

LC Paper No. CB(2) 2066/10-11

Ref : CB2/H/5/10

House Committee of the Legislative Council

Minutes of the 26th meeting held in the Legislative Council Chamber at 2:30 pm on Friday, 10 June 2011

#### Members present:

Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP (Chairman) Hon Fred LI Wah-ming, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman) Hon Albert HO Chun-yan Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP Hon LEE Cheuk-yan Dr Hon Margaret NG Hon James TO Kun-sun Hon CHEUNG Man-kwong Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP Hon Mrs Sophie LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, GBS, JP Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung Dr Hon Philip WONG Yu-hong, GBS Hon WONG Yung-kan, SBS, JP Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBM, GBS, JP Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP Hon LI Fung-ying, SBS, JP Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, SBS, JP Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee, SBS, JP Hon Audrey EU Yuet-mee, SC, JP Hon Vincent FANG Kang, SBS, JP Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH Hon LEE Wing-tat Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long, SBS, JP Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, GBS, JP Hon WONG Ting-kwong, BBS, JP

Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC Hon CHIM Pui-chung Prof Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP Hon KAM Nai-wai. MH Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan Hon Starry LEE Wai-king, JP Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai, BBS, JP Hon CHAN Hak-kan Hon CHAN Kin-por, JP Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau Hon CHEUNG Kwok-che Hon WONG Kwok-kin, BBS Hon IP Wai-ming, MH Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-yee, GBS, JP Dr Hon PAN Pey-chyou Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun Dr Hon Samson TAM Wai-ho, JP Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung Hon Tanya CHAN Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip Hon WONG Yuk-man

#### Members absent :

Dr Hon David LI Kwok-po, GBM, GBS, JP Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, GBS, JP Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBS, JP Hon Paul CHAN Mo-po, MH, JP Hon WONG Sing-chi

#### **Clerk in attendance :**

Miss Odelia LEUNG

Clerk to the House Committee

Secretary General 1

#### Staff in attendance :

Ms Pauline NG	Secretary General
Mr Jimmy MA, JP	Legal Adviser
Mrs Constance LI	Assistant Secretary

Mrs Justina LAM Mrs Percy MA	Assistant Secretary General 3 Assistant Secretary General 4
Ms Connie FUNG	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 1
Mr Arthur CHEUNG	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 2
Mr KAU Kin-wah	Senior Assistant Legal Adviser 3
Mr Stephen LAM	Principal Council Secretary (Complaints)
Mr Simon WONG	Chief Public Information Officer
Ms Amy YU	Chief Council Secretary (2)6
Miss Carrie WONG	Assistant Legal Adviser 4
Ms Wendy KAN	Assistant Legal Adviser 6
Miss Winnie LO	Assistant Legal Adviser 7
Miss Josephine SO	Senior Council Secretary (2)7
Ms Anna CHEUNG	Senior Legislative Assistant (2)3
Mr Arthur KAN	Legislative Assistant (2)8

Action

## I. Confirmation of the minutes of the 25th meeting held on 3 June 2011 (*LC Paper No. CB*(2) 1987/10-11)

The minutes were confirmed.

#### **II.** Matters arising

## Report by the Chairman on her meeting with the Chief Secretary for Administration

2. <u>The Chairman</u> said that there was nothing special to report.

#### III. Business arising from previous Council meetings

(a) Legal Service Division report on bill referred to the House Committee in accordance with Rule 54(4)

Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2011 (LC Paper No. LS 72/10-11)

3. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the Bill sought to make changes to the way vacancies in the geographical constituency and District Council (second) functional constituency membership of the Legislative Council ("LegCo") were filled. The Panel on Constitutional Affairs had been briefed on the legislative proposals at its special meeting on 24 May 2011, and members had expressed divergent views.

4. <u>The Chairman</u> further said that the Bills Committee on Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2011 ("the Bills Committee") had discussed the handling of the Bill in question. The majority of its members suggested that the Bill be scrutinized by the Bills Committee.

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>Mr TAM Yiu-chung</u>, Chairman of the Bills Committee, said that at the meeting on 9 June 2011, some members proposed the scrutiny of the Bill by the Bills Committee as the Bill was related to the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2011 in certain aspects and in view of the urgency to complete its scrutiny within the current legislative session. <u>Mr TAM</u> added that whether the Bill should be scrutinized by the Bills Committee was to be decided by the House Committee.

6. <u>Dr Margaret NG</u> said that she objected to the proposal for allocating the Bill to the Bills Committee for scrutiny for three reasons. First, it was not within the remit of the Bills Committee to study the Bill or to consider the manner in which the Bill should be scrutinized. Second, the Bill involved important changes in principles affecting the rights of electors. It was wrong for the Administration not to have conducted any public consultation on the legislative proposals. Given the importance of the Bill and the lack of public consultation, LegCo should not scrutinize it in haste. She stressed the importance of following the due process in the scrutiny of the Bill. She also queried whether there were precedents where an important piece of legislation was allocated to a Bills Committee on another bill in action for scrutiny.

7. <u>The Chairman</u> said that there had been several cases in the past where two or more bills were scrutinized by one Bills Committee. In two of these cases, the bills concerned were presented to the Council at different times. In the first case, the House Committee agreed at its meeting on 14 February 2003 that the Bills Committee formed on 4 January 2002 to study the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2001 should also scrutinize the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2003. Another case was the Bills Committee on Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) (Amendment) Bill 1998, Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) (Amendment) Bill 1998, and Town Planning (Amendment) Bill 1998 which studied the three Bills introduced into the Council at different times.

8. <u>Dr Margaret NG</u> considered the first case cited not relevant as the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2003 was in effect a continuation of the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2001 and the two Bills were closely related. She queried the appropriateness of allocating an important bill involving matters of principles and without undergoing public consultation to a

Bills Committee on another unrelated bill for scrutiny. She criticized the Administration for resorting to tactics to achieve its purpose of rushing through the Bill.

9. <u>Mr WONG Yuk-man</u> questioned whether the Bills Committee had the mandate to scrutinize the Bill involving important changes to the constitutional structure. He condemned the Administration for not conducting any public consultation on the Bill and its attempt to rush through the Bill in a hasty manner. Given the far-reaching implications of the Bill which would deprive electors of the right to vote for replacements to vacancies in membership of LegCo, he considered it necessary to set up another Bills Committee to scrutinize the Bill. He stressed that should Members rush through the scrutiny of the Bill to tie in with the Administration's timetable, it would only bring LegCo into disrepute and provoke the community, in particular the youth, to resort to violence to fight for their cause.

10. <u>The Chairman</u> said that if the Bill was to be allocated to the Bills Committee for scrutiny, it would be studied independently from the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2011. The Bills Committee might be renamed to reflect its expanded scope of work; its membership would be re-opened; and its Chairman could be re-elected. The resumption of the Second Reading debates on the two Bills could be at different Council meetings. Indeed, the scrutiny of the two Bills was independent, except that they were studied by the same Bills Committee.

11. In response to Dr Margaret NG, <u>the Chairman</u> said that there were vacant slots of Bills Committees.

12. <u>Mr LEE Cheuk-yan</u> did not see the rationale for the proposal for allocating the Bill to the Bills Committee for examination, given the different objectives and issues of concern of the two Bills. He considered the proposal illogical, unreasonable and a departure from the normal practice and procedures of the Legislature and expressed strong objection to it. He also criticized the Administration for the lack of public consultation on the Bill and its attempt to rush the Bill through. He added that the acceptance by Members of the Administration's approach would be a shame to LegCo.

13. <u>Ir Dr Raymond HO</u> sought the views of the Legal Adviser ("LA") on the proposal for allocating the Bill to the Bills Committee for scrutiny. He also enquired about the procedures for the resumption of the Second Reading debates and voting on the two Bills in the Council should they be scrutinized by the same Bills Committee.

LA said that under Rule 75(4) of the Rules of Procedures ("RoP"), 14. the House Committee might allocate a bill to a Bills Committee for consideration, or might cause it to be considered in such other manner as it deemed fit. There were past cases where the House Committee had allocated more than one bill to a Bills Committee for scrutiny. In such cases, it would be for the Bills Committee concerned to decide on the priority of scrutiny of the bills. According to normal procedures, should an additional bill be allocated to a Bills Committee on another bill in action for scrutiny, the Bills Committee should re-open its membership and re-elect its Chairman. He noted that there had been a case involving non-controversial legislation where the incumbent chairman of the Bills Committee was confirmed by way of a confirmation procedure. As regards the resumption of the Second Reading debates on the bills, pursuant to RoP, it was for the public officer in charge of the bill to decide when to resume its Second Reading debate. There was no provision under RoP requiring the resumption of the Second Reading debates on the bills scrutinized by the same Bills Committee at the same Council meeting.

15. Mr IP Kwok-him explained the rationale for the proposal for allocating the Bill to the Bills Committee for scrutiny. He elaborated that as two committees had been formed to examine the election-related legislative proposals, it was considered less confusing if the Bill was to be allocated to the existing Bills Committee instead of another new Bills Committee for scrutiny. The proposal would also expedite the scrutiny of the Bill having regard to the urgency in completing its scrutiny within the current legislative session. He pointed out that as the Bill sought to make changes to the arrangements for filling vacancies in the geographical constituency and the newly established District Council (second) functional constituency membership of LegCo, it might affect the prospective candidates who planned to run for the upcoming District Council election and the LegCo election. While he considered it appropriate to allocate the Bill to the Bills Committee for scrutiny, he had no strong view on the setting up of a new Bills Committee to study it.

16. <u>Mr Albert CHAN</u> expressed strong disapproval to rushing through the Bill without regard to procedural propriety and the public's right to know. In his view, such an approach was tantamount to executive hegemony and would undermine the dignity of LegCo. He cautioned that blatant disregard of public views by the Administration and some political parties could lead to violent or even bloodshed protests in LegCo and the community. He expressed objection to the proposal for allocating the Bill to the Bills Committee for scrutiny. 17. <u>Mr CHEUNG Man-kwong</u> said that Members belonging to the Democratic Party ("DP") objected to the Bill. In his view, given its controversial nature, the allocation of the Bill to the Bills Committee for scrutiny would only aggravate the conflict in the community. He stressed that it would be unwise to do so for the sake of expediting the scrutiny of the Bill by two to three weeks. He considered it important for Members to follow the proper procedures and form another Bills Committee to study the Bill in detail, even if it would result in non-completion of the scrutiny of the Bill in the current legislative session.

18. <u>Ms Emily LAU</u> said that at the last meeting of the Bills Committee, she had already indicated clearly DP's objection to the Bill. Members belonging to DP had requested the Administration to withdraw the Bill. They also objected to the proposal for allocating the Bill to the Bills Committee as it was a departure from the normal practice and procedures. As there were vacant slots of Bills Committees, she did not see the rationale for the proposal.

19. <u>The Chairman</u> said that as the Bills Committee on Stamp Duty (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2010 and the Bills Committee on Legislation Publication Bill had provided their written reports for the House Committee, two vacant slots would become available.

20. <u>Mr Ronny TONG</u> did not see the urgency for completing the scrutiny of the Bill in the current legislative session, given that the proposed arrangements would apply to the Fifth Term LegCo, the election of which would be held in 2012, and not to the District Council. He pointed out that Members who were interested in the scrutiny of the Bill might not wish to scrutinize the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2011, and vice versa. He stressed the need to respect the choice of Members. He did not see any need procedure-wise to allocate the Bill to the Bills Committee for scrutiny.

21. <u>Mr TAM Yiu-chung</u> said that having regard to the objection expressed by some Members, he withdrew the proposal for allocating the Bill to the Bills Committee for scrutiny. He proposed the formation of a new Bills Committee to study the Bill and requested the newly formed Bills Committee to hold its first meeting within the following week given the urgency in scrutinizing the Bill.

22. <u>Mr CHIM Pui-chung</u> said that it was not uncommon for Members to have opposing views. It was however important for Members to maintain mutual respect and not to use intimidating language to other Members.

23. <u>Dr Margaret NG</u> said that it would be more efficient to form a new Bills Committee to study the Bill. If the Bill was to be scrutinized by the Bills Committee, its scrutiny could start only after the completion of the scrutiny work of the Electoral Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2011. Forming a dedicated Bills Committee on the Bill would also enable Members to study the important piece of legislation in a focused manner.

24. <u>Members</u> agreed to the proposal for forming a new Bills Committee to study the Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2011. The following Members agreed to join the Bills Committee: Ir Dr Raymond HO, Dr Margaret NG, Dr Philip WONG, Ms Miriam LAU, Ms Emily LAU, Mr TAM Yiu-chung, Mr Abraham SHEK, Ms Audrey EU, Mr WONG Kwok-hing, Mr Ronny TONG, Mr CHIM Pui-chung, Ms Cyd HO, Dr Priscilla LEUNG, Mr IP Kwok-him, Mrs Regina IP, Mr Alan LEONG, Miss Tanya CHAN and Mr WONG Yuk-man.

#### (b) Legal Service Division report on subsidiary legislation gazetted on 3 June 2011 and tabled in Council on 8 June 2011 (LC Paper No. LS 75/10-11)

25. <u>The Chairman</u> said that two items of subsidiary legislation, including one Commencement Notice, were gazetted on 3 June 2011 and tabled in the Council on 8 June 2011.

26. <u>Members</u> did not raise any queries on the two items of subsidiary legislation.

27. <u>The Chairman</u> reminded Members that the deadline for amending the subsidiary legislation was 6 July 2011.

#### IV. Legal Service Division report on an order made under section 78B of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance gazetted on 9 June 2011

28. At the invitation of the Chairman, <u>LA</u> said that arising from the recent spate of food-related incidents, the Administration had issued a number of Orders under section 78B of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance (Cap. 132) ("PHMSO"). These orders were not subsidiary legislation and were not subject to amendment by LegCo. Having regard to the wide public concern over the safety of food imported from Japan following the Daiichi nuclear power plant incident on 11 March 2011, Members had formed a subcommittee to study the 78B Order concerning food products imported from certain prefectures in Japan.

29. <u>LA</u> further said that the Legal Service Division ("LSD") had been providing reports on section 78B orders to the House Committee to facilitate Members' consideration. Given that the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene ("the FSEH Panel") would follow up on issues related to the Plasticizer contamination incident in Taiwan, he suggested that section 78B orders made in this connection in future be referred to the FSEH Panel for consideration. LSD would provide legal support to the Panel to facilitate its consideration of the orders.

30. <u>Ms Emily LAU</u> expressed support for the proposal. She hoped that the Secretariat would deploy adequate manpower resources to assist the FSEH Panel to monitor food contamination in a timely and effective manner. She requested the Panel to draw to the attention of the House Committee of any particular section 78B orders should it find necessary.

31. <u>Members</u> agreed that future section 78B orders be referred to the FSEH Panel for consideration.

## V. Further business for the Council meeting of 15 June 2011

## (a) <u>Tabling of papers</u>

## **Report No. 25/10-11 of the House Committee on Consideration of Subsidiary Legislation and Other Instruments**

(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1989/10-11 issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 869/10-11 dated 9 June 2011)

32. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the report covered six items of subsidiary legislation, the period for amendment of which would expire on 15 June 2011. No Member had indicated intention to speak on the subsidiary legislation.

33. <u>Members</u> noted the report.

(b) <u>Questions</u> (*LC Paper No. CB*(3) 854/10-11)

34. <u>The Chairman</u> informed Members that Mr Jeffrey LAM had replaced his oral question.

#### (c) <u>Members' motions</u>

Proposed resolution to be moved by Hon IP Kwok-him under section 34(4) of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance relating to:

- (i) Electoral Affairs Commission (Registration) (Electors for Legislative Council Functional Constituencies) (Voters for Election Committee Subsectors) (Members of Election Committee) (Amendment) Regulation 2011;
- (ii) Electoral Affairs Commission (Nominations Advisory Committees (Legislative Council)) (Amendment) Regulation 2011;
- (iii) Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Legislative Council) (Amendment) Regulation 2011;
- (iv) Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (District Councils) (Amendment) Regulation 2011;
- (v) Electoral Affairs Commission (Electoral Procedure) (Election Committee) (Amendment) Regulation 2011;
- (vi) Electoral Procedure (Chief Executive Election) (Amendment) Regulation 2011;
- (vii) Electoral Procedure (Village Representative Election) (Amendment) Regulation 2011;
- (viii) Particulars Relating to Candidates on Ballot Papers (Legislative Council and District Councils) (Amendment) Regulation 2011; and
- (ix) Electoral Affairs Commission (Financial Assistance for Legislative Council Elections and District Council Elections) (Application and Payment Procedure) (Amendment) Regulation 2011

(Wording of the proposed resolution issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 867/10-11 dated 9 June 2011.)

35. <u>The Chairman</u> said that Mr IP Kwok-him, Chairman of the relevant Subcommittee, would move a motion at the Council meeting to extend the scrutiny period of the above nine Amendment Regulations to 6 July 2011.

## VI. Business for the Council meeting of 22 June 2011

(a) <u>Questions</u> (LC Paper No. CB(3) 853/10-11)

36. <u>The Chairman</u> said that 20 questions (six oral and 14 written) had been scheduled for the meeting.

### (b) Bills - First Reading and moving of Second Reading

37. <u>The Chairman</u> said that no notice had been received yet.

### (c) <u>Government motion</u>

38. <u>The Chairman</u> said that no notice had been received yet.

### (d) <u>Members' motions</u>

# (i) Motion on "Expeditiously implementing the formulation of standard working hours"

(Wording of the motion issued vide LC Paper No. CB(3) 870/10-11 dated 9 June 2011.)

39. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the above motion would be moved by Mr IP Wai-ming and the wording of the motion had been issued to Members.

## (ii) Motion to be moved by Dr Hon LAM Tai-fai

40. <u>The Chairman</u> said that the subject of the motion to be moved by Dr LAM Tai-fai was "Safeguarding the room for business and development of small and medium enterprises".

41. <u>The Chairman</u> reminded Members that the deadline for giving notice of amendments, if any, to the motions was Wednesday, 15 June 2011.

#### Report on study of subsidiary legislation

42. <u>The Chairman</u> invited Members to note the list of subsidiary legislation tabled at the meeting, the scrutiny period of which would expire on 22 June 2011. The list contained 10 items of subsidiary legislation. Members who wished to speak on the subsidiary legislation should indicate their intention by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, 14 June 2011.

#### VII. Report of Bills Committees and subcommittees

### (a) Report of the Bills Committee on Stamp Duty (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2010

(LC Paper No. CB(1) 2399/10-11)

43. <u>Mr James TO</u>, Chairman of the Bills Committee, reported on the deliberations of the Bills Committee as detailed in its report. He said that the Financial Secretary announced on 19 November 2010 the imposition of a special stamp duty ("SSD") on transactions of residential properties acquired on or after 20 November 2010 and resold within 24 months after acquisition at regressive rates for different holding periods.

44. <u>Mr James TO</u> elaborated that the Bills Committee had held 13 meetings. The major issues discussed by the Bills Committee included the retrospective effect and scope of the Bill; determination of the holding period of a property; liability for SSD; provisions for exemptions; and efficacy of SSD in curbing speculation in residential properties. The Administration had taken on board many suggestions of members and would move relevant Committee Stage amendments ("CSAs").

45. Mr James TO further said that given the impacts of SSD on genuine home buyers, some members considered that SSD should only be a temporary and not a permanent measure and proposed the inclusion of a sunset clause/an extension mechanism in the Bill. The Administration had reservations about the proposal which, in its view, would undermine Nevertheless, the Administration had the effectiveness of SSD. undertaken to review SSD once every 24 months after the enactment of the Bill or as circumstances required. Mr Abraham SHEK was concerned that while the Administration had undertaken to review SSD, it was under no obligation to do so nor could LegCo compel the Administration to do so. Mr SHEK had indicated his intention to move CSAs to the effect that the Bill, if enacted, should expire at midnight on 19 May 2012 and LegCo might by resolution amend the relevant date. The decision on whether SSD should continue would then rest with LegCo. Mr TO added that the Bills Committee supported the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill at the Council meeting of 22 June 2011.

46. <u>The Chairman</u> reminded Members that the deadline for giving notice of CSAs, if any, was Monday, 13 June 2011.

47. <u>Mr Abraham SHEK</u> said that SSD, which would affect some 1.2 million homeowners, should only be a temporary measure to curb speculation. His proposed CSAs were to ensure that the power to decide

on whether SSD should continue would rest with LegCo and not the Administration. He appealed to Members to support his proposed CSAs.

## (b) <u>Report of the Bills Committee on Legislation Publication Bill</u> (LC Paper No. CB(2) 1999/10-11)

48. <u>Dr Margaret NG</u>, Chairman of the Bills Committee, reported that the Bills Committee had held eight meetings and had completed its scrutiny work. She said that the main purposes of the Bill were to establish an electronic database of legislation with legal status ("the Database") to replace the Loose-Leaf Edition of the Laws of Hong Kong, and empower the Secretary for Justice ("SJ") to make editorial amendments and revisions to Ordinances.

49. <u>Dr Margaret NG</u> elaborated that the Bills Committee supported the policy intent of the Bill but had raised various concerns. While expressing support for the expeditious implementation of the Database, members considered that the Administration should continue to make available authenticated printed copies of legislation for public viewing. Concerns had also been raised about SJ's editorial and revision powers. Having considered the views of the Bills Committee, the Administration agreed to move various amendments to improve the Bill. The Bills Committee supported the resumption of the Second Reading debate on the Bill at the Council meeting of 22 June 2011 and the Administration's proposed CSAs.

50. <u>The Chairman</u> reminded Members that the deadline for giving notice of CSAs, if any, was Monday, 13 June 2011.

#### (c) Report of the Subcommittee on Order made under section <u>78B of the Public Health and Municipal Services Ordinance</u> (LC Paper No. CB(2) 2000/10-11)

51. <u>Mr Fred LI</u>, Chairman of the Subcommittee, reported on the deliberations of the Subcommittee as detailed in its report. He elaborated that the Order was made under section 78B of PHMSO to prohibit the import into and supply within Hong Kong certain food products which were harvested, manufactured, processed or packed on or after 11 March 2011 from five prefectures of Japan with effect from 12:00 noon on 24 March 2011 until further notice. The Subcommittee noted that the Order was not subsidiary legislation and was not subject to amendment by LegCo.

52. <u>Mr Fred LI</u> further reported that the Subcommittee had held two meetings with the Administration and had met with representatives of five affected organizations. He highlighted the various concerns raised by members, which included safety of food imported from Japan, impact of the Order on the affected trades, and the adequacy of the manpower resources of the Centre for Food Safety ("CFS") to cope with the increase in food inspection. Members had requested the Administration to provide financial assistance to the affected trades to help them tide over the financial difficulties caused by the Daiichi nuclear power plant incident, and agreed that the matter should be referred to the Panel on Commerce and Industry for follow-up.

53. <u>Mr Fred LI</u> added that in considering the trade's request for revocation of the Order, the Administration would have regard to, among others, the information released by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the World Health Organization, the results of food tests conducted by the Japanese authorities and those by CFS, and the risk of radiation contamination. The Administration had agreed to inform LegCo once a decision was made to revoke the Order.

#### VIII. Position on Bills Committees and subcommittees

(LC Paper No. CB(2) 1988/10-11)

54. <u>The Chairman</u> said that there were 15 Bills Committees, eight subcommittees under the House Committee (i.e three subcommittees on subsidiary legislation, two subcommittees on policy issues and three subcommittees on other Council business) and 10 subcommittees under Panels in action.

55. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 3:21 pm.

Council Business Division 2 Legislative Council Secretariat 15 June 2011