

**First Meeting of the  
EEC Subgroup on Business Facilitation**

***Agenda Item 1.1 : Progress Report on Helping Business Projects***

This paper summarizes the progress of on-going projects under the Helping Business Programme relating to cutting red-tape and deregulation<sup>note</sup> and the status of potential projects.

**On-going Projects**

2. Current progress of our on-going projects is as follows –

No.	Study/Project Title	Progress as at 31 March 2004
1.	Follow-on studies and implementation of quick-wins identified in the review on licensing and other regulatory requirements for the construction industry	See details on EECSG Paper 1.1.3.
2.	Departmental Business Study for Fire Services Department	Study completed and reported under Agenda Item 2 (EECSG Paper 1.2)
3.	Phasing out of non-railway-related public cargo working activities of the KCRC facilities in the harbour waterfront	Temporary extension of the land lease waiver for non-railway-related public cargo working activities is being considered pending results of further review.
4.	Implementation of recommendations from review of licensing requirements of food premises other than restaurants	Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has completed nine out of 24 recommendations and decided not to pursue four items. The outstanding items are either pending legislative amendments or implementation of the Licensing Management Information System by 2005.

No.	Study/Project Title	Progress as at 31 March 2004
5.	Review of licensing arrangement for expansion of Residential Care Home for the Elderly	The new arrangement allowing merging of homes on adjacent floors of the same building will take effect in April 2004.
6.	Implementation of recommendations from Departmental Business Study for Transport Department (TD)	See details on EECSG Paper 1.1.2.
7.	Review to increase the flexibility in public auction of vehicle registration numbers	The Government will, as soon as possible, introduce legislation into the LegCo to launch the Personalized Vehicle Registration Mark Scheme. TD is actively making preparations for the Scheme with a view to inviting applications by the end of 2004.
8.	Implementation of recommendations from Departmental Business Study for Environmental Protection Department (EPD)	Of the 27 recommendations, EPD has completed 19 items. Of the outstanding ones, some are pending the outcome of the re-organization of the department and its policy bureau.
9.	Regulatory Impact Assessment study on product responsibility schemes	Second consultation workshop was held with stakeholders of waste tyres and rechargeable dry batteries in March. The study is expected to complete in mid 2004.
10.	Review of Broadcasting Regulatory Regime	Review is in progress. CTB plans to consult the public on the review findings later in the year.

Note: The Subgroup will focus on cutting red tape and deregulation. Projects relating to transfer of public services will be taken forward and monitored by the Efficiency Unit (EU) under the Private Sector Involvement Programme. Where relevant to the Subgroup's work and if necessary, we will co-ordinate with the EU to provide separately details on projects undertaken by the EU.

## Potential Projects

3. Status of the potential projects is summarized below –

No.	Study/Project Title	Status as at 31 March 2004
1.	Departmental Business Study for Labour Department (LD)	LD is considering the priority of the project.
2.	Regulatory Impact Assessment on Labelling Scheme on Nutrition Information	FEHD is seeking the comments of Health, Welfare and Food Bureau on the proposed study to assess the Scheme's overall impact to the community. It plans to finalize the study brief in May.
3.	Billboards for advertisements on government land	The concerned departments will consider the priority and scope of a pilot project to assess the viability of the proposal.
4.	Review of standards governing car park requirements in developments	Statistics is awaited from TD to assess the effectiveness of new standards introduced for increasing flexibility of the car park requirements.
5.	Revamping the database on regulatory activities	The Secretariat will review the scope and approach for revamping the database with regard to the priorities of the Subgroup.

4. Thus far, most projects under the Helping Business Programme are on a government department rather than business sector basis. In considering new study areas, we see merits in shifting focus to a business sector approach as this approach will better enable the business sector concerned to benefit substantively from improvements in a comprehensive range of services provided by all the related departments.

Commerce and Industry Branch  
Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau  
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