

19 January 2016

Notice of Commission consultation regarding block exemption application in respect of certain liner shipping agreements

On 17 December 2015, the Competition Commission (“Commission”) received an application for a block exemption order under section 15 of the Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619) (“Ordinance”) from the Hong Kong Liner Shipping Association (“HKLSA”).

The Commission’s notice of this application, together with the HKLSA’s summary of its application, is available on the Commission’s website (www.compcomm.hk).

The Commission is today calling for interested parties to submit their views in relation to the application. The Commission is particularly interested in receiving submissions on:

1. experiences with the use of Vessel Sharing Agreements (“VSAs”) and Voluntary Discussion Agreements (“VDAs”) in business operations in Hong Kong;
2. any specific issues or concerns arising from the use of VSAs and/or VDAs;
3. any economic efficiencies to which VSAs and/or VDAs may give rise; and
4. general market conditions, including the state of competition, in the liner shipping industry.

Parties should send written submissions by email to the Commission’s applications email address (Applications@compcomm.hk). Alternatively, parties may contact the applications email address to arrange a meeting with the Commission to discuss their views. The Commission’s case number (BE/0004) should be quoted in the subject line of the email.

This consultation will close on **Thursday 24 March 2016**.

If the Commission subsequently proposes to issue a block exemption order following its consideration of the application, it will publish the proposed block exemption order and consult parties as required under section 16 of the Ordinance.