

立 法 會 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL 胡姬昌城員 Hon. Henry K. C. Wu

September 12, 2004

Ref: LC-04/355

Mr. Gerald Greiner
Head, Exchange Division
Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited
12<sup>th</sup> Floor, One International Finance Centre
1 Harbour View Street
Central
Hong Kong

By fax and by post (Fax # 2868 5223)

Dear Mr. Greiner.

Re: Consultation Paper on Reduction of Minimum Spreads

It has come to my attention during recent visits to the many stockbrokerage firms that they have strong reservation on the proposed Reduction of Minimum Spreads and I have yet to learn from one who is in full support of such proposal.

In theory, it may appear that by Reducing the Minimum Spread would enhance market liquidity. However, if one takes into account the characteristic of the Hong Kong market where there are a lot of small investors who are also cash clients, the enhancement effect would NOT be as obvious.

Furthermore, such proposal would NOT appear to improve the market efficiency without further changes to hardware and software systems. If the proposed reduction is to be carried out, there are overwhelming concerns on the implications to current computer software being used by the firms, both in time, cost and technical issues.

From what I have learned, there is NO immediate need to reduce the minimum spread and that the Exchange should address to more important and more urgent matters.

If time permits and appropriate, I would follow-up with a more in-depth study with the industry and provide an analysis for submission.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely.

Henry K. C. Wu

HW/cyh

