

PRESS RELEASE

29 May, 2016

Yerevan

“Corruption Risks in the Business Sector of Armenia: Recorded Problems and Upcoming Activities” Working Meeting

On 28-29 May, 2016 the Armenian Lawyers’ Association, in cooperation with the RA Ministry of Justice, the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia and the Freedom of Information Center, organised an anti-corruption working meeting entitled ***“Corruption Risks in the Business Sector of Armenia: Recorded Problems and Upcoming Activities”***. The working meeting was organised in the scope of the “Multi-Faceted Anti-Corruption Promotion” Project funded by the EU and co-funded by OSCE. To be more specific, the recent working meeting was funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan and co-funded by the “Arthurs Aghveran Resort” Hotel Complex.

“A year ago, business did not have any significant participation in the fight against corruption. We declared that it is very important that business understand its role and place. First of all, businesses can be involved in corrupt activities. After all, business organisations and business unions are beneficiaries in the fight against corruption, too. I do not intend to say that we have very good results, but I also don’t want to disregard the results that we have now. First of all, business became more active and started speaking up about the problems. We have also noticed recently that business associations are trying to raise, discuss and resolve issues related to corruption”, said RA Deputy Minister of Justice Mr. Suren Krmoyan.

“I do not want to talk about the harmfulness of corruption in our country and the mechanisms that should be introduced in order to reduce it. I should only say that application of proper systems and corporate governance, as well as suspension of financial flows caused by corruption, the so-called “money laundering”, are essential for the economy,” said Ms. Naira Gyulnazaryan, the Coordinator of Anti-Corruption Projects at the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

“We are all constantly gathering together and talking about the problems. This plays a very important role, raising the level of awareness of the public. Corruption is one of the main problems that hinder economic growth. Corruption is the enemy of business. It devours everything that is aimed at investments,” said Mr. Karen Azaryan, the Trade Officer at the EU Delegation to the Republic of Armenia.

“We already have very little time left for raising issues only. The demand of the time is to solve the raised issues. We see the will and a reflection of this will can also be seen in the fact that the government is participating in the event through very important representatives. This is of vital importance for us. Previously, when we invited government representatives they did not refuse to attend our events. However, they used to send representatives who were not key players in the sector, were not a part of the senior management and were unable to give solutions. The attitude has changed now”, said Mr. Karen Zadoyan, the President of the Armenian Lawyers’ Association (ALA), the Coordinator of the Secretariat of the CSO Anti-Corruption Coalition of Armenia.

“I attach importance to this anti-corruption event that brings together participants from the state, business and civil society”, said Ms. Siranuysh Kaytsakyan, the Director of the “Arthurs Aghveran Resort” Hotel Complex.

The welcoming speeches were followed by presentations on anti-corruption activities in the business sector and effective cooperation in the scope of these activities. On the second day of the working meeting thematic discussions were held where the working group format was applied. The participants were divided into three groups. They summarised and mapped out the problems existing in the fields of public procurement, customs and taxation, monopolies and free economic competition. The results were presented afterwards.

Summing up the working meeting, S. Krmoyan thanked the organisers and funding parties for yet another constructive and important event, adding that they are gradually trying to be persistent and thus give solutions to the existing problems.

Summing up the results of the working meeting, President of the Armenian Lawyers’ Association K. Zadoyan, said, “It’s good that we already have the problems in the field mapped out and that we can find constructive solutions in this direction”.

The project aims to increase the role of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in promoting anti-corruption reforms and their implementation. In the framework of the project the capacity of CSOs and the media to engage in monitoring and watchdog activities will be built. Anti-corruption training workshops will be organised throughout Armenia with the purpose of enabling CSOs and media organisations to better comprehend the issues related to anti-corruption and freedom of information. These activities aim at deepening the existing opportunities for carrying out anti-corruption activities. Small grants will be given for raising the effectiveness of public monitoring and implementation of appropriate monitoring, watchdog and investigative activities. A sustainable dialogue between CSOs and the Government will be developed with the participation of CSOs, to strengthen the anti-corruption institutional mechanisms.

The project is funded by the European Union and co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan. It is implemented by the “Armenian Lawyers’ Association” NGO – Applicant and “Freedom of Information Center” NGO – Partner. The project duration is 3 years (January 2014 – December 2016) and the budget is 650,000 EUR, of which 585,000 EUR was contributed by the EU and 31,117 EUR was contributed by the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

Armenian Lawyers’ Association (ALA) was established in 1995 with a Mission to promote to the establishment of the rule of law, democracy and formation of the civil society in Armenia, where the people are aware of their rights and where their rights are protected. Before February 2016, ALA was called Armenian Young Lawyers Association.

Freedom of Information Center (FOI) operates over 10 years. The Mission of FOI is to promote application of the RA Freedom of Information Law, contribute to the transparency and openness of the Armenian government system and to stimulate civic society’s involvement in the governance system.

For more information please contact: Mrs. Narine Karapetyan, PR Coordinator, on business days from 9:00 – 18:00. Tel.: 540199; Fax: 580299; URL: <http://www.armla.am>.



The Project is funded by the European Union.

Delegation of the European Union to Armenia
Tel.: +37410 54 64 94
Fax: +37410 54 64 95

The European Commission is the EU’s executive body.

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.



Եվրոպայում անվտանգության և համագործակցության կազմակերպություն
Երևանի գրասենյակ

The Project is co-funded by the OSCE Office in Yerevan.
Tel.: +374 10 229610
Fax: +374 10 229615

The OSCE Office in Yerevan has been operating since 1999, and its mission is to support Armenia in developing its democratic institutions and strengthening civil society, acting in the areas of legislative reform; combating corruption and trafficking; environmental activities; raising awareness for human rights; media freedom; gender equality, etc.



Armenian Lawyers’ Association
Address: 7 Nalbandyan Str., Suite 2, Yerevan, Armenia, 0010
Tel.: +37410 54 01 99
Fax: +37410 58 02 99



Freedom of Information Center
Address: 1/3 Buzand Str., Yerevan 0010, Armenia
Tel.: +37410 56 03 60
Fax.: +37410 56 03 60