

**Forty-fifth Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 3(a) : Report on the work of the
Wholesale and Retail Task Force***

Purpose

This paper reports on the work of the Wholesale and Retail Task Force (WRTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 January 2021.

Work progress of WRTF

Public Consultation on Strengthening Regulation of Harmful Substances in Food

2. The Government published a public consultation document in December 2020 on the proposed amendments to the Harmful Substances in Food Regulations (Cap. 132AF) for strengthening the regulation of harmful substances such as industrially-produced trans fats and mycotoxins. The consultation period lasted from 11 December 2020 to 15 March 2021.

3. The Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department wished to seek views of the WRTF on the proposed amendments. As the consultation period could not meet the WRTF meeting schedule, the WRTF Secretariat circulated a discussion paper on the subject to Members for comments on 13 January 2021. Members' views were then consolidated and forwarded to the CFS. The CFS subsequently discussed the subject with the Members concerned and the Hong Kong Retail Management Association. Supplementary information was also provided.

Voluntary Scheme for Phasing Out Personal Care and Cosmetic Products Containing Microbeads

4. At the WRTF meeting held on 1 April 2021, the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) briefed Members on the Voluntary Scheme for Phasing Out Personal Care and Cosmetic Products (PCCPs) Containing Microbeads ("the Scheme"). The Scheme is to encourage the trade to stop

manufacturing, importing or selling such products, with a view to gradually eliminating them in Hong Kong. The Government will initially implement the Scheme for a two-year period. Members were briefed on the plan and the associated supporting measures.

5. The WRTF welcomed the Scheme and appreciated the Government's efforts in environmental protection and enhancing the public's understanding of microbead-related subjects.

Way forward

6. Members are invited to note the work progress of the WRTF. The WRTF will continue to monitor the development of the above initiatives.

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation and Technology Bureau
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