

For Information

Employees Compensation Insurance - Reinsurance Coverage for Terrorism

Introduction

At the special meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Financial Affairs held on 20 December 2001 to discuss the \$10 billion facility to cover terrorism risks in respect of employees compensation (“EC”) insurance, the Administration undertook to provide quarterly reports on –

- (a) operation of the facility;
- (b) updated market situation on availability of reinsurance coverage for terrorism in the EC insurance market; and
- (c) the need to maintain the facility.

The proposed facility was subsequently approved by the Finance Committee on 11 January 2002.

Update

2. The report for the fourth quarter of 2019 is set out in the following paragraphs.

3. During this quarter, one insurer withdrew from the facility as it ceased writing general insurance business in Hong Kong. Therefore, the number of participating EC insurers has been reduced from 53 to 52. By the end of December 2019, the Government has received about \$2.52 billion from the charge imposed on the participating insurers since establishment of the facility in January 2002. The facility has not been invoked ever since.

4. The Insurance Authority (“IA”) has obtained confirmation from the insurance industry that reinsurance cover is not available in the market on a treaty arrangement¹ basis, and the reinsurers operating in Hong Kong are not yet prepared to provide terrorism reinsurance cover for EC business in Hong Kong on a treaty arrangement basis.

5. Given the absence of reinsurance cover for terrorism risks in the local EC insurance market, it is necessary to maintain the facility. We will continue to monitor developments closely and will withdraw this facility once reinsurance capacity has returned to the market on a long term basis.

Background

6. The facility was set up to cater for terrorism risks in respect of EC insurance, thereby ensuring that protection is rendered to employees. With the facility, insurers will be willing to underwrite work-related death or injury caused by terrorist activities, so as to ensure that employees can get the relevant insurance coverage. Participation in the facility is voluntary. Insurers who decide not to participate in the facility but nonetheless wish to underwrite EC policies have to demonstrate to the IA that they are able to secure alternative cover, while those participating in the facility are required to pay to the Government a charge pitched at 3% of the gross premium of EC policies they underwrite in Hong Kong.

Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau Insurance Authority March 2020

¹ Arrangement whereby a standing facility is provided by the reinsurers for reinsurance coverage on all businesses accepted by the direct insurer during the year without individual assessment of the risks by the reinsurers.