

10 January 2012

Clerk to Bills Committee on Competition Bill
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central, Hong Kong

(By Fax: 2978 7569 & By Email: bc_12_09@legco.gov.hk)

Dear Sir / Madam,

To Exclude the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) from Competition Law

The Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Ltd (“HAFFA”) was founded in 1966 and the founding objective of the Association was to promote, protect and develop the business of carriage of goods by different modes of transport in Hong Kong. HAFFA, now with over 340 corporate members that handle a significant percentage of air freight, sea freight and contract logistics in Hong Kong, acts as an authoritative voice for the industry.

Since the introduction of Competition Bill / Consultation, HAFFA has closely followed the matter and had several submissions of the HAFFA view to the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau (CEDB) or Bills Committee. At present, we have learnt that there are lots of discussions as to whether the Government should exclude HKTDC from Competition Law and the community holds different views based on various arguments.

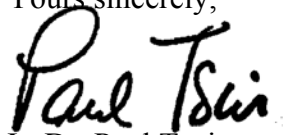
On behalf of HAFFA, we are writing to support HKTDC being excluded from the Competition Law. HKTDC is a statutory body established in 1966 under the Hong Kong Ordinance. Its mission is to create opportunities for Hong Kong companies and promote Hong Kong as a platform for doing business with China and throughout Asia.

Through the continuously collaborations with HKTDC over the past decades, we observed that our members, in particular, SMEs could indeed benefit effectively from the support of HKTDC in terms of promoting their logistics services, business matching, providing databank of customers etc. The future Competition Law may badly hit the HKTDC’s exhibition business, one of the major sources of its income. Under this circumstance, we envisaged that the existing HKTDC services provided for SMEs would be impaired that we do not believe will ultimately help the SMEs. **In this connection, we would like to urge the Bills Committee to seriously consider excluding HKTDC from the future Competition Law.**

Should you require further information / clarifications, please feel free to contact the undersigned or Ms. Alice Lui at 2796 3121.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Ir. Dr. Paul Tsui

Chairman

HAFFA

Cc: HAFFA Executive Committee