

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 8 October 2007)

Proposed timing
for discussion

1. Road Cargo System

The Administration would like to seek Members' views on the funding proposal to implement the Road Cargo System (ROCARS) before seeking the Finance Committee's approval.

16 October 2007

2. Reports on the work of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices and Beijing Office

The Heads of the Economic and Trade Offices and the Director of the Beijing Office will brief the Panel on their work during the forthcoming annual meeting in Hong Kong. They last briefed the Panel on 20 June 2006.

20 November 2007

3. The Government Electronic Trading Services (GETS)

The Administration would like to seek Members' views on the arrangements for the provision of GETS after the expiry of the current contracts.

20 November 2007

4. Proposed amendments to the Import and Export (Registration) Regulations (Cap. 60E)

To introduce technical amendments to clarify ambiguities in regulation 8 of the Import and Export (Registration) Regulations (Cap. 60 E) regarding the exemption of relevant declaration charges on aircraft and freight container parts, etc.

20 November 2007

5. Promotion of Inward Investment

To consult Members on the Administration's proposal on additional time-limited funding for Invest Hong Kong.

18 December 2007

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

6. SME Funding Schemes

At the meeting on 12 June 2007, the Administration briefed Members on the position of the SME funding schemes, informed Members that the Administration was conducting a review on the schemes, and undertook to consult Members on the way forward. The Administration will seek Members' views on certain changes to the schemes.

18 December 2007

7. Copyright protection in the digital environment

The Administration launched a public consultation exercise in December 2006 on how best to strengthen copyright protection in the digital environment. The Administration briefed the Panel on 16 January 2007. The consultation exercise ended in April 2007. Some 600 submissions were received. The Administration is consolidating and analyzing the views received and intend to release preliminary proposal in the first quarter of 2008 for further consultation.

First quarter of 2008
[tentative]

8. Furthering of Trade Relations between the Mainland and Hong Kong

Following the implementation of various initiatives such as CEPA and PPRD Regional Cooperation, bilateral trade relation between the Mainland and Hong Kong has strengthened. The Administration will update the Panel on the latest position and explore areas (including CEPA implementation) that could be further enhanced.

To be confirmed

9. Hong Kong Design Centre (HKDC)

At the Panel meeting held on 17 April 2007, the Panel supported in principle the Administration's funding proposal to provide \$100 million to support the operation of HKDC as it would be conducive to the development of local enterprises as well as the long-term economic development of Hong Kong. The Administration undertook to report to the Panel on a regular basis the progress of the work of HKDC and the relevant initiatives taken to promote design and innovation. Following consultation with the Panel, the above funding proposal was approved by the Finance Committee on 25 May 2007.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

10. New Strategic Framework for Innovation and Technology Development

At the Panel meeting held on 17 May 2005, the Administration undertook to report on the operation and performance of the Research and Development (R&D) Centres and the implementation of the new framework to the Panel annually.

To be confirmed

The Panel discussed the issue on the new framework at its meeting on 21 November 2006 and requested the Administration to inform the Panel of the estimated expenditure of the R&D Centres against the funding approved. The Administration reported to the Panel on 17 July 2007 the income and expenditure of the R&D Centres and updated members of their progress achieved since their establishment in April 2006 to June 2007. The Administration undertook to report to the Panel the income and expenditure of the R&D Centres on an annual basis and to provide the requisite information (i.e. the total cost of each project, the actual level of industry contribution secured by the Centre for each project, and the administrative cost involved for each project) in the future progress reports.