



EaP | Eastern
Partnership



The Comprehensive &
Enhanced Partnership Agreement
between the European Union
& Armenia (CEPA)

The new agreement provides a framework for **Armenia** and the **European Union** to work together for the benefit of the citizens of Armenia.



1. MORE JOBS

✓ **Better investment climate.** The Agreement will provide 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 will promote the development of clean, alternative sources of energy, contributing to green growth and new jobs in the green energy sector.



2. MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

✓ **Increased stability & predictability for businesses.** The relations between the EU and Armenia will be governed in line with EU and international standards, providing increased predictability and stability for businesses. The new 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 new 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 the Armenian companies will be able to provide services in the EU and vice versa.

✓ **Opening up of procurement markets.** Armenian businesses will be 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.



3. FAIRER RULES

✓ **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 will be able to rely on a strong intellectual property rights protection system in Armenia, just like they can in the European Union.

✓ **Upholding of competition principles.** Companies operating in Armenia will have to respect the same basic competition principles as in Europe, i.e. no abuse of a dominant position and no agreements between enterprises that restrict competition.

✓ **Independent competition authority.** The rights of Armenian and EU companies in the competition procedures will be respected and they will be able to confidently turn to operationally independent competition authorities to enforce competition laws.

✓ **More transparent public procurement.** The new rules will ensure more transparent conduct of the public procurement procedures.

✓ **Fairer conditions of employment.** The agreement will seek to improve labour standards for Armenian workers including employment contracts, occupational health, freedom of association and protection against discrimination at the workplace.



4. BETTER VALUE FOR MONEY

✓ **More efficient use of taxpayers' money.** The new Agreement outlines clearer rules on publication of tenders and review procedures, which prevents corruption and allows for non-discriminatory public procurement procedures. There will be new rules on public subsidies to ensure fairness and transparency.

✓ **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.

✓ **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 will be extended to companies of the other party, and cumbersome labelling requirements will be avoided. As a result, more companies will be able to offer their products in Armenian and the EU markets, ensuring competitive prices.



5. MORE SAFETY AND SECURITY

✓ **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.

✓ **Improved product safety and consumer protection.**

Armenia will seek to reduce differences with regard to EU standards to further protect the health and safety of consumers. The EU and Armenia will strengthen their cooperation to increase mutual understanding of their respective systems and improving access to their markets.

✓ **More cooperation on fighting crime.** The new Agreement provides for increased cooperation between the EU and Armenia in preventing and fighting criminal activities, including organised crime and terrorism.



6. A CLEANER 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 will cooperate to enhance a sustainable use of natural resources and the conservations of biodiversity.

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



7. BETTER EDUCATION AND MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH

✓ **Armenian Universities** will participate in joint research programmes with other European universities under the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme: Horizon 2020 (the total funding of the programme is nearly €80 billion available over 2014-2020). Armenian Universities will also participate in the EU4Innovation initiative, which is directly linked to the development of innovative SMEs.

✓ The EU will step up training and advice to **improve the quality of education** in Armenia.



8. STRENGTHENED DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

✓ Citizens can expect from the agreement that both Armenia and the EU pay increased attention to the cornerstones of democracy, including **free and fair elections**, to the right to **fair trial** and to 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.



