



EU-ARMENIA CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM

2nd meeting, Yerevan, 10 March 2023

JOINT DECLARATION

The EU-Armenia Civil Society Platform (CSP) is one of the bodies set up within the framework of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the European Union and Armenia. It enables civil society organisations from both sides to monitor the implementation process, and submits recommendations for the relevant authorities.

The second meeting of the CSP was held on 10 March 2023 in Yerevan, Armenia.

With regard to the **implementation of the EU-Armenia CEPA** the CSP members:

1. note that the primary roles of the EU-Armenia bilateral civil society platform in the implementation of the CEPA are contributing sectoral advisory expertise to the process, ensuring transparency and accountability in the reforms envisioned by the Agreement by means of a concerted monitoring effort, and raising public awareness of the activities implemented within the framework of the CEPA and EU-Armenia cooperation in general;
2. point out that effective implementation of the CSP's roles requires effective communication between civil society, the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter the "Government") and the European Union, as well as a consolidated effort to address the goals established by the Agreement;
3. underline that for the civil society actors engaged in the process, the CEPA is seen not only as a framework agreement between two partners, but also as a strong stimulus for Armenia's democratisation and social and economic development;
4. in this respect, welcome the intention of the Government to engage civil society in the process of planning, implementing and monitoring the activities envisioned by the CEPA, and express their readiness to serve as a platform for various civil society entities to contribute to this process with their knowledge and expertise;
5. hope that the initial communication between the EU-Armenia civil society platform and the Government will gradually become established and be enriched with mechanisms of operational communication through which the recommendations, opinions and suggestions of the civil society will be received and taken into account;

6. expect that such channels of institutional communication will work both ways and that civil society will receive requests to conduct research, awareness raising, monitoring and other activities;
 7. point out that the effective and sustainable democratisation and development of any country is possible only in conditions of peace and stability. In this respect, it is essential to refrain from any military action (such as that launched in September 2022 by Azerbaijan against the sovereign territory of Armenia) and from any kind of aggressive narrative, as these are not conducive to peace but lead to further violence. It is also essential that the rights and security of Armenian in Nagorno Karabakh, including the right to self-determination, are fully taken into account to ensure comprehensive and durable conflict settlement in the interests of all people of the region. Despite the challenges Armenia should continue on its path of further integration with the EU respect for EU rules and core principles;
 8. in the light of the aforementioned points, welcome the establishment of the EU Mission to Armenia and call on the European partners to take all necessary steps to contribute to peace and security in the region, and to insist on respect for decisions of the International Court of Justice and on the right to peaceful existence of the Armenians of Nagorno Karabagh. Call on Azerbaijan and all others involved to remove obstructions to the Lachin corridor, in line with obligations deriving from the 9 November 2020 statement.
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