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Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Information note prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat for the meeting on 11 March 2014

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

According to the website of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources ("the Commission"), the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources ("the Convention") is an international treaty that entered into force on 7 April 1982 with the objective of conserving Antarctic marine life. The Commission adopts a set of measures based on the best available scientific information in order to support the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources and the management of fisheries in the Southern Ocean. These conservation measures are reviewed and developed at each annual meeting of the Commission, and subsequently adopted by its member states. As at 30 January 2014, the Commission has 25 members¹ and China is one of the member states.

2. According to the Status List of the Convention updated on 11 December 2013, China has been a member of the Commission since 2 October 2007. Nevertheless, the Convention has yet to apply to Hong Kong, as the Government of China made a statement dated 19 September 2006 and attached it to the Instrument of Accession to the Commission as follows - "In accordance with the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Government of the People's Republic of China decides that the Convention applies to the

¹ The 25 members are as follows - Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uruguay.

Macao Special Administrative Region, and unless otherwise notified, shall not apply to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China."

3. The Administration will brief the Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene at the meeting on 11 March 2014 concerning the proposal to apply the Convention to Hong Kong before launching the public consultation and taking forward the legislative exercise.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
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