



## PRESS RELEASE

13 May, 2016

Yerevan

### *of the Government-Civil Society Anti-Corruption Conference*

On 13 May 2016, the Freedom of Information Center of Armenia, in cooperation with the Armenian Lawyers' Association (formerly "Armenian Young Lawyers Association" NGO), is organising a conference consisting of two sessions respectively titled "**Government – Civil Society Anti-Corruption Conference**" and "**2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition**".

The event is organised in the scope of the "Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion" Project funded by the EU and co-funded by the OSCE Yerevan Office.

Representatives of state bodies, international organisations and civil society organisations will participate in the Conference. Ms. Arpine Hovhannisyan, the RA Minister of Justice, H.E. Dr. Piotr Antoni Świtalski, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, H.E. Mr. Argo Avakov, Ambassador, the Head of the OSCE Office in Yerevan, and Mr. Karen Zadoyan, the President of the Armenian Lawyers' Association, the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition will give welcoming speeches. RA Deputy Minister of Justice Mr. Suren Krmoyan, Head of the RA Government's Anti-Corruption Programmes Monitoring Division Mr. Kamo Asatryan, President of the RA Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials Ms. Siranush Sahakyan, Executive Director of the Transparency International Anti-Corruption Centre Mr. Varuzhan Hochtanyan and others will give thematic presentations on Government-Civil Society cooperation and anti-corruption activities carried out in Armenia.

It is our pleasure to invite your media outlet to cover this conference that will take place in the Big Conference Hall of the Best Western Congress Hotel. The event is due to start at 09:45.

The project aims to increase the role of the Civil Society Organizations (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 – Applicant and "Freedom of Information Center" NGO – Partner. The project duration is 3 years (January 2014 – December 2016) and the budget is 650,000 EUR, of which 585,000 EUR contributed by the EU and 15,600 EUR contributed by the OSCE Yerevan Office.

**Armenian Lawyers' Association (ALA)** 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 where their rights are protected. Before February 2016, ALA was called Armenian Young Lawyers Association.

**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.

**For more information please contact: Mrs. Narine Karapetyan, PR Coordinator, on business days from 9:00 – 18:00. Tel.: 540199; Fax: 580299; URL: <http://www.armla.am>.**



The Project is funded by the European Union.

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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".



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Երևանի գրասենյակ

The Project is co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan.  
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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.



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