

**Serzh Sargsyan**, President, Republic of Armenia

**Karen Karapetyan**, Prime Minister, Republic of Armenia

**Galust Sahakyan**, Speaker of the Parliament, Republic of Armenia

**Edward Nalbandian**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Armenia

**Donald Tusk**, President, European Council

**Jean-Claude Juncker**, President, European Commission

**Federica Mogherini**, Vice-President of the European Commission, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

**Johannes Hahn**, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations

**Antonio Tajani**, President, European Parliament

**Ministers of Foreign Affairs**, EU Member States

22 March 2017

### **Statement by the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum on the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement**

The EaP CSF Steering Committee (SC) welcomes the conclusions of the negotiations on the new EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (the Agreement) on 28 February in Brussels and the initialling of the agreed text on 21 March in Yerevan by the Chief Negotiators of both parties. We express our hope that the signature of the Agreement in the near future will contribute to the closer and more effective EU-Armenia cooperation, and to the consistent reform process in the country.

At the same time, the Steering Committee is concerned about the fact that the negotiations were conducted behind closed doors and did not involve the consultations with the EaP CSF Armenian National Platform and other civil society actors. Moreover, no consistent public awareness campaign on the issue was implemented.

Armenian civil society express their concern that the lack of knowledge among the population about the details of the agreement, especially in light of the active propaganda against the deepening of Armenia's cooperation with the EU and against the European values in general, may present serious risks for the future implementation of the Agreement.

The EaP CSF Armenian National Platform, a civil society platform created specifically for the support and promotion of the EU-Armenia relations in the framework of the Eastern Partnership, should play a crucial role in the implementation of the Agreement priorities after its signature.

The SC calls on the Armenian authorities and the EU institutions to take into account previous challenges in the process of deepening the EU-Armenia cooperation. We urge them to consider a more coherent approach towards a meaningful participation of the civil society in all dimensions of the EU-Armenia relations and expect that a respective consultative process will be initiated.

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