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**Paper for the House Committee Meeting
on 12 May 2000**

Report on the Legislative Council Delegation's Visit to Europe

Purpose

This paper reports on the Legislative Council delegation's visit to Europe.

Visit to Europe

2. At the House Committee meeting on 19 November 1999, members endorsed the recommendation of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee that a delegation of Legislative Council Members should visit Europe in early February 2000. The objectives of the visit were to foster and strengthen the ties with various legislatures in Europe i.e. the European, the United Kingdom (UK) and the German Parliaments, to update them on the latest developments in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and to seek their support on issues such as visa-free access to European countries for holders of HKSAR passports. Members also endorsed the composition of the delegation at the House Committee meeting on 17 December 1999.

3. From 13 to 20 February 2000, the delegation visited London, Strasbourg and Berlin. In London, the delegation called on Mr John Battle, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and held meetings with the Hong Kong Committee of the All Party China Parliamentary Group and the Foreign Affairs Select Committee to discuss issues of mutual interest.

4. In addition to meeting the European Parliament - Hong Kong Friendship Group, the delegation called on Mr Chris Patten, Commissioner for External Relations of the European Commission in Strasbourg. Meetings were also held with Mr Per Gahrton, Chairman of European Parliament China Delegation, and Mr John Cushman, rapporteur of the Hong Kong report by the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy.

5. In Berlin, the delegation had meetings with three committees of the German Bundestag, namely the Committee on Transport, Building and Housing, the Committee on Economic Affairs and Technology, and the Foreign Affairs Committee. The delegation also called on the Chinese Embassy in Germany and received briefings by two think tanks: the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

6. During the eight-day visit, the delegation were also briefed by officials of various government ministries and departments on a variety of subjects, including urban renewal, environmental protection and economic policies. In addition, the delegation toured the European Parliament Building in Strasbourg and the Reichstag Building in Berlin.

7. The delegation considers that the visit has been very successful in renewing and establishing closer links with their counterparts in the UK, European Parliament and Germany, keeping the European community abreast of the latest developments in Hong Kong, and fostering a better understanding of the aspirations and policies in these places. It is particularly delighted to note the continuing interest in Hong Kong affairs expressed by the various parliamentarians as well as community and business leaders.

Advice sought

8. The delegation's report on the visit, detailing the programme and the discussions held, is attached. Members are invited to take note of the report.

Legislative Council Secretariat
10 May 2000

Report on the Legislative Council Delegation's Visit to Europe

13 to 20 February 2000

I. Introduction

On 19 November 1999, the House Committee endorsed the recommendation of the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee that a delegation of Legislative Council Members should visit Europe in early February 2000. The objectives of the visit were to foster and strengthen the ties with various legislatures in Europe i.e. the European, the United Kingdom (UK) and the German Parliaments, to update them on the latest developments in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and to seek their support on issues such as visa-free access to European countries for holders of HKSAR passports. A delegation comprising the following Members was formed:

- ✧ Hon Edward HO Sing-tin, SBS, JP (*Leader of delegation*)
- ✧ Prof Hon NG Ching-fai (*Deputy Leader of delegation*)
- ✧ Hon David CHU Yu-lin
- ✧ Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
- ✧ Dr Hon LUI Ming-wah, JP
- ✧ Hon James TO Kun-sun
- ✧ Hon Christine LOH
- ✧ Hon LAU Kong-wah

2. Ms Miranda HON, Senior Assistant Secretary (3)3, accompanied the delegation during the visit.

II. Programme

3. From 13 to 20 February 2000, the delegation visited London in the UK, Strasbourg in France and Berlin in Germany. During the eight-day visit, the delegation held meetings with parliamentarians, leaders of major trades and industries, and representatives of public and private organizations. The delegation were also briefed on a variety of subjects by officials of various government ministries and departments.

London

4. During the delegation's stay in London on 14 and 15 February 2000, they had meetings with Mr Donald Anderson, Member of Parliament (MP) and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, the Confederation of

British Industry, and Mr John Battle, MP and Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, and DEMOS (a think tank). The delegation also visited the Millennium Dome, the HKSAR Government's Economic and Trade Office in London (HKETO) and the London Office of the Hong Kong Tourist Association.

5. Officials from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions gave briefings for the delegation on various policy areas including culture, media, sustainable development, environmental protection and heritage preservation.

6. The Hong Kong Association and the Hong Kong Committee of the All Party China Parliamentary Group hosted luncheons in honour of the delegation on 14 and 15 February 2000 respectively. On 14 February 2000, the delegation attended a dinner hosted by the HKETO.

Strasbourg

7. The delegation visited the European Parliament in Strasbourg from 15 to 17 February 2000. The delegation held meetings with Mr Per Gahrton, Member of European Parliament (MEP) and Chairman of European Parliament China Delegation, and Mr John Cushman, MEP and rapporteur of the Hong Kong report by the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy. The delegation also called on Mr Chris Patten, Commissioner for External Relations, European Commission. They had the opportunity to tour the European Parliament Building.

8. On 16 February 2000, the European Parliament - Hong Kong Friendship Group hosted a luncheon in honour of the delegation.

Berlin

9. The delegation visited Berlin from 17 to 19 February 2000. Meetings were held with three committees of the German Bundestag (the German Parliament), namely the Committee on Transport, Building and Housing, the Committee on Economic Affairs and Technology, and the Foreign Affairs Committee. The delegation also toured the Reichstag Building (the German Parliament Building) and called on the Chinese Embassy in Germany.

10. The delegation visited two think tanks: the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, and received a briefing by the Federal Ministry of Environment on environmental protection policies and measures. The delegation attended a reception hosted by DaimlerChrysler Rail Systems GmbH on 18 February 2000, followed by a visit to the Potsdamer Platz, the site of a large-scale urban redevelopment project.

11. The German - China Parliamentary Group of the Bundestag hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation on 17 February 2000. On 18 February 2000, the delegation attended a luncheon hosted by the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce with representatives from major German business associations.

12. The visit programme is in *Appendix I*.

III. Main points of discussions

LONDON

14 February 2000 (Monday)

Meeting with Mr Donald Anderson, MP and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee

13. During the meeting with Mr Donald Anderson, MP and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, the delegation updated Mr Anderson on the latest political and economic situation in Hong Kong. Mr Anderson was informed of the Legislative Council's desire to maintain close ties with various legislatures, and to strengthen the parliamentary links between Hong Kong and the UK.

14. Members of the delegation shared with Mr Anderson their views on the following subjects:

- the rule of law;
- the interpretation by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of the Basic Law provisions covering the right of abode in Hong Kong;
- constitutional development in Hong Kong;
- relationship between the executive authorities and the legislature;
- press freedom; and
- the British Government's consular responsibility for holders of British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) passports in Hong Kong.

15. Mr Anderson assured the delegation that the UK Parliament continued to take a close interest in developments in Hong Kong. A Hong Kong Committee had been formed under the All Party China Parliamentary Group. In response to continuing parliamentary interest in Hong Kong, the UK Government had undertaken to produce six-monthly reports on the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Hong Kong for submission to Parliament.

16. Mr Anderson said that it was generally considered that the transition had been smooth. The UK Government had concluded in the latest Six-monthly Report on Hong Kong (July - December 1999) that although it noted a number of areas of concern, its overall assessment of the implementation of "one country, two systems" remained positive. He appreciated the concerns raised by some members of the delegation. For instance, he considered that the procedure by which the HKSAR Government sought the interpretation of the Basic Law from the Standing Committee of the NPC should remain exceptional.

17. Mr Anderson concluded by advising the delegation that the UK would continue to maintain a close interest and watch developments in Hong Kong with alertness, in the hope that Hong Kong would move towards greater democracy.

Visit to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London

18. Ms Sandra LEE, Director-General of the HKETO in London, gave the delegation a comprehensive presentation on the work of the HKETO.

19. The delegation were informed that the HKETO was responsible for the HKSAR's economic and trade relations with the UK, as well as bilateral relations with non-European Union countries in the continent including Norway, Switzerland, and Central and Eastern European countries. The HKETO closely monitored developments which might affect Hong Kong's economic and trade interests and promoted Hong Kong's interests by liaising with government officials, politicians, businessmen, journalists, rating agencies, think tanks, academics, professional groups and other opinion formers in order to enhance their understanding of the HKSAR, and by organizing events to promote a positive image of Hong Kong.

20. Members of the delegation were appreciative of the HKETO's efforts and contribution in promoting Hong Kong's economic and trade interests.

Visit to the London Office of the Hong Kong Tourist Association

21. The delegation paid a brief visit to the London Office of the Hong Kong Tourist Association which shared the same premises with the HKETO. Mr Kevin Welch, Regional Director - Europe, Africa and the Middle East, briefed the delegation on the work and activities of the Association in promoting Hong Kong's tourism.

22. The delegation were informed that the UK and Germany were Hong Kong's two biggest markets in Europe. In 1999 there were about 1,063,176 European visitors to Hong Kong, which represented a 2.1% growth over the previous year. However, the spending by the visitors had decreased by 8.5%.

Hence, more efforts had to be made to raise the amount of the visitors' spending in Hong Kong. The forecast for visits to Hong Kong in 2000 was 1,104,000, an increase of 3.8% over 1999. According to the Association's survey, the key factors that had an impact on the performance of Hong Kong's tourism industry were: the "handover" factor, the strength or weakness of European currencies, price perception, competition, and the awareness and depth of knowledge of Hong Kong.

23. Members of the delegation expressed appreciation of the Association's work and its contribution in promoting Hong Kong as a tourist destination for European visitors.

Luncheon meeting with the Hong Kong Association

24. The luncheon was hosted by the Hong Kong Association. The objective of the Hong Kong Association is to promote wider knowledge of Hong Kong and its continuing importance to the UK. The Association provides a forum in which the interests and concerns of Hong Kong can be explained to an influential audience. The Association also on occasion acts in support of Hong Kong's official representatives in ensuring that Hong Kong's interests are given full weight by the UK Government and Parliament.

25. The Association's members include most of the principal British firms investing and doing business in Hong Kong, as well as leading Hong Kong companies active in the UK. The Association's current President is Lord Wilson of Tillyhorn, former Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Hong Kong (1987 - 1992), and its Joint Vice-Chairmen is Baroness Dunn.

26. Hon Edward HO, leader of the delegation, said in his speech that Hong Kong cherished the long-standing links with the UK. Mr HO briefed members of the Association on the latest economic situation in Hong Kong. He emphasized that the Hong Kong economy had shown signs of recovery and was on track to attain overall 1.8% economic growth in 1999 after surviving the turbulence of 1998. He also pointed out that British investment and tourist arrivals had always been important to Hong Kong and hoped to see a stronger British presence in the Hong Kong economy.

27. During the luncheon meeting, the delegation and the Hong Kong Association exchanged views on a variety of subjects, including the possible introduction of new taxes in Hong Kong, the relationship between the Central People's Government and the HKSAR Government, the pace of democratic development and privatization of public services.

Visit to the Millennium Dome

28. The Millennium Dome, opened on 31 December 1999, presents a year-long celebration of British ideas and technologies at the beginning of the new millennium. The Millennium Experience presented in the Dome features a large number of exhibits and attractions showing the choices facing mankind in the 21st century and beyond: how people may work, learn, rest and play; what bodies and minds can do, and how beliefs are formed; as well as opportunities to improve local, national and global environments. The Dome is divided into different themed zones including Body, Play, Mind, Talk, Journey and Home Planet, focusing on different facets of human life and the Earth.

29. The delegation had a short tour of the Dome and watched the Millennium Show, which was a three-act performance with stunning visual effects and acrobatics.

Dinner with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office

30. The dinner was hosted by the HKETO in honour of the delegation and attended by government officials and local businessmen.

31. Speeches were delivered by Ms Sandra LEE and Hon Edward HO respectively. Mr HO took the opportunity to thank Ms LEE and the staff of the HKETO for their hospitality and for arranging the programme and logistics for the delegation's visit.

15 February 2000 (Tuesday)

Visit to the Confederation of British Industry (CBI)

32. Mr Andy Scott, Director of International Competitiveness and International Markets, briefed the delegation on the function and work of the CBI. He said that the CBI was founded in 1965 through the amalgamation of several national bodies representing employers and trade associations. It was an independent, non-partisan body, financed entirely by the industrial and commercial sectors. The CBI's membership was voluntary and consisted predominantly of direct company members. The CBI acted as the national spokesman for British business and advised the UK Government on all aspects of policy affecting trade and industry in the country and abroad. It also acted internationally as the prime representative of British industry for enhancing business relations between the UK and overseas countries.

33. Mr Scott further shared with the delegation his views on the factors contributing to the growth of the UK economy, including the stable economic policy of the Labour Government, the strength of the sterling, the absence of central control on conditions of engagement and a good education system. Compared to other European countries, there were fewer labour regulations in the UK and the labour force was less unionized. Hence, the labour market was more flexible.

34. On the role of government in the development of trade and industry, Mr Scott considered that there should be minimal government intervention and regulation. He preferred a neutral taxation system to a system with many tax incentives which would distort business decisions. The CBI urged the UK Government to increase the expenditure on transport infrastructure and public service, and to provide incentive for investment on research and development.

35. Members of the delegation further exchanged views with Mr Scott on the availability of talents in information technology and the boom of e-commerce, the desirability of a minimum wage system and exchanges between academics and businesses.

Briefing by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)

36. The DCMS was established in July 1997 from the former Department of National Heritage. It is responsible for government policies relating to the arts, broadcasting, the press, museums and galleries, libraries, sport and recreation, historic buildings and ancient monuments, tourism, and the music industry. It funds the Arts Council and other arts bodies, is responsible for the policy on National Lottery and the Millennium, and sponsors the Millennium Commission.

37. Officials from the DCMS briefed the delegation on the work of the Department. On the Arts Council, the delegation were informed that there were 12 members in the Council who were non-public officers appointed by the Secretary of State. The Council was responsible for distributing public money from the Government and the lottery to artists and arts organizations, both directly and through the 10 Regional Arts Boards. The UK Government did not exercise any influence over the Council's decision in this respect. Instead, the Government provided support by promoting the Council among the public.

38. Regarding the regulation of the press, the delegation were told that there was a Press Complaints Council in the UK which dealt with complaints about the infringement of privacy, harassment and the way sex and criminal cases were reported, etc. The Council comprised both non-press and press members who were elected from among the industry. It was a self-regulatory body. There were about 40 pieces of legislation relating to the press, including the ones on libel and indecency. The UK Government considered that self-regulation was the best approach for dealing with the press.

39. The delegation were further told that the UK Government had all along relied on self-regulation of the industry to regulate the information disseminated on the Internet. The industry had realized that the Internet had revolutionized the way information was distributed and there was a need to re-think how issues such as infringement of copyright and indecency should be dealt with. The Government also recognized that in a fast-changing environment, it must be flexible in establishing the regulatory framework.

40. Members of the delegation briefed the officials on the situation in Hong Kong, including the funding of arts groups, the work of the Arts Development Council and the recent discussion on the establishment of a press council.

**Briefing by the Department
of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR)**

41. The DETR is responsible for policies relating to local government, regional development agencies and regeneration; housing, construction, planning and countryside affairs; and environmental protection and water.

42. Members of the delegation informed the DETR officials of the unsatisfactory situation in preserving historical buildings in Hong Kong. As regards the situation in the UK, the delegation were informed that the legislation for preserving historical buildings had been in place since 1890. Much of London's historic environment was already subject to statutory protection. There were over 35,000 listed buildings and over 800 conservation areas, covering 25% of the total area of London. The conflicts between those people who wanted to preserve and those who wanted to develop the conservation areas were resolved by education which highlighted the value of the historical buildings, and by the Government's grant for maintaining and repairing such buildings. The grant would be allocated to owners who proved that they could not afford to preserve the buildings.

43. The officials gave an introduction on the UK Government's regeneration policy and measures. Under its regeneration policy, the UK Government planned to use targeted programmes and policies to regenerate communities of severe deprivation in terms of housing, economic capacity and social problems. The regeneration programmes were provided on top of normal spending on health, housing, education and other services and brought concentrated help for the most deprived areas. The aim was to reduce or eliminate the gap between prosperous and disadvantaged communities.

44. The budget for regeneration in the coming three years would be £4.5 billion. Regeneration funding was available to help areas that suffered different degrees of disadvantage, as measured by an Index of Local Deprivation. The Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) was a kind of regeneration schemes which supported regeneration initiatives in England

carried out by local partnerships. There were already more than 600 SRB schemes working to regenerate their local areas. The schemes were reasonably successful.

45. Regarding sustainable development, the delegation were advised that the UK Government's strategy had four main aims, which were:

- social progress which recognized the needs of everyone;
- effective protection of the environment;
- prudent use of natural resources; and
- maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

Fifteen headline indicators had been developed for measuring the progress in achieving sustainable development. Some examples of the indicators were qualifications at age 19, level of crime and days when air pollution was moderate or high. The indicators identified the key issues relating to quality of life and would be published every year.

46. To build sustainable development into policies and decisions, the Government had established a Cabinet Committee on the Environment, which co-ordinated policy on sustainable development. It had revitalized the system of "Green Ministers", whose job was to oversee systems for integrating the environment into each department's policies and operations.

47. The delegation found the briefing very informative and was impressed by the UK Government's comprehensive policies and measures for addressing issues on heritage preservation, regeneration and sustainable development. Members considered that the UK experience would provide useful reference for Hong Kong.

Luncheon with the Hong Kong Committee of the All Party China Parliamentary Group

48. Mr Howard Flight and Mr Ben Chapman, MPs and Co-Chairmen of the Hong Kong Committee of the All Party China Parliamentary Group, hosted a luncheon in honour of the delegation. Three other MPs and Lord Wilson of Tillyhorn also joined the luncheon.

49. Members of the delegation and the Parliamentary Group exchanged views on a variety of subjects including the latest political and social developments in Hong Kong. The Parliamentary Group planned to visit Mainland China and Hong Kong in late March 2000 and expressed an interest in meeting Members of the Legislative Council for further exchanges.

Briefing by DEMOS

50. The delegation visited DEMOS, an independent think tank and research institute, and received a briefing on its work by Mr Richard Warner, General Manager. Mr Warner told the delegation that DEMOS was launched in 1993 and its role was to help invigorate public policy and political thinking. It maintained an independent status, conducted researches into different policy areas and published the works of a diverse range of authors. It worked closely with the people likely to be affected by policy proposals through focus groups, survey, value analysis and in-depth interviews. It acted as a bridge between different disciplines, and between the business sector, non-profit organizations and public policy-makers.

51. Among the 10 full-time staff of DEMOS, five were researchers. It had a wide international network through the Internet. DEMOS was funded in two ways: core funding and specific project funding. Its publications were on sale in the market and it had about 30,000 subscribers.

52. Through the briefing, members of the delegation were able to gain an appreciation of DEMOS' wide range of publications and contribution in stimulating public debates on policy issues and political thinking.

Call on Mr John Battle,

MP and Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

53. The delegation had a discussion with Mr John Battle, Minister of State responsible for Hong Kong affairs, on a variety of subjects, including the HKSAR's duty to enact laws under Article 23 of the Basic Law, the Mainland's possible accession to the World Trade Organization, the constitutional developments in Hong Kong, environmental protection, and the case relating to Mr WU Man, a BN(O) passport holder who was denied access to consular assistance when he was arrested in Bangkok on 14 June 1999 and subsequently removed to Mainland China to face criminal charges.

54. Members of the delegation took the opportunity to lobby the UK Government for supporting Hong Kong's cause to attain for HKSAR passport holders visa-free access to both Schengen Treaty and non-Schengen Treaty member states in Europe.

55. Mr Battle affirmed that the UK Government was committed to supporting the HKSAR Government's efforts to achieve visa-free access for HKSAR passport holders, as well as Britain's consular responsibility for holders of BN(O) passports. The UK Government had issued a public statement about Mr WU Man's case. The Thai authorities had undertaken to introduce measures to prevent the recurrence of similar incidents. He further informed the delegation that the UK would continue to watch closely developments in Hong Kong, expressing concern and asking questions where

necessary. The UK Government would continue to report to Parliament on the implementation of the Joint Declaration through the six-monthly reports on Hong Kong.

56. The delegation were gratified by the UK Government's continuing interest in Hong Kong affairs and its support for HKSAR passport holders to gain visa-free access to members states of the European Union.

STRASBOURG

16 February 2000 (Wednesday)

Meeting with Mr Per Gahrton, MEP and Chairman of the European Parliament China Delegation

57. The China Delegation is the parliamentary group in the European Parliament dealing with Mainland China and Hong Kong. It had established inter-parliamentary links with the NPC and had visited Mainland China and Hong Kong in June 1999.

58. Apart from Mr Gahrton, Lord Inglewood and Mr Sérgio Sousa Pinto, MEPs and Vice-Chairmen of the China Delegation, also joined the meeting. Mr Gahrton said that the European Parliament welcomed the opportunity to establish closer links with the Legislative Council of the HKSAR. The European Parliament was very interested in developments in the HKSAR as it was a test case of the "one country, two systems" concept.

59. During the meeting, the MEPs expressed interest in the political and social changes in Hong Kong since 1997. In particular, the following issues were brought up for discussion:

- freedom of the media and the proposal to set up a press council;
- changes in the composition of the Legislative Council in the second and third terms as set out in the Basic Law;
- the NPC Standing Committee's power to interpret the Basic Law and the possibility of that power being exercised again in future;
- some Legislative Council Members being refused entry to Mainland China;
- the relationship between the Central People's Government and the HKSAR Government; and
- the freedom of "Falun Gong" practitioners to practise "Falun Gong" and to hold demonstrations in Hong Kong.

60. In response to the delegation's concern, Mr Gahrton stated that the European Parliament had all along supported the granting of visa-free entry to European Union's member states to holders of the HKSAR passports as that would be conducive to maintaining the way of life of Hong Kong people. He assured the delegation that the MEPs would continue to support Hong Kong's cause.

**Meeting with Mr John Cushnahan,
MEP and rapporteur of the Hong Kong report
by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy**

61. In September 1998, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy of the European Parliament issued a report on Hong Kong. Mr John Cushnahan, the rapporteur, had visited Hong Kong in April 1998 to study the situation on the ground before compiling the report.

62. Mr Cushnahan informed the delegation that the European Parliament had decided to make another report on Hong Kong which would probably be published by July 2000 and he was again named the rapporteur. He would visit Hong Kong in March 2000 and would be meeting some Legislative Council Members during the visit. The report would be balanced and compared to the first report, it would focus more on the economic situation. On political development, Mr Cushnahan said that he was keen on democratic institutions and would like to see a Legislative Council returned by universal suffrage so that it could directly represent the people.

63. In response to Mr Cushnahan's concerns, Hon Edward HO said that the Hong Kong economy was recovering after surviving the Asian financial turmoil. In the third quarter of 1999, Hong Kong registered a GDP growth of 4.5% over the same period in 1998. Tourism and retail business were also improving. Members of the delegation then shared their views with Mr Cushnahan on the following subjects:

- the controversies surrounding the interpretation of the Basic Law by the NPC Standing Committee;
- the transfer of the former Director of Broadcasting and concerns about the editorial independence of the Radio Television Hong Kong;
- the Chinese Government's refusal to allow some Legislative Council Members and some Hong Kong people to enter the Mainland; and
- the requirement to enact legislation against treason, secession, sedition and subversion against the Central People's Government under Article 23 of the Basic Law.

64. The delegation were impressed by Mr Cushnahan's knowledge about the latest situation in Hong Kong as well as his concerns about Hong Kong's well-being and constitutional developments. Members looked forward to further exchanges with Mr Cushnahan and his colleagues during their forthcoming visit to Hong Kong.

**Luncheon hosted by
the European Parliament – Hong Kong Friendship Group**

65. The European Parliament – Hong Kong Friendship Group was first established in 1993. It was reconstituted on 1 December 1999 with Mr Richard Balfe and Mr Willy de Clercq as co-chairmen. Apart from Mr Balfe, Mr de Clercq and Mr David Martin, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, another 15 MEPs joined the luncheon.

66. In his speech, Hon Edward HO thanked the MEPs for their hospitality. He conveyed the message that the Legislative Council cherished the links and friendship with the European Parliament and hoped that better understanding about the two places would be brought about by more contacts at the parliamentary level. He also stressed that the offer of visa-free access for HKSAR passport holders would be conducive to the development of bilateral trade, business, culture and tourism between Hong Kong and Europe, and lobbied the MEPs to champion Hong Kong's cause.

67. During the luncheon, members of the delegation and the MEPs had informal exchanges over a wide range of subjects, including an update on the latest political, social and economic developments in Hong Kong.

Tour of the European Parliament Building

68. The delegation had a short tour of the European Parliament Building and received a briefing on the facilities in the Building. The delegation were also invited to observe from the Visitors' Gallery the proceedings of a plenary session of the European Parliament.

**Call on Mr Chris Patten,
Commissioner for External Relations, European Commission**

69. The delegation called on Mr Chris Patten, former Governor of Hong Kong (1992-1997) and now Commissioner for External Relations, European Commission.

70. Mr Patten welcomed the delegation and was eager to learn about recent developments in Hong Kong. He understood that although there had been controversy over some issues such as the interpretation of the Basic Law by the NPC Standing Committee, the rule of law and the pace of introducing universal suffrage, Hong Kong was still manifestly a free society. He also briefly introduced his work in the European Commission.

71. Members of the delegation updated Mr Patten on the latest situation in Hong Kong. In response to the delegation's enquiries, Mr Patten shared with the members the European Union's stance on China's possible accession to the World Trade Organization and the granting of visa-free access to HKSAR passport holders. In short, Mr Patten indicated that the European Union supported both issues in principle although there were still hurdles to overcome, including the opening up of China's telecommunications and mobile phone markets, and the position of France on the visa-free issue.

BERLIN

17 February 2000 (Thursday)

Tour of the Reichstag Building

72. The delegation, guided by Ms Franziska Eichstädt-Bohlig, Member of the Bundestag, toured the Reichstag Building and received a briefing on the special features, facilities and design of the Building.

73. The delegation were informed that the Reichstag Building, first built between 1884 and 1894, was converted to the present form in the 1990s. The Building was designed to meet all the requirements of a modern parliament as regards state-of-the-art communication, office and workplace technology. At the same time, elements of the original structure were preserved. The Building's main feature was the glass dome. A lot of attention was paid to reducing emissions as much as possible through high-grade heat insulation, passive use of solar energy and environmentally friendly technology. Natural lighting and energy-saving artificial lighting technology were used extensively. Other features included the preservation of the graffiti in Cyrillic script which the Red Army soldiers had carved on the walls at the beginning of May 1945.

74. The delegation appreciated the concepts of openness and transparency, as well as the modern design of the Reichstag Building. Members considered that the Building would provide useful reference for planning the future new Legislative Council Building.

Meeting with the Committee on Transport, Building and Housing of the Bundestag

75. Members of the Committee on Transport, Building and Housing briefed the delegation on recent developments in Berlin. They said that Berlin was destroyed as a result of World War II and the erection of the Berlin Wall. Since the reunification of Germany in 1990, nine federal ministries had moved their headquarters to Berlin while the remaining six continued to be based in Bonn. The political move from Bonn to Berlin had resulted in an increasing number of international embassies, companies, banks and media locating their

headquarters in the city. The 16 Länders (states) would also build representative offices in Berlin. Hence, a lot of construction work was being undertaken in Berlin which was called Europe's biggest construction site.

76. On urban renewal, an act for urban development support had come into force since 1972. It aimed at renewing and modernizing properties and improving people's living conditions.

77. Regarding the problems arising from the reunification, the delegation were told that there had been tension between the former East Germany and West Germany in the past 10 years although there were signs that the tension was easing. The problems were partially caused by the difference in mentality and perception of history. Inhabitants of the former East Germany and those of former West Germany were educated differently and had different paradigm, values and feelings towards the community. For example, some people living in the eastern part of the country still cherished being taken care of by the government. Some people disliked moving the capital to Berlin as the city only reminded them of the Nazis. There had also been controversy about the preservation of the graffiti in the Reichstag Building.

78. On infrastructural development, a new international airport would be built in Berlin as the two existing ones were too close to the city and their capacity was limited. The Government had invested a lot in the railway infrastructure with a view to developing Berlin into the rail transport city of the new century. There was also a plan to shift goods transportation from road to rail through levying a tax on trucks transporting goods. To solve the traffic problem in the city, the Government planned to increase the proportion of other forms of transport other than cars, such as rail and waterways, so as to provide the people with more choices.

Meeting with the Committee of Economic Affairs and Technology of the Bundestag

79. Members of the Committee of Economic Affairs and Technology welcomed the delegation and said that their Committee had visited Hong Kong in June 1997. They hoped that close parliamentary contacts would be maintained with the Legislative Council. Members of the delegation then updated the Committee on the economic and political developments in Hong Kong since the reunification with Mainland China. The Committee members shared with the delegation the ways Germany solved the problems arising from the reunification, the running of a coalition government and the measures to develop the economy.

80. The Committee members informed the delegation that the problems arising from the reunification were analogous to two countries adopting one single system. The economic and social situation of the former East Germany was very different from that of the West. For example, the productivity of the East was only half of that of the West. Hence, in the past 10 years the Federal Government had introduced many economic measures to assist the eastern part of the country in investing in new businesses, new plants and new infrastructure. Two additional taxes, including a solidarity tax, had been levied on the inhabitants of the western part of Germany to finance developments in the eastern part. Though progress had been made, it would still take time for the East to catch up with the West.

81. In response to the delegation's enquiry on the Bundestag's role in developing Germany's economy, the Committee members said that their functions were to establish an economic framework and formulate economic policies to facilitate economic development.

82. On Germany's investment in technology, 68% of the expenditure on technological research and development was financed by the industries themselves and 32% by the Government. Germany's expenditure in this aspect was the third largest in the world, after the United States and Japan. The Government ran programmes to provide financial assistance to eligible small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). However, the SMEs still faced problems, including heavy taxation, high labour cost and numerous labour legislation. To help improve productivity, the Government attached much importance to vocational training and retraining.

83. The delegation were particularly impressed by the high productivity of Germany as reflected by the fact that the country represented 1.4% of the global population while contributing to 8.3% of the global economic output.

Dinner with the German China Committee of the Bundestag

84. The dinner was hosted by Prof Dr Heinrich Fink, Vice-Chairman of the German China Committee. In his speech, Hon Edward HO emphasized that the Legislative Council valued the parliamentary links and friendship with the German Bundestag. He also took the opportunity to urge Germany to favourably consider the granting of visa-free access to HKSAR passport holders as travel convenience was conducive to the development of trade, business and cultural exchanges between Germany and Hong Kong.

85. During the dinner, members of the delegation had informal exchanges with the German China Committee members on a variety of subjects.

18 February 2000 (Friday)

Visit to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation

86. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation is one of Germany's biggest think tanks with a budget of DM200 million. It is backed by the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and has a staff of 530 in Germany and 85 advisers abroad.

87. The delegation were invited to a breakfast meeting with Mr Paul Wink, Director of the Foundation. Mr Wink gave a general introduction on the operation and functions of political foundations in Germany. According to Mr Wink, every political party in the Bundestag had its own political foundation. All political foundations received funding from the Bundestag. The Budget Committee of the Bundestag decided the allocation of funds among the different foundations, taking into account the size of the political parties and the composition of the Bundestag. Normally, 70% to 80% of a foundation's fund came from the Federal Government with the remaining from länder governments, donation and sale of research results.

88. The country's constitution required the political foundations to be completely independent. Their work and decisions were not allowed to be influenced by political parties. In particular, they were not allowed to provide any financial support to political parties. For example, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation was not allowed to influence the election of the next CDU party leader. On the other hand, the political parties and the foundations would mutually influence each other's political ideologies and concepts.

89. On the work of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Mr Wink said that the Foundation offered political education, conducted scientific fact-finding research for political projects, granted scholarships to gifted individuals, researched the history of Christian Democracy, as well as supported and encouraged European unification and international understanding. In 1999, the Foundation organized about 3,400 public events, which were attended by 170,000 people. It operated two education centres and 22 education institutes across the nation. It also granted scholarships to more than 300 foreign and 1,500 German students. It maintained close contacts with its former scholars. In addition, it organized over 200 projects and programmes in more than 100 countries.

90. Mr Wink said that the Federal Government attached much importance to political education, the aim of which was to educate the community about the western democratic values after the collapse of dictatorship. In addition to other holidays, every German citizen was entitled to one week of paid vacation leave for attending political education programmes. The programmes were very well-received.

91. Members of the delegation found the meeting very fruitful and informative. In particular, they were impressed by the political education and scholarship programmes organized by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and considered them very useful for promoting democracy. They also appreciated the support given by the Bundestag and the German Government to the political foundations.

Meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag

92. The delegation had a meeting with two members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, including Mr Carl Dieter Spranger, the Vice-Chairman. The two Committee members were briefed on the economic and political situation in Hong Kong after the reunification with Mainland China. The subjects raised included:

- impacts of the Asian financial turmoil on the Hong Kong economy;
- links between the economies of the Mainland and Hong Kong;
- influence of the Central People's Government on Hong Kong affairs;
- the pace of democratization and composition of the Legislative Council according to the Basic Law; and
- relationship between the executive authorities and the legislature.

93. The two members were interested in the developments in Hong Kong and hoped to have more exchanges with the Legislative Council in future.

Visit to the Friedrich Ebert Foundation

94. With a budget of over DM210 million, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, alongside with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, is one of Germany's most important think tanks. The Foundation is backed by the Social Democratic Party (SPD), one of Germany's largest parties.

95. Mr Norbert von Hofmann, who covered the China Desk of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, said that the Foundation was independent and non-profit making. The major source of its funding was from the Government. Mr von Hofmann further briefed the delegation on the Foundation's principles and work. He said that the Foundation was founded in 1925 with a threefold aim:

- furthering a democratic, pluralistic political culture by means of political education for all classes of society;
- facilitating access to higher education for gifted young people by providing scholarships; and
- contributing to international understanding and co-operation wherever possible to avert a fresh outbreak of war and conflict.

96. In response to the delegation's enquiries on the Foundation's political education and scholarship programmes, Mr von Hofmann said that the Foundation had six residential colleges all over the country for holding various kinds of programmes. In 1999, the Foundation organized more than 3,000 events involving 100,000 participants. Every year, over 2,000 scholarships were awarded, about 360 of these to nationals of other countries. It was not necessary for the recipients of the scholarships to be members of political parties. All students in Germany who were committed to any kind of community events and could prove that they would contribute to society, such as leaders of students unions and sports captains, were eligible for the scholarships.

97. The Foundation had a staff of 690 in the head office. It also had offices in 100 cities, including Beijing and Shanghai. Through these offices, the Foundation aimed to promote pluralism, democracy, social justice and international understanding. The Foundation had started work in China since 1981 and offered scholarships for Chinese journalists. There were frequent exchanges between the Foundation and China. In November 1999, the Foundation held the first human rights conference in China with the purpose of establishing a dialogue and enhancing the understanding between the two countries.

98. The delegation were impressed by the wide range of programmes and activities organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Germany and other countries. Members were appreciative of their contribution to the promotion of pluralism and democratic thinking throughout the world.

Luncheon with representatives of various business organizations

99. The luncheon was hosted by the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce for the delegation to meet representatives from major German business associations. Set up in 1863, the Association is the national organization of the 83 German chambers of industry and commerce. All German firms within the country - with the exception of craft and trade enterprises, the independent professions and agricultural operations - are by law members of the chambers of industry and commerce.

100. The host, Dr Ludolf von Wartenberg, Director General and Member of Presidential Board, Federation of German Industries, presented a welcoming speech in which he highlighted the large volume of trade between Hong Kong and Germany. Hon Edward HO responded in his speech that the delegation were delighted to note the findings of a Survey on German Business in the HKSAR and China in 1999 undertaken by the German Industry and Commerce Hong Kong, South China and Vietnam. The survey revealed that the majority of German companies participating in the survey had much confidence in Hong Kong as a prime economic location. They had not noticed any significant changes in either the stable legal system, the favourable taxation system or the well-established banking system of Hong Kong. Neither did they expect any changes beyond the year 2000.

101. Mr HO also gave a brief introduction on the economic situation in Hong Kong and invited German companies to invest in Hong Kong. During the luncheon, members of the delegation shared their views on different issues with the participants from the German side.

Briefing by the Federal Ministry of Environment

102. An official from the Federal Ministry of Environment conducted a briefing on Germany's initiatives in promoting environmental protection. He said that Germany had a strong environmental protection sector and the environmental technology products and services were exported throughout the world. According to the findings of a survey published in 1996, some 2.7% of the entire workforce in the country were employed in the environmental protection sector and the employment levels in the sector had risen far more sharply than in other sectors.

103. The delegation were told that the problem of air pollution in the former East Germany had been serious. With the extension of all relevant pollution control provisions to the eastern part of the country and the use of high-quality fuel by the people, the emission situation throughout Germany had improved significantly. It was expected that as a result of the Euro 4 limits which would become valid from the year 2005, exhaust levels from petrol cars would be reduced significantly. In addition, with the introduction of special exhaust gas reduction techniques, particularly the three-way catalytic converter, emissions of pollutants (including nitrogen oxides) from cars had been significantly reduced. The Government also offered lower tax rates to vehicles that ran on natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas.

104. On waste management, Germany adopted the polluter-pays principle in order to raise environmental awareness of the public and to encourage the reduction of waste and discharges. For example, waste charges between DM5 to DM10 per cubic metre were levied. The objectives of the Government's waste policy were threefold: waste avoidance, waste recycling and waste disposal. The Package Ordinance, introduced in 1991 and amended on 21 June 1998, had been very effective in reducing per capita consumption of retail packaging and in enhancing public awareness about waste avoidance. During the period 1991 to 1998, there had been a 1.4 million tonne reduction in the annual consumption of non-reusable packaging.

105. The retail businesses established their own recycling plants to recycle waste package without Government subsidy. The plants had an annual turnover of DM4 billion. The costs of the plants were passed on to the consumers, which created an incentive to avoid using excessive packaging. The system ensured that a vast amount of retail packaging underwent material recycling.

106. The Government's objective was to recycle waste as far as possible. There was no new landfill in the country and a certain amount of waste was burnt in incinerators.

107. Members of the delegation were very interested in the philosophy and implementation of the Packaging Ordinance. They considered that the Ordinance could provide useful reference for Hong Kong in considering future environmental protection measures.

Courtesy call on the Chinese Embassy

108. The delegation were received by Mr SUN Rongmin, Minister Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Germany. Mr SUN gave a brief introduction on the bilateral relations and exchanges between China and Germany.

Reception hosted by DaimlerChrysler Rail Systems GmbH

109. Mr Han Tjan, Vice President of Group Communications and External Affairs, hosted a reception in honour of the delegation. The delegation were briefed by the Berlin Partner Organization (a public-private partnership sponsored by the Berlin Senate and other German and international firms to promote Berlin as a business location and Germany's capital city) on the development of Berlin.

Visit to Potsdamer Platz

110. The delegation visited Potsdamer Platz. Potsdamer Platz was destroyed during World War II and had been bisected by the Berlin Wall for nearly 30 years. After the collapse of the Berlin Wall, the 30 acres of wasteland on Potsdamer Platz was rebuilt by international investors and architects into a vast square with high-rise buildings, cinemas, cafes, a theatre for musicals, casinos, restaurants, hotels, and arcades of shops.

111. Relevant papers and materials presented to the delegation are listed in *Appendix II*. A set of the papers and the materials will be placed in the Library of the Legislative Council for Members' perusal on request.

IV. Conclusions

112. Members of the delegation consider that the visit to Europe has been very successful in renewing and establishing closer links with their counterparts in the UK, European Parliament and Germany, keeping the European community abreast of the latest developments in Hong Kong, and fostering a better understanding of the aspirations and policies in the places.

They were particularly delighted to note the continuing interest expressed by the various parliamentarians as well as community and business leaders in Hong Kong affairs.

113. The delegation also found the exchanges with the officials of various government ministries and departments and representatives of different organizations very enlightening. Members were particularly impressed by the all-round approach adopted by the UK and German Governments in regenerating their societies, achieving sustainable development, protecting the environment and promoting democratic thinking. Although some of the European experience may not be directly relevant or readily transferable to Hong Kong, it will provide useful reference for Hong Kong in shaping our future development.

114. Members hope that more exchanges with the international community can take place in the years ahead, to strengthen the ties that have been established and to maintain Hong Kong's image as an international cosmopolitan city practising the principle of "one country, two systems".

V. Acknowledgements

115. The delegation wish to record their appreciation to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the British Government, and the HKETOs in London and Brussels for putting together a substantial and useful visit programme, and the Office of the European Commission in Hong Kong, the British Consulate-General and the German Consulate-General for facilitating their visit.

116. Members are particularly grateful to Miss Joanna Samuels-Watsons and Mrs Pamela Harris of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mr FONG Ngai of the HKETO in London, as well as Ms Janise TSE and Mr Ivanhoe CHANG of the HKETO in Brussels, who accompanied the delegation and rendered impeccable service to them throughout the visit.

117. Above all, the delegation would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all the parliamentarians, ministers, government officials and representatives of public and private organizations for sparing their time to meet the delegation and providing them with useful information and briefings on a wide range of subjects.

Visit Programme in London

Monday 14th February

**ARRIVAL
PROGRAMME DISCUSSION
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE
HONG KONG TOURIST ASSOCIATION OFFICE
HONG KONG ASSOCIATION LUNCH
MILLENNIUM DOME
HONG KONG ECONOMIC AND TRADE OFFICE DINNER**

0505

Arrive at London Heathrow Airport, Terminal 3, on Cathay Pacific Flight CX251 from Hong Kong.

Met by: Ms Sandra Lee, Director-General,
Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office, HKSARG

Miss Joanna Samuels-Watson, Visit Officer

and

Mrs Pamela Harris, Accompanying Officer,
Inward Visits Section, Conference and Visits Group,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Continue by coach to the Cumberland Hotel.

0900

Joined at the hotel by Miss Samuels-Watson who will discuss the programme arrangements.

0930

Leave the hotel by coach with Mrs Harris and Miss Samuels-Watson who will be accompanying the delegation to their appointments.

0950

Arrive at the House of Commons, Westminster, SW1 (Members Entrance).

Met by Ms Ana Ferreira, Senior Office Clerk, Foreign Affairs Committee.

1000

Met by Mr Donald Anderson MP, Chairman, and other members of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

1100

Leave the House of Commons by coach.

Monday 14th February (contd)

- 1115 Arrive at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (HKETO),
6 Grafton Street, London, W1.
- Met by Ms Sandra Lee, Director-General for a briefing on the work of
the HKETO, London.
- 1200 Proceed to Hong Kong Tourist Association Office (HKTA).
- Met by Mr Kevin Welch, Director, Europe for a briefing on the work
of HKTA, London Office.
- 1230 Leave Grafton Street by coach.
- 1245 Arrive for a private lunch at the Hong Kong Association, Cavalary &
Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, SW1.
- 1415 Leave Piccadilly by coach.
- 1500 Arrive at the Millennium Dome, Drawdock Road, Greenwich, SE10.
- Met by Mr Peter Hore, Head of Protocol, The New Millennium
Experience Company.
- 1600 Attend the show and then continue on to a tour of the various exhibits.
- 1715 Leave Drawdock Road by coach for return to the hotel.
- 1845 Leave the hotel by coach.
- 1900 Arrive at the Princess Garden, 8 North Audley Street, W1 for a private
dinner as the guests of the HKETO.
- 2130 Leave North Audley Street by coach for return to the hotel.

Tuesday 15th February

**CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY (CBI)
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT
AND THE REGIONS
HONG KONG COMMITTEE OF THE ALL PARTY CHINA
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP.**

**DEMOS
MEETING WITH MR JOHN BATTLE MP
DEPARTURE**

- 0830 Leave the hotel by coach (with luggage).
- 0900 Arrive at the CBI, 103 New Oxford Street, WC1.
- Met by: Mr Andy Scott, Director of International Competitiveness
and International Markets
- Mr Sandy Clarke, Head of Asia Pacific,
International Competitiveness
- Mr Paul Bartlett, Policy Advisor,
Asia Pacific.
- 1000 Leave New Oxford Street by coach.
- 1030 Arrive at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur
Street, London, SW1.
- Met by: Mr Michael Helston, International Unit
- Mr Allan Ferris, Creative Industries Unit
- Mr Keith Nichol, Arts Division
- Mr Mark McGann, Media Division.
- 1130 Leave Cockspur Street by coach.
- 1155 Arrive at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the
Regions, Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London, SW1.
- Met by: Ms Caroline Daley, Overseas Visitors Unit.
- 1200 Met by: Mr Ian Pickard, Sustainable Development Unit
- Ms Elaine Smith, Regeneration Division
- Ms Lesley Fraser, Government Office for London.

Tuesday 15th February (contd)

- 1300 Leave Marsham Street by coach.
- 1310 Arrive at the House of Commons, Westminster, SW1 (Members Entrance) for lunch with the Hong Kong Committee of the All Party China Parliamentary Group.
- 1315 Lunch in the Churchill Room with:
- Mr Howard Flight MP
Conservative Member for Arundel and South Down
- Mr Ben Chapman MP
Labour Member for Wirral South
- Mr Tony Colman MP
Labour Member for Putney
- Mr Peter Viggers MP
Conservative Member for Gosport
- Mr Lembit Opik MP
Liberal Democrat Member for Montgomeryshire
- and
- Lord Wilson of Tillyhorn
Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Hong Kong 1987-92.
- 1430 Leave the House of Commons by coach.
- 1445 Arrive at DEMOS, Panton House, 25 Haymarket, London, SW1.

Met by: Mr Richard Warner, General Manager.
- 1540 Leave Haymarket by coach.
- 1555 Arrive at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1.
- 1600 Joined for tea in the Map Room by Mr John Battle MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

Tuesday 15th February (contd)

- 1630 Leave King Charles Street by coach.
- 1645 Arrive at London Victoria Train Station, Eccleston Bridge Place for transfer to the London Gatwick Express.
- 1700 Depart by London Gatwick Express.
- 1730 Arrive at London Gatwick, South Terminal and transfer to North Terminal for check in.
- 1920 Depart on Air France flight AF5814 to Strasbourg.

Programme for LegCo Members' visit to Strasbourg

15th February 2000 (Tuesday)

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
21.40	Arrive in Strasbourg by AF5814 [Overnight at Hilton Hotel Avenue Herrenscheidt 67000 Strasbourg]

16th February 2000 (Wednesday)

09.00 - 10.00	Meeting with Mr Per Gahrton [Sweden/Green] MEP and Chairman of European Parliament China Delegation Rm S4.2, European Parliament
10.30 - 11.30	Meeting with Mr John Cushnahan [Ireland/Labour], MEP and rapporteur of the Hong Kong report by the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence LOW Building, Room 514
12.45 - 14.30	Lunch hosted by the European Parliament – Hong Kong Friendship Group (Co-chairmen: Mr Willy De Clercq [Belgium/Liberal] and Mr Richard Balfe [UK/Labour]) Members' Dining Room, Louise Weiss Building
15.00 - 15.45	Tour of the European Parliament
18.00 - 18.45	Meeting with Mr Chris Patten Commissioner for External Relations [Overnight at Hilton Hotel, Strasbourg]

17th February 2000 (Thursday)

08.40	Depart Strasbourg for Munich by LH2753
09.40	Arrive Munich
11.00	Depart Munich for Berlin by LH2339
12.10	Arrive Berlin (Tegel)

Programme for LegCo Members' visit to Berlin

17th February 2000 (Thursday)

- 13.00 Arrive Kempinski Hotel Bristol
Kurfurstendamm 27D, 10719 Berlin
- Check-in hotel
- 15.15 **Short tour of the Reichstag**
(Organised by the Committee on Transport, Building and Housing of Bundestag)
- 16.00 – 17.30 **Meeting with the Committee on Transport, Building and Housing of Bundestag**
Room 1 S 014, Reichstag
- 17.30 – 18.30 **Meeting with the Committee on Economics Affairs and Technology of Bundestag**
Room 1 S 014, Reichstag
- 19.00 **Dinner hosted by the German China Committee of Bundestag**
Meyerbeer Palais Café, Eberstr. 34, 10117, Berlin
- [Overnight at Kempinski Hotel Bristol
Kurfurstendamm 27D, 10719 Berlin]

18th February 2000 (Friday)

- 08.30 – 09.30 **Breakfast meeting with Mr Paul Wink, Director, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Berlin**
Tiergartenstr. 35
- 10.00 – 11.00 **Meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee of Bundestag**
- 11.30 – 12.15 **Meeting with Mr Norbert von Hofmann, China Desk of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung**
Hiroshima Strasse 17, 10785 Berlin
- 12.30 – 14.15 **Lunch with business organisation representatives on German economic situation and its trade relation with Hong Kong**
DIHT, Breite Strasse 29, 11052 Berlin
- 14.30 – 15.45 **Briefing by Federal Ministry of Environment**
Alexanderplatz 6, Room 2411

- 16.00 – 16.30** **Courtesy call on Chinese Embassy**
Märkisches Ufer 54, 10179 Berlin
- 16.45 – 17.15** **Reception hosted by Mr Han Tjan, Vice President, Group
Communications and External Affairs, DaimlerChrysler
Rail Systems GmbH**
Alte Potsdamer Strasse 5
10785 Berlin
- 17.15 – 18.15** **Briefing by Partner für Berlin on urban redevelopment
and visit to Potsdamer Platz [to look at urban
redevelopment project]**
- [Overnight at Kempinski Hotel Bristol
Kurfurstendamm 27D, 10719 Berlin]

19th February 2000 (Saturday)

- 17.05 Depart for London by BA985

Appendix II

Papers and Materials Presented to the Delegation

1. Six-monthly Report on Hong Kong
(July - December 1999)
The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
February 2000
2. Hong Kong: Britain's Continuing Commitment
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
February 2000
3. Britain's Business Voice
Confederation of British Industry
4. New millennium, renewed optimism?
Economic Bulletin, CBI
December 1999
5. International Review 1999
Confederation of British Industry
6. Business Voice - The CBI magazine
February 2000
7. Department of Culture, Media and Sport
Annual Report 1999
8. The government's annual report 98/99
9. Conservation in London
A study of strategic planning policy in London
London Planning Advisory Committee, English Heritage
10. Strategic Guidance for London Planning Authorities
RPG3 May 1996
11. Best Practice Awards
Bura Awards for Best Practice in Regeneration
21 September 1999
12. 1998 Index of Local Deprivation
A Summary of Results
June 1998 Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

13. The Heritage Dividend
Measuring the Results of English Heritage Regeneration
English Heritage
14. Strategic Planning Guidance for the River Thames
February 1997
15. Sustainable Development
Quality of Life Counts
16. Sustainable Development
A strategy for sustainable development for the UK
17. Sustainable Development
A better quality of life
18. Report on the communication from the Commission to the Council on the
European Union and Hong Kong: Beyond 1997
Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy
7 September 1998
19. The German Bundestag - Functions and Procedures
Rupert Schick and Wolfgang Zeh
1999 Edition
20. Questions on German History
Paths to Parliamentary Democracy
21. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
1998 Annual report summary
22. Weinhaus Huth on Potsdamer Platz – The Changing Fate of a Berlin
Legend
Wolf Thieme
23. Environmental Policy - 1998 Report on the Environment
Abstract of the Report of the Federal Government on the Environmental
Policy of the 13th Legislation Period
24. Common Ground
A triennial report on Germany's environment
1/2000

