

Executive Branch Respects the Legislative Yuan's Oversight Authority and Decision of Review on the Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act and Has Not Acted Out of Expediency

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The media reports today (September 21, 2016) that the executive branch did not table the government's version of the Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act due to time constraints, raising suspicions over whether this was an expedient involved other concerns. The report is not based on the facts. The Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) issued a statement for clarification.

The MAC stated that the purpose of the legislation of the Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act is to strengthen congressional and public participation in and supervision of cross-Strait agreements and realize the principles of openness, transparency, and democracy. Since the Act concerns congress's oversight authority, the Legislative Yuan has formulated five draft versions. The Democratic Progressive Party caucus version can represent the government's position. Moreover, the specific content of the draft version can be fully deliberated during future Legislative Yuan review to form a consensus. In respect for the authority and decisions of congress, the executive branch has withdrawn the Executive Yuan draft version of the Act with the consent of the Legislative Yuan.

The MAC explained that the Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act is an important bill of concern to the public. According to data from MAC public opinion surveys, more than 80% (83.4%) of the public support the view that the Legislative Yuan should complete legislation as soon as possible. The MAC has consistently advocated the prompt promotion of legislative work. In addition to seeking inclusion as a priority bill, the government will continue to arrange meetings to communicate with and provide explanation to related legislators. However, this matter concerns the review process of the Legislative Yuan. The executive branch respects this process and related arrangements, with absolutely no inaction or expediency.

The MAC stressed that negotiations, communication, and dialogue between the two sides are very important. Completing legislation of the Cross-Strait Agreement Supervisory Act can establish guidelines and a basis for negotiations between the two sides and will facilitate dialogue and exchanges. The MAC hopes for the early completion of a supervisory act that best meets the needs of society and can be effectively implemented to act on the principles of "openness and transparency, public participation, and congressional oversight," respond concretely to the expectations of all sides, and enable continuous exchange and development in cross-Strait relations on a legal foundation.