

# FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT EU-ARMENIA RELATIONS

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The European Union and Armenia have concluded negotiations on a new bilateral agreement. The new agreement will take our relations to the next level and will provide a framework for the European Union and Armenia to continue working together for the benefit of Armenian citizens. The Comprehensive & Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is modern, comprehensive and ambitious. It takes into account the new global, political and economic interests shared by both sides. The agreement will enable stronger cooperation in sectors such as energy, transport, environment and trade.

## STRONGER GOVERNANCE

- ✓ The EU supports **democratic governance reforms** in Armenia, the rule of law, anti-discrimination efforts, the promotion and protection of human rights, and fundamental freedoms. The Human Rights Budget Support programme is the only one of its kind in the world, with strict conditions attached to the disbursement of the funds.
- ✓ The EU has provided 4.2 billion AMD (€7.5 million) to assist the Armenian Government in **improving electoral legislation**.
- ✓ The EU supports the Armenian government in its efforts **to fight corruption**. 8.4 billion AMD (€14.8 million) has been committed to assist with the implementation of the government's anti-corruption strategy and the carrying out of customs and border management reforms.
- ✓ The EU **supports civil society initiatives** that promote anti-corruption reforms and act as government watchdogs in Armenia.
- ✓ The EU supports **reforms in the justice sector**, promotes the independence of the judiciary, and contributes to the improvement of infrastructure; 12 court buildings have been built or reconstructed in Armenia.

## STRONGER ECONOMY

- ✓ The **EU is Armenia's biggest export market**, with metals and diamonds among the top exports to the EU.
- ✓ The EU accounts for around **22% of Armenia's total trade**.
- ✓ The EU provides Armenian companies with funding, training, and export support to new markets through the EU4Business initiative. Since 2009, more than 268 billion AMD (€473 million) have been allocated to companies, **25,000 enterprises have been supported, and 900 new jobs have been created**.

## STRONGER CONNECTIVITY

- ✓ The EU is funding better energy exchange and **transit between Armenia and Georgia**, in part by linking Armenia to the EU's power grid.
- ✓ In 2010, the European Union's Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the European Investment Bank (EIB) agreed to co-finance **improvements to the Yerevan Metro**. Today, the renovations have resulted in modern carriages, safer metro operations, and substantial energy savings.
- ✓ The EU is negotiating with Armenia a comprehensive **EU-Armenia Air Transport Agreement**. Once in force, this will pave the way for a larger exchange of travellers, lower prices, and new business opportunities.

## STRONGER SOCIETY

- ✓ The EU-Armenia Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements entered into force in 2014, making **visa applications for Armenians easier, quicker, and cheaper**.
- ✓ In the period 2015-2017, **1,300 students and academic staff from Armenia** have studied or taught in Europe as part of the Erasmus+ programme.
- ✓ **70 Armenian schools** have participated in the eTwinning Plus platform to increase cooperation through the use of online tools.

## IN FIGURES

The quality of drinking water for

**11**

million people in Yerevan has improved with EU's help.

**17**

vocational education colleges in all regions of Armenia have been renovated.

**700**

households receive support for energy efficiency renovation.

## BOOSTING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The EU's leading research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, became operational in Armenia in 2016. Armenian research institutes, universities, and individual researchers as well as businesses now have access to opportunities, from fundamental science to demonstration projects, on an equal footing with researchers from EU Member States.

## E-CHAMPIONS

The EU is the main promoter of e-governance in Armenia. To date, EU support includes the introduction of an electronic document-management system in Armenian government institutions; an e-system for submitting tax statements; an electronic civil status registry, a one-stop-shop vehicle registration system, an automated driver's licence issuing system, online "e-police", e-visa system, and an online business registry.

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION

The unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict remains an obstacle to stability and prosperity in the region. The EU, including through its Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, supports and complements the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group to facilitate the peaceful settlement of the conflict. The EU also promotes confidence- and peacebuilding activities across the conflict divide, notably through the implementation of the programme "European Partnership for the peaceful settlement of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh".



**EaP** | Eastern Partnership

