



PRESS RELEASE

23 September, 2015

Yerevan

The First Meeting of the Government-Civil Society Anti-Corruption Working Platform

On September 23 2015, a State-Civil Society Anti-Corruption Working Platform and Anti-Corruption Working Groups were established. Representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, international organizations, RA Government and other state and local government bodies, CSOs' Anti-Corruption Coalition, NGOs and Mass Media participated in the meeting. The Civil Society represented by the CSOs' Anti-Corruption Coalition and the Ministry of Justice signed a joint statement.

The meeting was organized by the RA Ministry of Justice, the "Armenian Young Lawyers Association" NGO and its partner "Freedom of Information Center of Armenia" NGO in the framework of the "Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion" Project co-funded by the EU and the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

"Our philosophy during the last year was that the fight against corruption is not only the problem of the state. It is the responsibility of the State, the Government, the local self government bodies, the NGOs and every citizen," said the RA Deputy Minister of Justice Mr. Suren Krmoyan.

"There is a bad side to corruption and it actually affects the social fabric of society adversely when people start to seek for their own benefit by bending the rules at the expense of everybody else," said Mr. Jose-Maria Medina-Navarro, Deputy Head of the Cooperation Section at the EU Delegation to Armenia.

"I hope that in the future this Joint Statement will be of great importance for our country," said Ms Shushan Doydoyan, President of "Freedom of Information Center" NGO.

"One thing is clear for all of us: Criminalization of illicit enrichment will substantially reduce the parade of palaces of high and middle ranking officials, which can be seen with a naked eye in Yerevan and in other areas of the Republic of Armenia, and which will yield their places to the buildings of public importance: the educational and cultural centers, quality roads and other public goods," said the President of the "Armenian Young Lawyers Association" NGO, "Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion" Project Manager, Coordinator of the Secretariat of CSOs Anti-Corruption Coalition Mr. Karen Zadoyan.

The event was followed by a substantial discussion on relevant issues. Mr. Carl Ulbricht, the International Expert of "Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion" Project introduced the "Challenges and Vision of Criminalization of Illicit Enrichment in the Republic of Armenia." Mr. Marat Atovmyan, the Local Expert of "Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion" Project spoke about the "Challenges and Ways for the establishment of the Effective Anti-Corruption Institutional System in the Republic."

The main goal of the project is to increase the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) in the promotion and implementation of anti-corruption reforms. Monitoring skills of CSOs and Mass Media will be enhanced in the framework of the project. Anti-corruption trainings will be organized for CSOs and Mass Media in the RA regions in order to help them perceive the problems of corruption and freedom of information much better. The goal of these events is to increase the present opportunities of anti-corruption activities. Small grants will be provided for increasing the efficiency of public control and the implementation of monitoring, control, and investigative projects. A sustained CSO-Government dialogue will be developed with the participation of CSOs in order to strengthen anti-corruption institutional mechanisms.

Armenian Young Lawyers Association (AYLA) was established in 1995 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) has been operating for 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 civil society's involvement in the governance system.

For more information please contact:

MS Narine Karapetyan, the Public Relations Coordinator of the project, on business days, from 9.00 AM to 6.00 PM; tel.: 540199; fax: 580299; URL <http://www.ayla.am>; Implementer: Narine Karapetyan, Email: pr@ayla.am.



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Երևանյան գրասենյակ

Armenian Young Lawyers Association
Address: 7 Nalbandyan str., suite 2, Yerevan, Armenian, 0010

Tel: +37410 54 01 99
Fax: +37410 58 02 99

Freedom of Information Center
Address: 1/3 Buzand str. Yerevan, Armenia, 0010

Tel: +37410 56 03 60
Fax: +37410 56 03 60

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Delegation of the European Union In Armenia
Tel +37410 54 64 94
Fax +37410 54 64 95

The European Commission is the EU's executive body.

"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".

The project is co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan.
Tel.: +374 10 229610
Fax: +374 10 229615

The OSCE Office in Yerevan has been operating since 1999, and its mission is to support Armenia in developing its democratic institutions and strengthening civil society, acting in the areas of legislative reform; combating corruption and trafficking; environmental activities; raising awareness for human rights; media freedom; gender equality, etc.