

14 December 2015

For Immediate Release

Competition Ordinance Comes into Full Effect Today

The Competition Ordinance (Ordinance), enacted by the Legislative Council in June 2012, comes into full effect today (14 December 2015). The Competition Commission (Commission) has commenced full operations and is carrying out its law enforcement function under the Ordinance. The full implementation of the Ordinance will ensure Hong Kong remains a competitive, dynamic and free market by curbing harmful anti-competitive conduct, bringing the benefits of a level-playing field to Hong Kong consumers, businesses and the wider economy.

To coordinate the performance of their concurrent functions under the Ordinance in the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors, the Commission and the Communications Authority (CA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding today affirming their commitment to exercising their functions with a consistent interpretation and application of the provisions of the Ordinance, and to facilitate efficient and effective handling of such matters. Given the CA's specific function of regulating the broadcasting and telecommunications sectors, the CA will ordinarily take the role of Lead Authority on matters which fall within the concurrent jurisdiction.

With the full implementation of the Ordinance, the Commission is also ready to accept and handle applications for decisions and block exemption orders to confirm whether certain conduct or arrangements are exempted or excluded from the Ordinance. Applicants are recommended to engage in consultation with the Commission before submitting their applications.

Anna Wu Hung-yuk, Chairperson of the Commission, said, "Today is a significant day for Hong Kong as the full commencement of the Competition Ordinance marks an important step forward for our economy. With the Commission's advocacy effort since its establishment, many businesses are making genuine efforts to understand and comply with the new law. In time, I am confident that the full benefits of the Ordinance and its potential to enhance Hong Kong's overall economy will be felt in all aspects of our daily lives."

Dr. Stanley Wong, Chief Executive Officer of the Commission, said, "Hong Kong is finally joining over 120 jurisdictions around the world with a cross-sector competition law coming to life today. The Commission is committed to using a mix of advocacy and enforcement actions to achieve the goal of the Ordinance and we are ready to take on the challenges ahead. We look forward to working with businesses and the general public to ensure that competition is vibrant and fair for the benefit of all businesses and consumers."

To cope with the full implementation of the Ordinance and to provide an effective interface platform for the public and businesses, the Commission officially launched its new website today with expanding content and an enhanced structure for easy navigation and quicker access to information. Members of the public and businesses are encouraged to make use of

the new website to make an enquiry, file complaints or find out details of different kinds of applications and procedures, and the Commission's activities.

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

The Commission is an independent statutory body established to enforce the Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619). 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).

Photo Caption:



(Right) Ms Anna Wu, Chairperson of the Competition Commission and Mr Ambrose Ho, Chairman of the Communications Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding today