Bills Committee on Communications Authority Bill

List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion at the meeting on 26 November 2010

- 1. The Administration was requested to provide:
 - (a) a list of agenda items (indicating whether the items were confidential or open) for meetings of the Broadcasting Authority (BA) in the past two years;
 - (b) information on the broadcasting-related matters and issues which the BA had discussed and advised on in the past years;
 - (c) detailed information on the workload of the BA including the estimated hours of work committed by its members in the conduct of the BA's business;
 - (d) information on the current honorarium/remuneration received by members of the BA and other statutory bodies/advisory committees;
 - (e) views and concerns raised by BA on the proposed establishment of the Communications Authority (CA), the draft CA Bill and related matters as well as the Administration's response;
 - (f) information on the transitional arrangements in respect of legal and complaints handling;
 - (g) information on the transitional personnel arrangement for the transfer of staff of the Office of the Telecommunications Authority and the Television and Entertainment Licensing Authority to the Office of the Communications Authority (OFCA) for the provision of secretariat support (in terms of manpower, clerical, technical and legal support, etc) for the CA, and to advise whether LegCo's approval would be sought on the organization structure of the future OFCA and the creation of posts; and

(h) information on the enforcement of the relevant provisions under the future competition law in the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors to ensure fair competition in the communications market, and the relevant practice in the United Kingdom.

2. The Administration was also requested to consider:

- (a) amending the relevant clauses of the Bill, with reference to relevant provisions in the legislation of overseas jurisdictions, to include the public mission and or the objects of the CA, in particular its mission of upholding the freedom of expression;
- (b) giving a greater role to CA in making policies for the electronic communications industry;
- (c) proposing amendments to the Bill to open the meetings (except when involving sensitive information) of the CA and its committees to the public; and
- (d) amending Clause 8 of the Bill to spell out clearly the criteria for appointing members (such as requisite professional knowledge and expertises) to the CA.

Council Business Division 1
<u>Legislative Council Secretariat</u>
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