

17 July 2015

For Immediate Release

Competition Commission welcomes Commencement Notice for Competition Ordinance

The Competition Commission (Commission) welcomes the Commencement Notice* gazetted by the government today (17 July) to appoint 14 December 2015 as the commencement date for the Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619) (Ordinance) to come into full effect.

The Ordinance, which was passed by the Legislative Council in June 2012, serves to safeguard and enhance a competitive environment for consumers and businesses in Hong Kong by prohibiting anti-competitive conduct by businesses.

Ms. Anna Wu Hung-yuk, Chairperson of the Commission, said, "Since its establishment in May 2013, the Commission has been actively undertaking necessary preparatory and engagement work with a view to bringing the new ordinance into operation and getting the community prepared for its commencement. With our continuous advocacy efforts as well as internal infrastructure now in place, the Commission is ready to be an effective enforcer of the competition law which will support Hong Kong's open economy by ensuring free and fair markets for all."

Dr. Stanley Wong, Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, said, "We are glad to learn that the Commencement Notice has been gazetted today. The Commission has completed its drafting and consultation of the Guidelines which will be published shortly. The leniency policy and a statement of enforcement priorities are also in preparation and will be released in the coming months before the Ordinance comes into full operation in December."

In the ensuing months leading to the commencement of the Ordinance, the Commission will continue to roll out a range of advocacy and educational initiatives targeting businesses and the general public. Starting Monday (20 July), ten episodes of one-minute TV drama to illustrate the competition rules will be broadcast on TVB Jade at 10.30pm. Roving exhibitions at selected locations across the territory and free seminars open to all businesses and members of the public will be conducted to introduce the key elements and benefits of the Ordinance. Self-assessment toolkit for businesses is also being developed to assist them to comply with the new law.

**Competition Ordinance (Commencement) (No.2) Notice 2015*

Note to the Editor

The Competition Commission is an independent statutory body established to enforce the Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619), which was enacted in June 2012. The objective of the Ordinance is to prohibit conduct that prevents, restricts or distorts competition, and mergers that substantially lessen competition in Hong Kong. At the present time, the Merger Rule applies only to a merger involving an undertaking that directly or indirectly holds a carrier licence issued under the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106).