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15 November 1999

Mr Donald TSANG, JP
The Financial Secretary
Central Government Offices
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Donald,

**LegCo Panels on Environmental Affairs
and Transport**

Motor Vehicle Maintenance Cartel

At the joint meeting of the LegCo Panels on Environmental Affairs and Transport held on 5 November 1999 to discuss the control of diesel vehicle emissions in Hong Kong, members have expressed concern that the detailed motor maintenance manuals have not been made available in Hong Kong by the vehicle manufacturers. Since the maintenance manuals contained the necessary information for proper repairs to control vehicle emissions, the withholding of these manuals by vehicle manufacturers has in effect given rise to a maintenance cartel in Hong Kong. Members are aware that these manuals are available in other countries, including the United States, United Kingdom and Mainland China. However, the manuals, particularly for Japanese models, are specific to a country since there are subtle differences in the models exported to different countries.

Members at the joint meeting have agreed that I should write to you, as Chairman of the Competition Advisory Group (COMPAG), to seek your views on whether the withholding of the maintenance manuals by vehicle manufacturers constitutes a case of unfair competition which should be looked into by COMPAG.

I should be grateful for your early response to the matter.

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With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Christine LOH)
Chairman of
LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs