

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

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### **Paper for the House Committee meeting on 10 October 2008**

#### **Formation of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee**

##### **Purpose**

This paper invites members to determine the size of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) of the House Committee (HC) and the procedure for electing members of the Subcommittee.

##### **Background**

2. The need for the Hong Kong legislature to establish and maintain contacts with legislatures outside Hong Kong has always been recognized. Rule 34 of the House Rules provides for the formation of a Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee under HC. The Subcommittee co-ordinates all parliamentary liaison activities between the Council and other parliamentary organizations outside Hong Kong and considers proposals for setting up friendship groups with such organizations. In developing good relationship with parliamentary organizations, members of the Subcommittee participate, on a regular basis, in receiving parliamentarians and delegations visiting Hong Kong, and take part in delegations on visits outside Hong Kong. Its terms of reference are in the **Appendix**.

3. Since the First Legislative Council (LegCo), friendship groups have been established with members of the legislatures of Australia, Canada, European Union, Japan and Singapore. While all LegCo Members are welcome to participate in the activities of friendship groups, matters relating to parliamentary liaison are discussed by the Subcommittee which proposes its recommendations to HC for endorsement.

##### **HC to decide on membership size and election procedure**

4. It has been the convention for HC to decide on the size of the Subcommittee and the procedure for election of its members at the start of each term. The term of membership of the Subcommittee is for the entire LegCo term as liaison activities

may take place during the summer recess. The respective membership sizes of the Subcommittee of the past three terms of LegCo are as follows:

- (a) First LegCo: nine members;
- (b) Second LegCo: a maximum of 12 members, but only nine members were elected; and
- (c) Third LegCo: nine members.

5. As regards the procedure for electing members of the Subcommittee, HC of the past three terms adopted the same election procedure. The election of members to the Subcommittee should be by way of nominations at a meeting of HC. In making the nominations, members should have regard to the need to ensure that the Subcommittee's membership is balanced and broadly representative of the membership of the Council. A valid nomination should be made orally by a member, seconded by at least one other member who should not be the member being nominated, and accepted by the member being nominated. If there are more nominations than the places available, an election by a show of hands will be conducted. A member may vote for as many nominees as the number of places and no more, and the nominees who get the highest numbers of votes will be declared elected. In cases where a nominee would have been elected but for there being one or more other nominees having been given the same number of votes, a separate poll shall be taken in respect of that nominee and such other nominee(s) in accordance with the system of election mentioned above until all the remaining place(s) is/are filled.

## **Proposals**

6. Although the membership size of the Subcommittee was enlarged to a maximum of 12 in the Second LegCo, the actual number of members sitting on the Subcommittee in the past three terms was nine. It is recommended that for the Fourth LegCo, the membership size should be *nine*.

7. The election procedure as set out in paragraph 5 has been used in the past three LegCo terms. It is proposed that *the same procedure* be adopted for the Fourth LegCo.

8. Subject to members' agreement to the proposals in paragraphs 6 and 7 above, it is proposed that the *nomination and election of members to the Subcommittee be conducted at the HC's meeting to be held on 17 October 2008*.

9. The chairman of the Subcommittee will be elected by the Subcommittee from among its members at the Subcommittee's first meeting. The Subcommittee may also elect a deputy chairman. The Subcommittee of the past three terms all elected a deputy chairman.

## **Advice sought**

10. Members are invited to consider and endorse the proposals set out in paragraphs 6 to 8 above.

Legislative Council Secretariat  
8 October 2008

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**Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee**

**Terms of Reference**

- (1) To promote liaison and develop good relationship with parliamentary bodies in various territories;
- (2) To consider proposals for the formation of friendship groups with legislatures outside Hong Kong;
- (3) To deal with all matters pertaining to the activities of parliamentary friendship groups, including sending delegations on visits outside Hong Kong and hosting activities with delegations visiting Hong Kong; and
- (4) To make recommendations to the House Committee in respect of the above.