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For Immediate Release

**Competition Commission consults Legislative Council  
on Revised Draft Guidelines under the Competition Ordinance**

Following the Competition Commission's (Commission) consultation with the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development on the Revised Draft Guidelines under the Competition Ordinance (Cap. 619) (the Ordinance) today (27 April), the Commission made the following statement:

Final steps towards commencement of the Ordinance

- After its consultation with the Legislative Council today, and taking into account any other comments that may be received before the finalization of the Guidelines, the Commission will promulgate the Guidelines via the Commission's website.
- In addition, the Commission will prepare and release policies (such as a Leniency Policy and an Enforcement Policy), publications (such as easy to follow leaflets and booklets for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and trade associations) and self-assessment tools to assist businesses and their advisers to comply with the Ordinance.
- With all its preparation work to be completed in the middle of 2015, the Commission will be ready to commence operations once the Ordinance is fully implemented at a date to be set by the government.

The Ordinance benefits both businesses and consumers

- The changes to the norms of Hong Kong business conduct resulting from the full implementation of the Ordinance will support Hong Kong's open economy by ensuring free and competitive markets for all.
- Consumers, including small business consumers, will benefit from better prices, better products and more choices as a result of more competition. The OECD and other studies have estimated that the impact of the illegal gain from price fixing is 10% of the selling price, that is 10% extra on the price of goods that consumers or businesses might be buying from a cartel.
- By prohibiting anti-competitive behaviour, the Ordinance helps maintain a level playing field for businesses. This encourages effective distribution of economic resources, drives continuous innovation of products and services, enhances efficiency in supply and thus raises companies' competitiveness.
- Businesses (big and small) will stand to gain from the Ordinance which deters abusive anti-competitive practices. Small and medium sized enterprises, in particular, will benefit from increased market opportunities and reduced barriers that facilitate market entry and trade.

### Business engagement and current work

- The Commission has seen increased public awareness and strong interest from businesses since the launch of its engagement programmes across Hong Kong in the middle of 2014. It has received and addressed enquiries from businesses and trade associations on various competition-related issues.
- Many businesses, trade and professional bodies have started to review their practices and identify risk areas, with some already taking anticipatory steps to ensure compliance with the Ordinance.
- The Commission will continue to engage actively with the business sector to ensure they are ready for the full implementation of the Ordinance.
- The Commission is monitoring various situations of public concern, responding to inquiries from the public and conducting studies and research on a range of competition related issues in Hong Kong.

### About the Commission

The 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).