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MEMO

To : CCS(1)1
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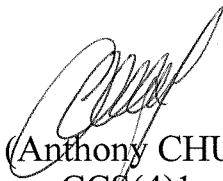
Public Accounts Committee

**Monitoring and reporting of air quality
and
Implementation of air-quality improvement measures**

The Public Accounts Committee ("PAC") Report No. 63 was tabled in the Council on 11 February 2015. In Part 5 of the Report on the "Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Reports of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region for the year ended 31 March 2013 and the Results of Value for Money Audits", the latest progress of implementing the Director of Audit's recommendations on the following issues was reported (see the **Appendix** attached):

- i) the monitoring and reporting of air quality by the Environment Bureau ("ENB") and the Environmental Protection Department ("EPD"); and
- ii) the implementation of air-quality improvement measures by ENB, EPD, the Transport and Housing Bureau, the Transport Department and the Marine Department.

2. As the policy issues concerning the monitoring and reporting of air quality as well as the implementation of air-quality improvement measures are within the purview of the Panel on Environmental Affairs, PAC has agreed to refer the two subjects to the Panel for follow up.


(Anthony CHU)
CCS(4)1

Encl.

P.A.C. Report No. 63 – Part 5

Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Reports of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the year ended 31 March 2013 and the Results of Value for Money Audits (Report No. 61) [P.A.C. Report No. 61]

Monitoring and reporting of air quality

(Paragraphs 22 and 23 of Part 4 of P.A.C. Report No. 61)

23. The Committee was informed in the Government Minute which was laid before LegCo in May 2014 that:

Administration of Air Pollution Index

- the new Air Quality Health Index System had replaced the Administration of Air Pollution Index since 30 December 2013;
- the Tuen Mun Air Quality Monitoring station, being the twelfth general air quality monitoring station of the Environmental Protection Department, had started reporting air quality data since 30 December 2013; and
- the Sai Kung District Council endorsed the proposed site for the setting up of a general air quality monitoring station in Tseung Kwan O at its meeting on 7 January 2014. The Environmental Protection Department was making preparation for the design and construction of the station with a view to commencing its operation by the end of 2015. The Administration would report the progress to the Sai Kung District Council.

24. The Committee recommends that the issues relating to monitoring and reporting of air quality be referred to LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs ("EA Panel") for follow up.

Implementation of air-quality improvement measures

(Paragraphs 24 to 27 of Part 4 of P.A.C. Report No. 61)

25. The Committee was informed in the Government Minute laid before LegCo in May 2014 that:

Emission from pre-Euro, Euro I and Euro II diesel vehicles

- the Administration was implementing an incentive-cum-regulatory approach to phase out progressively some 82 000 pre-Euro IV (i.e. pre-Euro and Euro I, II and III) diesel commercial vehicles, including

goods vehicles, light buses and non-franchised buses, before 2020. The Air Pollution Control (Air Pollutant Emission) (Controlled Vehicles) Regulation (Cap. 311X), which stipulated respective commencement dates for not renewing the vehicle licences of the relevant diesel commercial vehicles and capped the service year limits of newly registered diesel commercial vehicles at 15 years, had taken effect from 1 February 2014. The LegCo Finance Committee approved the funding of some \$11.4 billion for launching an ex-gratia payment scheme for phasing out the pre-Euro IV diesel commercial vehicles. The Administration had been receiving applications for the ex-gratia payment since 1 March 2014 and would report the progress to EA Panel on an annual basis;

Requiring local and river-trade vessels to use ultra-low-sulphur diesel in Hong Kong waters as early as possible

- the Air Pollution Control (Marine Light Diesel) Regulation (Cap. 311Y) which mandated the light diesel to be supplied for the use of vessels to be low sulphur light diesel (i.e. with sulphur content not exceeding 0.05%) had already taken effect from 1 April 2014;

Completing the legislative procedures necessary for implementing the proposed non-road mobile machinery emission-control system

- the Administration was drafting the relevant legislation with a view to completing the legislative procedures in 2014; and

Implementing various air-quality improvement measures

- the Administration would report the progress of implementing various air-quality improvement measures (including the above item) to EA Panel as and when appropriate.

26. The Committee recommends that the issues relating to implementation of air-quality improvement measures be referred to EA Panel for follow up.