

**Bills Committee on
Genetically Modified Organisms (Control of Release) Bill**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meeting on 30 November 2009**

- (1) To advise whether there is a need to report to the Director in the event that a genetically modified organism (GMO) is lost in transit or transshipment under clause 7.
- (2) To consider specifying in clause 7 the need for approval if a GMO is intended for release into the environment.
- (3) To include in the speech to be delivered by the Secretary for the Environment at the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill that a written acknowledgement of receipt of GMO approval application will be issued to the applicant in an expeditious manner and in any case less than 90 days even though a 90-day period is provided in clause 9 of the Bill, and that such performance pledge will be spelt out in the practice guidelines of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).
- (4) To provide a flow chart on the applications of different clauses, such as time frames (including extensions) as required under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and performance pledges made by the Administration taking into account local circumstances, exemptions, appeal mechanisms etc.
- (5) To consider including in the practice guidelines the requirement for approval of the container for GMO to prevent inadvertent release into the environment.
- (6) To consider specifying in clause 25 that the register will be made available for public inspection on the website of AFCD.
- (7) To advise the criteria which the Director will adopt in assessing non-disclosure requests, and whether the criteria will be set out in the Bill. To also review the drafting of clauses 14 and 15 to ensure consistency in the reference of “confidential information”.