

Clerk to Bills Committee on Competition Bill

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Sir

Support Exemption of HKTDC from the Competition Bill

While supporting policies for a level-playing field in Hong Kong, Crowe Horwath (HK) CPA Limited, a leading full service CPA member firm of Crowe Horwath International, expects the HKSAR Government to consider various views from different sectors, especially the difficulties faced by SMEs and the exemption of statutory bodies such as Hong Kong Trade Development Council (“HKTDC”) from the Competition Bill (“bill”).

The objective of the bill is to restrain monopoly of large enterprises and protect SMEs. Therefore, it is reasonable for the government to consider excluding SMEs from the regulation of the bill. As a public institution, HKTDC performs the statutory functions of promoting the development of industry, commerce and trade. It provides efficient, comprehensive and affordable priced services for various sectors of industries in particular SMEs through organizing trade fairs, seminars, study missions, launching brand building and promotion activities, as well as conducting market research and analysis.

The regulation of the bill will definitely bring harmful and destructive impact to the operation of HKTDC and various services it rendered. The immediate and apparent disadvantage will be the surge of service charge from HKTDC which subsequently brings the cost for business development of many sectors much higher. Thus, I urge the government to exempt HKTDC from the bill to maintain the effective business development and market structure that can continue to benefit various sectors of industries and to strengthen SMEs’ competitiveness.

Best Regards,

Charles Chan

Co-Chairman and CEO 聯席主席兼首席執行官

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