

立法會  
*Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(2) 1277/10-11

Ref : CB2/H/5/10

**House Committee of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 16th meeting  
held in the Legislative Council Chamber  
at 2:30 pm on Friday, 11 March 2011**

**Members present:**

Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP (Chairman)  
Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)  
Hon Albert HO Chun-yan  
Hon LEE Cheuk-yan  
Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Margaret NG  
Hon James TO Kun-sun  
Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong  
Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS  
Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP  
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP  
Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP  
Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP  
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP  
Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP  
Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP  
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP  
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH  
Hon LEE Wing-tat  
Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP  
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP  
Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP  
Hon CHIM Pui-chung  
Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP  
Hon KAM Nai-wai, MH  
Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP  
Hon CHAN Hak-kan  
Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP  
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun

Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che  
Hon WONG Sing-chi  
Hon IP Wai-ming, MH  
Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou  
Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun  
Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP  
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC  
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung  
Hon Tanya CHAN  
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip  
Hon WONG Yuk-man

**Members absent :**

Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP  
Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP  
Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP  
Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP  
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP  
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP  
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP  
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC  
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan  
Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP  
Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP  
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau  
Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS  
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP

**Clerk in attendance :**

Mrs Vivian KAM                      Clerk to the House Committee

**Staff in attendance :**

Ms Pauline NG	Secretary General
Mr Jimmy MA, JP	Legal Adviser
Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary General 1
Miss Mary SO	Acting Assistant Secretary General 3
Mrs Percy MA	Assistant Secretary General 4

Ms Connie FUNG	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Mr Arthur CHEUNG	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Mr KAU Kin-wah	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Mr Stephen LAM	Principal Council Secretary (Complaints)
Mr Simon WONG	Chief Public Information Officer
Miss Odelia LEUNG	Chief Council Secretary (2)6
Ms Dora WAI	Chief Council Secretary (3)2
Mr Kelvin LEE	Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Mr Timothy TSO	Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Mr Bonny LOO	Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Ms Wendy KAN	Assistant Legal Adviser 6
Mr YICK Wing-kin	Assistant Legal Adviser 8
Ms Clara TAM	Assistant Legal Adviser 9
Miss Josephine SO	Senior Council Secretary (2)1
Ms Amy YU	Senior Council Secretary (2)3
Ms Anna CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (2)3
Mr Arthur KAN	Legislative Assistant (2)8

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**I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 15th meeting held on 25 February 2011**  
*(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1190/10-11 issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1200/10-11 dated 2 March 2011)*

The minutes were confirmed.

**II. Matters arising**

**Report by the Chairman on the meeting with the Chief Secretary for Administration ("CS")**

Non-attendance of bureau officials at special meetings of the Panel on Health Services on 17 January and 15 February 2011

2. The Chairman said that she had followed up with CS on the non-attendance of the Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH") or the Under Secretary for Food and Health at the special meetings of the Panel on Health Services ("the Panel") on 17 January and 15 February 2011. CS had responded that the Chinese Medicine Ordinance (Cap. 549) ("CMO") was enacted in 2003. When bureau officials attended the Panel meeting in July 2010 to explain the timetable for the implementation of CMO, members had not raised any objection. When the relevant subsidiary legislation was submitted for the Legislative Council's ("LegCo") scrutiny in October 2010, Members had not

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requested the appointment of a subcommittee to study it. In response to some members' request for discussing the relevant issues in early 2011, the Administration had fielded the Assistant Director of the Department of Health ("DH") to attend the special Panel meetings held on 17 January and 15 February 2011. As the discussions were concerned with technical and not policy issues, SFH considered it appropriate for officials from DH to attend the meetings.

3. The Chairman further said that she had told CS that LegCo had requested to discuss the matter as Members had received complaints about unfairness in the implementation process, pointing to the need for improvements. Hence, the matter involved not only technical issues relating to implementation but also policy issues. As the Panel had invited bureau officials to attend its meetings and it was their responsibility to explain policies to Members and the public, it was incumbent upon them to attend the meetings in order to improve the relationship between the Executive Authorities and the Legislature. CS had responded that it was his understanding that the issues discussed at the special Panel meetings were concerned with the operation of the registration system. Should the Panel consider it necessary to discuss policy or legislative issues at meetings in future, bureau officials would be happy to attend.

4. Ms Audrey EU noted from CS's response that bureau officials had not attended the Panel meetings on the grounds that the discussions concerned technical matters and the Administration had already explained the relevant policy to LegCo. She considered that CS appeared to have focused merely on the relationship between the Executive Authorities and the Legislature. In her view, while the policy intent might be good, how the policy was implemented was important. Given the significant impact of the implementation of the registration of proprietary Chinese medicines on the trade and the public, it was most important for bureau officials to attend the Panel meetings to listen to the views and concerns of the large number of attending deputations and members of the public. She pointed out that SFH had twice declined the invitations of the Panel to attend its meetings. Noting the non-attendance of bureau officials at the meeting on 17 January, the Panel Chairman had written to SFH requesting his presence at the meeting on 15 February. Notwithstanding the Panel Chairman's invitation, SFH had still declined to attend the meeting, hence the Panel's decision to raise the matter with the House Committee. She stressed that as SFH was the accountable official bearing the ultimate political responsibility for health policy, bureau officials should attend the Panel meetings to listen to the views of the public and the trade.

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5. The Chairman clarified that she had not only discussed the matter with CS from the perspective of the relationship between the Executive Authorities and the Legislature. She had also stressed the need for bureau officials to attend the Panel meetings as the concerns raised by the deputations and the discussions involved policy issues.

6. Mr LEUNG Yiu-chung said that many members of the trade had attended the two special Panel meetings to express their grave concerns because the trade only learned of the far-reaching and significant impact of the commencement of the relevant provisions of CMO at a very late stage. He pointed out that although the legislation had been enacted for some years, the Administration had failed to conduct wide consultation with the trade at an early stage on the implementation details such as the commencement date of the provisions and their effect. As a result, the trade did not have sufficient time to prepare for the implementation. He shared Ms Audrey EU's view that the matter concerned not only the communication between the Administration and LegCo, but also that between the Administration and members of the public. He did not agree that the matter concerned only technical issues. He stressed the need for the Administration to attach importance to the matter, address the problems squarely and devise solutions.

7. Mr Vincent FANG said that he had also followed up closely on the matter. According to his understanding, the Administration had informed the trade of the implementation at a very early stage. However, possibly due to a lack of full understanding of the relevant documentation requirements, the trade was not aware of the need to take action to prepare for the implementation of the legislation until at a very late stage. He further said that about 4 000 proprietary Chinese medicines products had already been taken off the shelves. The Administration was working with the relevant traders to assist in the registration of those products. He pointed out that many proprietary Chinese medicines were currently exported as health food products to places like the United States and Canada. After the implementation of the registration system, each registered product would bear a registration number whereupon it would be treated as medicine by some overseas countries and be subject to stringent regulatory regimes. He added that the trade was currently in discussion with the Administration to explore the feasibility of not showing the registration numbers on the products.

8. The Chairman said that the matter under discussion was the non-attendance of bureau officials at the two special Panel meetings. She added that Members' views would be conveyed to CS.

### III. Business arising from previous Council meetings

(a) **Legal Service Division report on bills referred to the House Committee in accordance with Rule 54(4)**

(i) **Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes (Amendment) Bill 2011**

*(LC Paper No. LS 32/10-11 issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1200/10-11 dated 2 March 2011)*

9. The Chairman said that the Bill sought to amend the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance to provide explicitly that the statutory protection of accrued benefits under section 16 of the Ordinance covered the bankruptcy of a scheme member and to rectify a clerical error. The Panel on Financial Affairs had been briefed on the legislative proposal at its meeting on 29 November 2010. Members had not raised objection but had expressed various concerns.

10. Members did not raise objection to the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill.

(ii) **Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2011**

*(LC Paper No. LS 37/10-11)*

11. The Chairman said that the Bill sought to amend the Inland Revenue Ordinance to provide for the deduction in ascertaining profits chargeable to tax under the Ordinance of capital expenditure incurred on the purchase of a copyright, registered design or registered trade mark. The Panel on Financial Affairs had been briefed on the legislative proposal at its meeting on 1 November 2010 and members had not raised objection to the proposal.

12. The Chairman further said that the Legal Service Division was still scrutinizing the Bill and would provide a further report if necessary.

(b) **Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 23 February 2011 and tabled in Council on 2 March 2011**

*(LC Paper No. LS 33/10-11 issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1202/10-11 dated 3 March 2011)*

13. The Chairman said that a total of three items of subsidiary legislation were gazetted on 23 February 2011 and tabled in the Council on 2 March 2011.

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14. Regarding the two items of subsidiary legislation made under the Public Revenue Protection Ordinance (Cap. 120), the Chairman said that the Public Revenue Protection (Dutiable Commodities) Order 2011 sought to increase the duty on various tobacco products by 41.5%, while the Public Revenue Protection (Motor Vehicles First Registration Tax) Order 2011 was to increase the first registration tax for private cars by about 15%. The two Orders had come into force on 23 February 2011.

15. Mr KAM Nai-wai considered it necessary to form a subcommittee to study the two Orders.

16. The Chairman proposed that two subcommittees be formed to study the two Orders separately as they involved different policy areas notwithstanding their making under the same Ordinance. Members agreed.

17. The following Members agreed to join the subcommittee formed to study the Public Revenue Protection (Dutiable Commodities) Order 2011: Mr WONG Ting-kwong, Mr KAM Nai-wai, Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung and Mr Albert CHAN.

18. The following Members agreed to join the subcommittee formed to study the Public Revenue Protection (Motor Vehicles First Registration Tax) Order 2011: Ms Miriam LAU, Mr WONG Ting-kwong, Mr KAM Nai-wai and Miss Tanya CHAN.

19. As the deadline for amending the two Orders was 30 March 2011, the Chairman proposed to move a motion in her capacity as Chairman of the House Committee at the Council meeting of 16 March 2011 to extend their scrutiny period to 4 May 2011. Members agreed.

20. Members did not raise any query on the other item of subsidiary legislation.

**(c) Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 25 February 2011 and tabled in Council on 2 March 2011**

*(LC Paper No. LS 34/10-11 issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1202/10-11 dated 3 March 2011)*

21. The Chairman said that a total of two items of subsidiary legislation were gazetted on 25 February 2011 and tabled in the Council on 2 March 2011.

22. Regarding the Legal Aid (Assessment of Resources and Contributions) (Amendment) Regulation 2011, the Chairman said that it sought to increase the amount of deductible allowance from the 35-percentile to the 50-percentile household expenditure in computing the disposable income of a legal aid applicant and provide for an amount equivalent to the financial eligibility limit for the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme to be disregarded in the computation of the financial resources of a legal aid applicant aged 60 or above.

23. The Chairman further said that the Administration would move a motion to amend the Chinese text of section 3(2) of the Amendment Regulation to rectify textual inconsistency.

24. Dr Margaret NG said that the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services had discussed the legislative proposals at a number of meetings and had urged the Administration to implement them as early as practicable.

25. Members did not raise any queries on the other item of subsidiary legislation, i.e. the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plant Ordinance (Amendment of Schedules 1 and 3) Order 2011. Members noted that the Administration would move a motion to amend section 4(11) of the Amendment Order to rectify an inadvertent mistake.

**(d) Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 4 March 2011 and tabled in Council on 9 March 2011**

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*(LC Paper No. LS 36/10-11)*

26. The Chairman said that a total of two items of subsidiary legislation, including one Commencement Notice, were gazetted on 4 March 2011 and tabled in the Council on 9 March 2011.

27. Members did not raise any queries on these items of subsidiary legislation.

28. The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for amending the subsidiary legislation was 6 April 2011.



#### IV. Business for the Council meeting of 16 March 2011

(a) **Tabling of papers**

**Report No. 16/10-11 of the House Committee on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments**  
*(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1227/10-11 issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 569/10-11 dated 10 March 2011)*

29. The Chairman said that the report covered four items of subsidiary legislation which would expire on 16 March 2011. As some Members had notified their intention to speak on the Antiquities and Monuments (Declaration of Proposed Monument) (Ho Tung Gardens) Notice, she, as Chairman of the House Committee, would move a motion to take note of the report in relation to the Notice at the Council meeting of 16 March 2011.

(b) **Questions**

*(LC Paper No. CB(3) 531/10-11 issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1200/10-11 dated 2 March 2011)*  
*(LC Paper No. CB(3) 561/10-11)*

30. The Chairman informed Members that Mr KAM Nai-wai and Ms Emily LAU had replaced their oral questions.

(c) **Bills - First Reading and moving of Second Reading**

31. The Chairman said that no notice had been received yet.

(d) **Bills - resumption of debate on Second Reading, Committee Stage and Third Reading**

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**Inland Revenue (Amendment) Bill 2011**

32. The Chairman said that at the House Committee meeting on 18 February 2011, Members considered it not necessary to form a Bills Committee to study the Bill. The Administration had given notice to resume the Second Reading debate on the Bill at the Council meeting of 16 March 2011.

(e) **Government motions**

(i) **Proposed resolution to be moved by the Secretary for Security under the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance**

(Wording of the proposed resolution issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 519/10-11 dated 25 February 2011.)  
(*LC Paper No. LS 35/10-11 issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1202/10-11 dated 3 March 2011*)

33. The Chairman said that the proposed resolution was for seeking LegCo's approval of the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (India) Order made under section 4 of the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance.

34. Dr Margaret NG considered it necessary to form a subcommittee to study the resolution.

35. The Chairman proposed that a subcommittee be formed to study the resolution in detail. Members agreed. The following Members agreed to join: Dr Margaret NG, Mr James TO (as advised by Mr Fred LI) and Mr LAU Kong-wah.

36. The Chairman said that the Administration would be requested to withdraw its notice for moving the proposed resolution.

(ii) **Proposed resolution to be moved by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury under section 7(1) of the Public Finance Ordinance**

(Wording of the proposed resolution issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 568/10-11 dated 10 March 2011.)  
(*LC Paper No. LS 38/10-11 issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2) 1259/10-11 dated 11 March 2011*)

37. The Chairman said that the proposed resolution was for seeking funds on account to enable the Government to carry on its services between the start of the financial year on 1 April 2011 and the time when the Appropriation Ordinance 2011 came into operation.

38. The Chairman further said that the aggregate total sum sought under all heads this year was reduced from \$60,220,429,000 in the Vote on Account Resolution negatived at the Council meeting of 9 March 2011 to \$59,720,429,000. The expenditure in respect of Head 106 Miscellaneous Services Subhead 789 Additional commitments was \$500,000,000 as compared to \$1,000,000,000 in the previous Vote on Account Resolution, representing a 50% reduction.

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39. The Chairman added that the President had waived the requisite notice of the proposed resolution, which was substantially different from the previous Vote on Account Resolution.

40. Members did not raise objection to the Administration moving the proposed resolution at the Council meeting.

**(f) Members' motions**

**(i) Motion on “The development of self-financing post-secondary institutions”**

*(Wording of the motion issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 546/10-11 dated 4 March 2011.)*

**(ii) Motion on “Promoting a slow food culture”**

*(Wording of the motion issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 547/10-11 dated 4 March 2011.)*

41. The Chairman said that the above two motions would be moved by Ms Starry LEE and Mrs Sophie LEUNG respectively and the wording of the motions had been issued to Members.

42. The Chairman further said that the deadline for giving notice of amendments to the two motions had expired on 9 March 2011.

**V. Report of Bills Committees and subcommittees**

**(a) Report of the Bills Committee on Food Safety Bill**

*(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1228/10-11)*

43. Mr Fred LI, Chairman of the Bills Committee, reported that the Bill sought to make provisions for establishing a registration scheme for food importers and food distributors to enhance food traceability, and empower SFH to make regulations for tightening import control on specific food types. Having considered the views of members, the Administration agreed to move Committee Stage amendments ("CSAs") to amend, among others, the definition of "food" and the term "粗言穢語" to match better the meaning of the term "abusive language" in the English text.

44. Mr Fred LI further reported that the Bill would commence on a day to be appointed by SFH by notice in the Gazette. To allow sufficient time for traders to adapt to the new requirements, the penalty provisions for failing to register and keep records would commence after a grace

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period of six months after the registration scheme had started. Given that some 8 600 food importers and distributors would need to register with the Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene ("DFEH") under the Bill, the Administration had undertaken to grant approval-in-principle to applications for registration received within the six-month grace period. For applications submitted after the full commencement of the Bill, the Administration had also undertaken that DFEH would grant an application for registration within seven working days upon the receipt of all the required information. The Administration would also tailor-make some programmes for target groups such as fishermen and owners of small stalls during the six-month grace period to facilitate their compliance with the new requirements. He added that the Bills Committee supported the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill at the Council meeting of 30 March 2011.

45. Dr Margaret NG said that Members had recently expressed concern about the use of examples in a bill during its scrutiny. She enquired whether the Administration had used examples in the Bill to explain the term "粗言穢語".

46. Mr Fred LI replied in the negative, adding that the purpose of the Administration's proposed amendment to the term "粗言穢語" was to match better the meaning of the term "abusive language" in the English text.

47. The Chairman reminded Members that the deadline for giving notice of CSAs, if any, was Monday, 21 March 2011.

**(b) Report of the Subcommittee on Buildings Energy Efficiency (Fees) Regulation and Buildings Energy Efficiency (Registered Energy Assessors) Regulation**  
*(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1525/10-11)*

48. Ms Audrey EU, Chairman of the Subcommittee, reported that the Subcommittee had held four meetings to scrutinize the Building Energy Efficiency (Fees) Regulation ("the Fees Regulation") and the Building Energy Efficiency (Registered Energy Assessors) Regulation ("the REA Regulation"). It had also received views from representatives of professional bodies and organizations concerned.

49. Ms Audrey EU elaborated that apart from the fee levels prescribed in the Fees Regulation, the Subcommittee had also deliberated on issues relating to the REA Regulation, including the eligibility criteria for registration as registered energy assessors ("REAs") and disciplinary proceedings.

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50. Ms Audrey EU further reported that in response to members' views and concerns on the eligibility criteria for registration as REAs, the Administration would move amendments to allow the Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services greater flexibility in considering applications from persons from professions other than engineering for registration as REAs. Having considered members' views on the information to be incorporated in the register of REAs, composition of the disciplinary board, cost of hearing and the drafting of certain provisions, the Administration would also move relevant amendments to the REA Regulation.

51. The Chairman reminded Members that as the deadline for amending the two Regulations was 16 March 2011, the deadline for giving notice of amendments had expired on 9 March 2011.

**(c) Report of the Subcommittee to Study Issues Relating to the Power of the Legislative Council to Amend Subsidiary Legislation**

*(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1230/10-11)*

52. Dr Margaret NG, Chairman of the Subcommittee, reported that the Subcommittee had held its first meeting on 22 February 2011 to discuss its terms of reference and work plan. After thorough deliberations, the Subcommittee had proposed the following terms of reference as set out in paragraph 4 of the paper –

"To study issues relating to the power of the Legislative Council to amend subsidiary legislation which is subject to section 34 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) and the respective roles of the Legislature and the Executive Authorities under the Basic Law in the legislative process, and to make recommendations to the House Committee where necessary."

53. Dr Margaret NG referred Members to Appendix II to the paper for details of the Subcommittee's work plan. She added that the Subcommittee aimed to complete its work and report to the House Committee by the end of February 2012.

54. Members endorsed the proposed terms of reference of the Subcommittee and noted its work plan.

**VI. Position on Bills Committees and subcommittees**

*(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1226/10-11)*

55. The Chairman said that there were 12 Bills Committees, eight subcommittees under the House Committee (i.e. four subcommittees on subsidiary legislation, two subcommittees on policy issues and two subcommittees on other Council business) and eight subcommittees under Panels in action.

56. The Chairman invited Members to note that the following two Bills Committees would have to work beyond three months since commencement of their work –

- (a) Bills Committee on University of Hong Kong (Amendment) Bill 2010; and
- (b) Bills Committee on Stamp Duty (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2010.

57. Regarding the Bills Committee on Stamp Duty (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2010, Ms Audrey EU said that members and the relevant professional bodies had raised many issues of concern at meetings of the Bills Committee. Possibly owing to the complexity of the issues, the Administration had yet to respond. As the amendments relating to the special stamp duty would take retrospective effect from 20 November 2010, she was concerned about the time taken by the Administration to respond to the Bills Committee. She requested the Chairman to relay her concern to CS.

58. The Chairman said that the matter would be relayed to CS for follow up.

**VII. Rescheduling of the duty visit to the United States and Canada by the Subcommittee on Harbourfront Planning under the Panel on Development**

*(LC Paper No. CB(1) 1526/10-11)*

59. Prof Patrick LAU, Chairman of the Subcommittee, said that the Subcommittee was appointed by the Panel on Development in November 2008 and was tasked to monitor and study the planning, land use and related issues in respect of the harbourfront areas on both sides of the Victoria Harbour. The Subcommittee had obtained the approval of the House Committee on 10 July 2009 to conduct a duty visit to several cities

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in the United States and Canada. At its meeting on 9 July 2010, the House Committee gave permission for the Subcommittee to reschedule the duty visit to September 2010.

60. Prof Patrick LAU further said that during the planning for the overseas duty visit, some organizations which the delegation would like to meet with had indicated unavailability in receiving the delegation, and some interested members were unable to participate in the visit due to other commitments. Having regard to the change in circumstances, the Subcommittee decided to postpone the duty visit. The Subcommittee subsequently decided in September 2010 to pursue the duty visit in the 2010-2011 session. The duty visit would be conducted from 24 April to 2 May 2011 covering Boston, New York and Vancouver. He appealed to Members to support the proposed rescheduling of the duty visit.

61. Members agreed to give permission for the Subcommittee to reschedule its duty visit.

**VIII. Any other business**

62. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:06 pm.