

THE COMPREHENSIVE AND ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION & ARMENIA (CEPA) ENTERED INTO FORCE

THE AGREEMENT PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR ARMENIA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CITIZENS OF ARMENIA

BETTER LIVING STANDARDS

- More jobs
- More business opportunities

FAIRER & SAFER SOCIETY

- Strengthened democracy and human rights
- More safety and security for citizens
- More transparency

CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

- More protected environment
- Cleaner and more affordable energy

MORE CHOICE IN EDUCATION

- Better education



BETTER LIVING STANDARDS

More jobs

Better investment climate. The agreement provides a better regulatory environment, that will improve the business climate and investment opportunities for Armenian and EU companies, encouraging Armenian companies to sell more goods and services to the EU and the EU companies to open subsidiaries in Armenia, which will contribute to economic growth and job creation in Armenia.

More jobs in the green energy sector. The implementation of the agreement promotes the development of clean, alternative sources of energy, contributing to green growth and new jobs in the green energy sector.

Strong intellectual property rights protection system. More Armenian companies, as well as Armenian artists and inventors creating and selling innovative, artistic, distinct and high quality products are able to rely on a strong intellectual property rights protection system in Armenia, just like they can in the European Union.

More business opportunities

Increased stability & predictability for businesses. The relations between the EU and Armenia are governed in line with EU and international standards, providing increased predictability and stability for businesses. The agreement foresees that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be informed and consulted on the implementation of the CEPA, contributing to the transparency of the regulatory environment for businesses.

New possibilities for the expansion of trade in services. The agreement foresees liberalisation of bilateral trade in many services sectors, for example in rental/leasing services, consulting, engineering, photographic, packaging, postal, financial and transport services. This means that Armenian companies will be able to provide services in the EU and vice versa.

Opening up of procurement markets. Armenian businesses are able to participate in public procurement tenders in the EU and vice versa. Mutual additional market access will be provided regarding works concessions, e.g. water supply and other public services.



FAIRER & SAFER SOCIETY

Strengthened democracy & human rights

Both Armenia and the EU reiterate their commitment to reforms that reinforce the cornerstones of democracy, including **credible and transparent elections**, the right to **fair trial** and the **respect of human rights** more generally.

The agreement sets up an independent **Civil Society Platform** composed of Armenian and EU organisations, which will monitor the implementation of the agreement and may make recommendations to the Armenian authorities and to the EU.

The agreement attaches importance to the consolidation of the rule of law, including the independence of the judiciary, access to justice, the right to a fair trial as provided for by the European Convention on Human Rights, and procedural safeguards in criminal matters and victims' rights.

More safety and security for citizens

Improved nuclear safety. With this agreement, the EU confirms its commitment to enhance nuclear safety in Armenia to the highest possible level through concrete cooperation measures.

More cooperation on fighting crime. The agreement enables increased cooperation between the EU and Armenia in preventing and fighting criminal activities, including organised crime and terrorism.

Improved product safety and consumer protection. Armenia will seek to reduce differences with regard to EU standards to further protect consumer rights. The EU and Armenia will strengthen their cooperation to increase mutual understanding of their respective systems and improving access to their markets.

More transparency

More efficient use of taxpayers' money.

The agreement outlines clearer rules on publication of tenders and review procedures, which prevents corruption and allows for non-discriminatory public procurement procedures. There are new rules on public subsidies to ensure fairness and transparency.

Wider choice and lower prices for consumers.

The agreement includes measures to reduce unnecessary barriers to trade. For example, public consultations on regulations affecting consumer products are extended to companies of the other party, and cumbersome labelling requirements are avoided. As a result, more companies will be able to offer their products in Armenian and the EU markets, ensuring competitive prices.



CLEANER ENVIRONMENT

More protected environment

Improved environmental standards.

The Agreement will help Armenia achieve economic growth and at the same time improve the environment thanks to the adoption of EU standards. Armenia will implement in its law and practices environment protection measures consistent with international standards and agreements. Armenia will strive to remove obstacles to trade concerning goods and services of particular relevance for climate-change mitigation, such as sustainable renewable energy and energy-efficient products.

The EU and Armenia cooperate to enhance a sustainable use of natural resources and the conservations of biodiversity.

Cleaner and more affordable energy

The implementation of the agreement promotes the development of **clean energy sources**. This will also enhance security of supply and reduce dependency on energy imports.

More affordable energy. The agreement includes provisions that allow for more competition in the electricity sector, which is the most cost-effective way to ensure secure and affordable energy supplies to Armenian citizens. Market liberalisation has the potential to keep energy prices in check and lower energy bills for Armenian consumers.



MORE CHOICE IN EDUCATION

Better education

The EU will step up training and advice to **improve the quality of education** in Armenia. Particularly, the EU will assist Armenia to promote lifelong learning, encouraging cooperation and transparency at all levels of education and training, with a special focus on vocational training and higher education. Special attention will be given to work-based learning, Bologna Process, Torino process, student and teacher mobility, developing the national qualifications framework, etc.



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