

11 December 2018

Statement by the Steering Committee of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership on the expectations from the recent democratic changes in Armenia

The Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) welcomes the recent democratic developments in Armenia, started by Velvet Revolution last spring – which resulted in the resignation of an authoritarian regime and peaceful transition of power. The final step in that transition was implemented on December 9, 2018 – through snap parliamentary elections, which are preliminarily evaluated by stakeholders as free, fair and transparent.

We see that the current situation in Armenia provides important momentum for an effective and participatory reform process. We express our support to the commitment of the new Armenian authorities to implement reforms in the spheres of good governance, anti-corruption policies, as well as the judiciary and in changing the electoral system. We strongly believe that the implementation of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) can effectively contribute to this process, and be instrumental in involving civil society in the formulation of a new reform agenda and in monitoring its progress. Thus, we call on the Armenian authorities, as well as the European Union and its member states, to use the impetus of agreement to maximise the potential coming from bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

We are encouraged to see the participation of Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, in the Annual Assembly for the first time in the history of the EaP CSF – and consider this a vivid illustration of positive changes taking place in the country.

We also salute all our friends, and colleagues, who make up the Armenian civil society for their continuous efforts to build a democratic and free state – commending on their engagement in the encouraging events of the recent months.

We hope that the inspiring developments taking place in Armenia will contribute not only to the democratisation of one particular country of the Eastern Partnership but to the EaP region as a whole.

Members of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum