

CTA UPDATE: Abraham Shek & Andrew Leung were also on the freeloader junket. The group photo shows 28 CX sponsored freeloaders, 16 women & 12 men Who are the Baptist University couple ? = 28 total freebies

LEGCO

DEMOCRATS

1 Albert Ho Chun-yan  
2 James To Kun-sun

[Legco declaration of interest form date CX sponsored Trip to France](#)

declaration 23/8 for trip 16-21/8  
declaration 23/8 for trip 16-21/8

ACCOUNTING

3 Kenneth Leung

declaration 13/8 for trip 16-21/8

DAB

4 Ip Kwok-him  
5 Elizabeth Quat

declaration 20/8 for trip 17-21/8  
declaration 20/8 for trip 16-21/8 via Frankfurt

LIBERAL Party

6 Felix Chung Kwok-pan

declaration 21/8 for trip 17-21/8

INDEPENDENTS

7 Chan Kin-por  
8 Ma Fung-kwok

declaration 22/8 for trip 16-21/8 (also adds Scottish Parliament trip 12-16/8 2013)  
declaration 21/8 for trip 17-21/8

REAL ESTATE & CONSTRUCTION

9 Abraham Shek Lai-Him

declaration 22/8 for trip 19-20 /8 adds 'a donation \$50,000 to be made to HK Unison for acceptance of this free trip'

INDUSTRIAL (First)

10 Andrew Leung Kwan-Yuen

declaration 08/7 registered 24/7 for trip 18-21/8

EXCO

11 Cheng Yiu-tong Chairman HKFTU declaration 09 /8 2013 for trip 17-21

[www.ceo.gov.hk/exco/eng/cheng\\_yiu-tong.html](http://www.ceo.gov.hk/exco/eng/cheng_yiu-tong.html)  
[www.ceo.gov.hk/exco/pdf/Cheng\\_Yiu-tong\\_e.pdf](http://www.ceo.gov.hk/exco/pdf/Cheng_Yiu-tong_e.pdf)

AIRPORT AUTHORITY former chief executive

3<sup>rd</sup> runway lobbyist

12 Billy Lam Chung-lun

AIRPORT AUTHORITY board member

3<sup>rd</sup> runway lobbyist

13 Huen Wong

Unnamed academic from Baptist University

14 HU Da-fok RU

[www.legco.gov.hk/general/english/cmi/yr12-16/reg\\_1216.htm](http://www.legco.gov.hk/general/english/cmi/yr12-16/reg_1216.htm)



• Eight (actually 10) lawmakers + 1 EXCO across the political spectrum were among this group on the trip to France. Photo: SCMP



Democratic Party lawmaker James To (left) and wife Sue So; lawmaker Albert Ho and wife, posed at a dinner hosted by the Airbus company in France. Photo: SCMP

## South China Morning Post 南華早報

### No room for advantage

Saturday, 24 August, 2013, 12:00am

Comment › Insight & Opinion

LEADER

SCMP Editorial

Lawmakers see themselves as the watchdog of just about anything. From official's conduct to individual corporate dealings, they will not shy away from criticising whenever something does not smell right to them. It was not that long ago when they blasted former chief executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen in unison for accepting sponsored trips and other favours from tycoons. Ironically, some members have accepted a Cathay Pacific junket to France this month; and still insist there is nothing wrong when it was disclosed by the media.

It remains unclear why the eight lawmakers and an executive councillor were selected. The highlight of the six-day trip is said to be the handover ceremony of an aircraft at the Airbus factory near Toulouse. But the stopover for sightseeing in Paris and the medieval castle in Carcassonne means it is not just a work visit. It raises eyebrows further when they were allowed to bring along a family member; some even rode on the junket for their own vacation and work trips elsewhere.

A wide-range of plausible explanations has been given, but none appears to be convincing. One lawmaker said she simply did not understand why it became an issue, referring to numerous sponsored trips enjoyed by others over the years. Another member said the group was there to learn about the aviation industry. But the revelation that Cathay Pacific has renewed its opposition against a new budget airline during a briefing session has raised questions over conflict of interest.

Exco and Legco are the two most important political organs, with the former vested with the highest decision-making power while the latter holds the key to public funding and legislation. Their decisions can affect aviation business from time to time. True, lawmakers only have to declare sponsored trips within 14 days under the present rule. But the question obviously goes beyond declaration. The controversies surrounding Tsang and other top officials in recent years show the community expects the highest standard from politicians. Practices unquestioned in the past are not necessarily acceptable today. The incident reflected badly on lawmakers' sensitivity and judgment. They should at least pay for the spouse's expenditure. Legco should also study whether rules should be tightened.

Adherence to the letters of the rules can no longer satisfy the rising expectations on public servants. Lawmakers and Exco members should avoid accepting advantages wherever possible, lest it could be seen as compromising their duties.

More on this:

[Lawmakers face criticism after Cathay junket to France](#) [1]

[For pan-democrats, a Paris flight is a long way to fall](#) [2]

Source URL (retrieved on Aug 24th 2013, 4:35pm): <http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1299095/no-room-advantage>

Links:

[1] <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1298404/lawmakers-face-criticism-after-cathay-pacific-junket-france>

[2] <http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1298966/pan-democrats-paris-flight-long-way-fall>