

Panel on Commerce and Industry

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 15 June 2005)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Draft Copyright (Prescription of Copyright Registers) Regulation

At the Panel meeting on 12 May 2003, members noted the Administration's proposal of prescribing the copyright registers maintained by the United States, Canada and India with a view to simplifying the proof of copyright ownership in legal proceedings under section 121(2) of the Copyright Ordinance (Cap.528). Members asked the Administration to consider the setting up of a copyright register in Hong Kong. The Administration undertook to consider members' views and revert to the Panel in due course.

19 July 2005
(tentative)

2. Progress and impact of the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)

The Panel has been briefed on the key findings of a study on the economic impact of CEPA I on Hong Kong's economy on 19 April 2005. The Administration has advised that it will brief the Panel on issues related to the implementation of CEPA from time to time. Members have also agreed that the Administration should report the progress and impact of CEPA to the Panel periodically, say, on an annual basis.

April/May 2006

3. Measures for monitoring the operation of the AsiaWorld-Expo (AWE)

At the Panel meeting on 12 July 2004, it was proposed that the Panel might consider exploring the subject further with the Administration in the next term having regard to members' concern about the measures in place for monitoring and ensuring the effective operation of the AsiaWorld-Expo.

To be confirmed

4. Improving the business environment

Issues relating to improving the business environment were last discussed at the Panel meeting on 10 June 2002 and on 10 May 2004.

To be confirmed

The same subject was covered in paragraphs 16 to 18 and

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

paragraph 61 of the Chief Executive's 2004 and 2005 Policy Address respectively. Mrs Sophie LEUNG expressed the view that the Government should strive to provide the business and industrial sectors with an "enabling environment".

The Subgroup on Business Facilitation under the Economic and Employment Council (EEC) has now been studying ways to remove outdated or unnecessary regulations on business sectors that have significant impact on the economy and employment. It is expected that solid recommendations will be available before the end of 2005.

At the Panel meeting held on 12 October 2004, Mrs Sophie LEUNG recapped her concern about the importance of an "enabling" business environment. She said that the Panel might wish to explore the subject further with the Administration and that in due course, the Panel might consider requesting the Research and Library Services Division of the Secretariat to conduct some research on the subject.

5. New Strategic Framework for Innovation and Technology Development

Last discussed on 17 May 2005. The Administration undertook to report on the operation and performance of the Research and Development centres to the Panel annually.

End 2006

6. Review of the effectiveness of the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme

Last discussed on 17 May 2005. The Panel requested the Administration to revert to the Panel in the legislative session of 2005-06 on members' proposals.

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