of monuments constructed after 1830.
Conservation areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In archaeological sites founded before 1453, the Ministry of Culture can delimit protection zones where no building activities are allowed. In archaeological sites founded after 1453, consent of the Ministry of Culture and special work authorization are required for new constructions or alternations to the existing buildings.
Protection of historic assets	
Protection measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major protection measures applicable to historic assets include (a) listing, (b) compulsory acquisitions, (c) maintenance of listed buildings, and (d) control of works to monuments.
Listing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection status is accorded to buildings constructed after 1830 if they are included on the statutory list of special interest compiled by the Ministry of Culture.
Compulsory acquisitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities can resort to compulsory acquisitions of buildings and land for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage and the preservation of properties of historical value.
Maintenance of listed buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owners of listed buildings are required to reconstruct those structures that may have decayed, or even collapsed, through neglect or as a consequence of major natural hazard (such as earthquake).
Control of works to monuments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The execution of any kind of technical works as well as building activities in the vicinity of a monument is permitted only upon the approval of the Ministry of Culture. Approval is granted if the monument is not threatened with direct or indirect damage due to the nature of the works.

6. Approach adopted for heritage conservation

Unification of archaeological sites of Athens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Large parts of the city centre have been redeveloped under the Master Plan entitled <i>Unification of Archaeological Sites of Athens</i>. ● The purpose of the unification plan aims at improving access to Athen's archaeological attractions through: (a) linking the six largest archaeological sites of the city centre with a traffic-free pedestrian promenade, (b) restoring monuments, and (c) establishing more visitor facilities.
Integration of heritage conservation with urban planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Article 3 of Law No. 3028/2002 stipulates that the protection of monuments and archaeological and historical sites is taken into account within all levels of planning policies (spatial, regional and urban), as well as in the various stages of development schemes.
Adaptive re-use of historic buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In Athens, change of use of a historic building is accepted if the use attributed to the building is determined to be appropriate. ● For example, an old liquefied petroleum gas bottling factory built in 1857 has been converted to a top cultural centre of Athens. In addition, the Museum of Modern Art is housed in a former old brewery constructed in 1853.
Integration of monuments into contemporary life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is an increasing use of monuments (such as ancient theatres) as venues for diverse cultural events, provided that the special character and values embodied by the monuments are respected.
Public participation in heritage conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The government encourages public participation in conservation work through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) heritage promotion through websites, exhibitions, open days, special events, and free admission to monuments for children and school groups; (b) free educational programmes organized by the Ministry of Culture and the state museums to foster the public awareness in heritage conservation; and (c) non-profit-making bodies, such as associations and foundations, which play an important role in safeguarding and promoting heritage conservation in Athens.

7. Funding mechanism

Government funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Greek government, through the Ministry of Culture, finances the protection, restoration and maintenance of historic assets in Athens.
The Archaeological Receipts Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A funding source for heritage conservation comes from the revenue collected by the Archaeological Receipts Fund: entrance fees and sale receipts of archaeological guides and various items (such as replicas of museum exhibits) in archaeological sites and museum shops.
Lottery fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural activities and archaeological work are also funded by the various lottery schemes administered by the Ministry of Culture.
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial assistance from the European Union's Community Support Fund serves as another funding source.

8. Economic incentives available for heritage conservation

Tax incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax incentives include tax deductions for individuals who donate cultural properties or money to museums and cultural foundations.
Transfer of development rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Greek government allows private owners to transfer the unused development rights of a conserved building to a new site. The private owners can thus sell the development rights related to the new site to a third party, while preserving the conserved buildings.
Interest subsidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government subsidizes interest on loans taken out by private owners for developing or restoring their historic properties.
Government's financial assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Greek government may contribute directly to the funding of conservation and/or restoration of historic buildings if private owners lack the financial means to do so.

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Panel on Home Affairs

Proposed overseas duty visit in September 2007

Tentative estimate of the expenditure

Duration of visit : September 2007 (7 days)

Routing of visit : **Option A : Hong Kong / Athens / Munich / Hong Kong**
OR
Option B : Hong Kong / Athens / Rome / Hong Kong

Breakdown of expenses

Items	Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person)	
	Economy Class	Business Class
1. Return air passage		
(a) Hong Kong / Athens / Munich / Hong Kong	(a) 6,200*	28,500*
(b) Hong Kong / Athens / Rome / Hong Kong	(b) 7,800*	40,000*
2. Hotel accommodation		
(a) Athens & Munich		24,255
(b) Athens & Rome		29,155
3. Overseas subsistence allowance		
(a) Athens & Munich		16,177
(b) Athens & Rome		19,446
4. Travel insurance		174
5. Airport tax plus fuel surcharges		2,000
TOTAL :	(a) 48,806	(a) 71,106
	(b) 58,575	(b) 90,775

NOTE :

* Airfare quotation obtained in mid-May 2007.

1. Other expenditure including hospitality, local group transportation, interpretation services and souvenirs will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.

2. Exchange rates as at mid-May 2007 -
 HK\$10.70275 = 1 EUR