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29 May 2008

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
No. 8, Jackson Road, Central,
Hong Kong.
(Attn. Miss Becky Yu)

Dear Miss YU,

Incentive Scheme for Environment-friendly Commercial Vehicles

At the Panel of Environmental Affairs meeting held on 18 March 2008, Members requested us to provide the cost implications of waiving fully the first registration tax of goods vehicles compliant with the qualifying standards of environment-friendly commercial vehicles and a progress report on the incentive scheme to replace pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles by new commercial vehicles.

The information requested by Members is provided as follows:

- (i) **Cost implications of waiving fully the first registration tax of goods vehicles compliant with the qualifying standards of environment-friendly commercial vehicles**

After the launch of the environment-friendly petrol private car incentive scheme, up to about 15% of newly registered private cars are of the environment-friendly petrol private car models. If 15% of the newly registered commercial goods vehicles are of the environment-friendly commercial vehicle models, the annual revenue foregone on First Registration Tax is estimated to be about \$48 million.

(ii) **Progress of the Incentive Scheme to Replace Pre-Euro and Euro I Diesel Commercial Vehicles by New Commercial Vehicles**

Since the launch of the incentive scheme to replace pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles by new commercial vehicles in April 2007, the Government, up to end of April 2008, received 5 681 applications and approved 5 355 of them, involving replacement of 3 067 light goods vehicles, 1 779 medium goods vehicles, 76 heavy goods vehicles, 289 non-franchised buses and 144 light buses. The vehicles accounted for about 9% of the eligible vehicles and the amount of subsidy involved was about \$216 million.

As the deadline for most pre-Euro vehicles to join the incentive scheme is 30 September 2008, we are now enhancing the publicity of the scheme to eligible vehicle owners as well as reminding them of the approaching application deadline. Although the deadline for the grant for Euro I diesel commercial vehicles is 31 March 2010, about 2 years later, we also plan to enhance the publicity of the incentive scheme to their vehicle owners.

Yours faithfully,



(LAU Hoi-nam)

for Director of Environmental Protection

cc: CEO(CBD)/ EPD