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Panel on Environmental Affairs

Meeting on 21 December 2011

**Background brief on tightening emission standards of
newly registered vehicles to Euro V level
prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat**

Purpose

This paper sets out the progress of tightening of emission standards of newly registered vehicles, and gives a brief account of the views expressed by Members on the subject matter.

Background

2. Motor vehicles are the major source of roadside pollution in Hong Kong. To reduce vehicular emissions, Hong Kong has been introducing the most stringent motor vehicle fuel and emission standards when compliant fuels and vehicles are available to the local market. The specifications of motor vehicle diesel and unleaded petrol were tightened to Euro IV standards in April 2002 and January 2005 respectively and to Euro V standards in July 2010.

Emission standards for newly registered vehicles

3. The Air Pollution Control (Vehicle Design Standards) (Emission) Regulations (Cap. 311, sub. leg.) stipulates the emission standards for motor vehicles seeking first registration. The Euro III vehicle emission standards have been implemented since 2001.

4. Given that a Euro IV light petrol vehicle will emit about 45%, 50% and 55% less nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide respectively than a Euro III model, and that a Euro IV light diesel vehicle (other than a diesel

private car) will emit about 50% less nitrogen oxides and particulates than a Euro III model, the Regulations have been amended to require newly registered motor vehicles each of design weight up to 2.5 tonnes and over 2.5 tonnes but not more than 3.5 tonnes, to comply with the Euro IV emissions from 1 January 2006 and 1 January 2007 respectively. As part of the strategy to reduce reliance on diesel vehicles, newly registered diesel private cars have also been required to comply with the California emission standards from 1 January 2006.

5. In tandem with the European Union, the Regulations have further been amended to require newly registered motor vehicles each of design weight over 3.5 tonnes to comply with Euro IV emission standards from 1 October 2006, and newly registered motorcycles to comply with Euro III emission standards from 1 January 2007.

Deliberations by the Panel on Environmental Affairs

6. The proposals to implement the Euro IV emission standards for newly registered light duty motor vehicles, as well as Euro IV emission standards for heavy duty motor vehicles and Euro III emission standards for motorcycles were discussed at the Panel meetings on 28 February 2005 and 27 February 2006 respectively.

7. The Panel in general supported the introduction of more stringent emission standards for newly registered vehicles as this would help improve the air quality. However, there was a need to ensure the operability and maintenance of Euro IV vehicles as some Euro IV models required urea solution to support the selective catalytic reduction system for emission reduction. To encourage early replacement of existing vehicles with newer models, members urged the Administration to consider providing incentives, such as tax concessions, to owners. Given the good emission performance of hybrid vehicles, some members opined that the Administration should endeavour to encourage early conversion to hybrid vehicles for the benefit of public health. Consideration should be given to allowing the introduction of some environment-friendly diesel vehicles as these were more economical and would provide a wider choice for consumers. Efforts should also be made to work out a timetable to phase out pre-Euro heavy duty vehicles. Some other members enquired whether Mainland-registered vehicles which were allowed to travel to Hong Kong would have to comply with the more stringent emission standards given the disparity in emission standards between Hong Kong and the Mainland, the latter of which had lagged far behind.

Council questions

8. Hon Jeffrey LAM and Hon Miriam LAU raised questions in relation to the emission standards at the Council meetings on 31 January 2007 and 2 March 2011 respectively.

Latest development

9. The Administration proposes to brief Members on implementation of Euro V emission standards for newly registered light and heavy duty vehicles at the Panel meeting on 21 December 2011.

Relevant papers

10. A list of relevant papers is in the **Appendix**.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
15 December 2011

Tightening Emission Standards of Newly Registered Motor Vehicles to Euro V Level

List of relevant papers

Council/ Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
EA Panel	28 February 2005	<p>Information paper on "Euro IV Emission Standards for New Light Duty Motor Vehicles" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1) 960/04-05(03)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/ea/papers/ea0228cb1-960-3-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1) 1132/04-05) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/ea/minutes/ea050228.pdf</p>
EA Panel	27 February 2006	<p>Information paper on "More Stringent Emission Standards for New Heavy Duty Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1) 950/05-06(04)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ea/papers/ea0227cb1-950-4-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1) 1121/05-06) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr05-06/english/panels/ea/minutes/ea060227.pdf</p>
EA Panel	23 November 2009	<p>Information paper on "Introduction of Euro V Standard for Motor Vehicle Fuel" provided by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(1) 392/09-10(05)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ea/papers/ea1123cb1-392-5-e.pdf</p> <p>Paper on introduction of Euro V standard for motor vehicle fuel prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief) (LC Paper No. CB(1) 392/09-10(06)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ea/papers/ea1123cb1-392-6-e.pdf</p>

Council/ Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
		Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1) 914/09-10) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/ea/minutes/ea20091123.pdf

Hyperlinks to relevant Council Questions:

Date	Council Questions
31 January 2007	Council question raised by Hon Jeffrey LAM http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200701/31/P200701310165.htm
2 March 2011	Council question raised by Hon Miriam LAU http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201103/02/P201103020184.htm