

21 October 2022

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**Council for Trade in Services**

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III:3 OF THE  
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES**

The following notification, dated 20 October 2022, from the delegation of Hong Kong, China, is being circulated to Members of the Council for Trade in Services.

**1 MEMBER NOTIFYING:**

Hong Kong, China

**2 NOTIFICATION UNDER:**

Article III:3 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services

**3 DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE:**

The new regulatory regime of the travel industry in Hong Kong is implemented through phased commencement of the Travel Industry Ordinance ("the Ordinance"):

(a) Phase 1: with the provisions of the Ordinance pertaining to the establishment of an independent Travel Industry Authority ("TIA") came into operation on 2 December 2019, TIA was established in January 2020 to undertake essential preparatory work; and

(b) Phase 2: after completion of the legislative process of the subsidiary legislation and other necessary preparations, the remaining provisions of the Ordinance took effect on 1 September 2022 for TIA to implement the new regulatory regime in full.

**3.1 Duration:**

Indefinite

**4 AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE MEASURE:**

Travel Industry Authority (TIA)

**5 DESCRIPTION OF THE MEASURE:**

The Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation provide a new regulatory regime of the travel industry of Hong Kong. Under the new regulatory regime, TIA is responsible for the licensing and regulation of travel agents, tourist guides and tour escorts, administration of the Travel Industry Compensation Fund; imposition of levies on travel agents; and other matters related to the new regulatory regime of the travel industry. The new regulatory regime will help improve the service quality and professionalism of travel agents, tourist guides and tour escorts, and is conducive to the sustainable and healthy development of the travel industry.

**6 MEMBERS SPECIFICALLY AFFECTED, IF ANY:**

None

**7 TEXTS AVAILABLE FROM:**

The full text of the Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation is available from:  
<https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap634>

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