

Inbound tobacco restrictions

Good afternoon,

I have been made aware of this proposed legislation and would like to register my view.

I do not think this is a good idea, as it places unwarranted restrictions on consumers taking advantage of reasonable duty-free allowances, or being able to carry in a reasonable quantity of duty-paid tobacco from their origin when travelling and could also encourage increased smuggling and gray/black market tobacco. This proposal seems to be exactly like in Singapore, which I also do not agree with.

It also seems to be that this contradicts the concept of free trade and is designed only to maximise the internal tax revenue for Hong Kong by limiting the free movement of goods and placing restrictions on consumers.

If you eventually move to an ASEAN free market, this measure will not be allowable or practical anyway, so I feel it is designed purely for short-term revenue gain.

I am sending you this view as an ex-smoker – I gave up smoking 5 years ago, so I have no personal gain or loss either way from this issue. My view is purely one concerned with the concept of free trade and consumer choice.

Kind regards,

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Taiwan