

## PRESS RELEASE

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## CSO-Government Working Meeting Discussion on the Draft of the RA 2014-2018 Anti-Corruption Strategy

On August 26, 2014 in Yerevan a CSO-Government working meeting took place in order to discuss the Draft of the RA 2014-2018 Anti-Corruption Strategy."

"Our project has sent to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia suggestions on establishing an independent anti-corruption body in the Republic of Armenia, as well as on criminalization of illicit enrichment. The local and international experts of our project are the authors of these suggestions," said Mr. Karen Zadoyan the President of the Armenian Young Lawyers Association and the Project Manager of "Multi-faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion" project.

"We have great expectations from today's discussions, as the drafting of the anti-corruption strategy is coming to its final phase, and we expect our partners' opinions and comments. As it is provided in our concept, the public trust, public participation is the important and indispensable factor that will enable to effectively implement the strategy," said Mr. Suren Krmoyan, Deputy Minister of Justice of the RA.

"I think this concept paper gives a very good analysis of the situation and I hope that the strategy, the draft strategy we have Armenia moving forward. Now it's time for action, it's time for fight. We know Armenian can be pretty good in fighting for their rights," said Mr. Hoa-Binh Adjemian, Head of Cooperation Section of the Delegation of the European Union in Armenia.

The project aims at increasing the role of CSOs in promoting anti-corruption reforms and their implementation. In the framework of the project the capacity of CSOs and the media to engage in monitoring and watchdog activities will be built. Anti-corruption training workshops will be organized throughout Armenia with the purpose of enabling CSOs and media organisations to better comprehend the issues related to anti-corruption and freedom of information. These activities aim at deepening the existing opportunities for carrying out anti-corruption activities. Small grants will be given for raising the effectiveness of public monitoring and implementation of appropriate monitoring, watchdog and investigative activities. A sustainable dialogue between CSOs and the Government will be developed with the participation of CSOs, to strengthen the anti-corruption institutional mechanisms.

The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the "Armenian Young Lawyers Association" NGO in partnership with the "Freedom of Information Center" NGO. The project duration is 3 years (January 2014 – December 2016) and the budget is 650.000 EUR.

**Armenian Young Lawyers Association** (AYLA) was established in1995 with a Mission to promote to the establishment of the rule of law, democracy and formation of the civil society in Armenia, where the people are aware of their rights and their rights are protected.

**Freedom of Information Center** (FOI) operates over 10 years. The Mission of FOI is to promote application of the RA Freedom of Information Law, contribute to the transparency and openness of the Armenian government system and to stimulate civic society's involvement in the governance system.

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"The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".