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JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Partnership Implementation Report on Armenia

1. Introduction and summary

This report outlines key developments and Armenia's efforts to carry out reforms in line with the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) since the publication of the previous report on 9 February 2024, and in advance of the sixth meeting of the EU-Armenia Partnership Council on 2 December 2025. It focuses on priority areas under the CEPA, as well as those identified in both the multiannual indicative programme for 2021-2027 and the resilience and Growth Plan.

The **regional context** of EU-Armenia relations fundamentally changed after Armenia and Azerbaijan initialled the Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Interstate Relations and signed a joint declaration in Washington on 8 August 2025. These developments marked a historic step towards lasting peace and stability in the region and have brought the prospect of reopening borders closer. Although there are still significant challenges, and the peace treaty has yet to be signed, if sustained, these developments could result in major security and economic benefits for the region and the EU. The Armenian authorities demonstrated their commitment to advancing towards full normalisation of relations with Azerbaijan, as well as with Türkiye.

Armenia has made **progress in its reform process** and in implementing commitments undertaken under the CEPA. It has made progress in strengthening its resilience and in consolidating democracy and the rule of law. At the same time, society remained polarised and the government's domestic and foreign policies were strongly contested by the opposition and in street protests. Tensions were further heightened following the thwarting of an alleged coup attempt in June 2025. However, the domestic situation in Armenia remained stable and democratic institutions operated normally.

Economic diversification and energy security continued to be significant challenges. Armenia also faced increasing levels of **hybrid threats** aimed at undermining its democratic reform process and foreign policy choices.

Cooperation between the **EU and Armenia** has further deepened over the past two years. Following the fifth EU-Armenia Partnership Council meeting in Brussels on 13 February 2024, the EU launched its Resilience and Growth Plan for Armenia at an EU-US-Armenia high-level event in Brussels in April 2024. The EU and Armenia finalised negotiations for an ambitious Strategic Agenda for the EU-Armenia Partnership, launched a visa liberalisation dialogue, signed a framework participation agreement for Armenia's participation in EU crisis management operations and launched the EU-Armenia security and defence consultations. The EU adopted its first assistance measure for the Armenian armed forces under the European Peace Facility and maintained a stabilising presence on the ground with the EU Mission in Armenia. Both sides also stepped up cooperation on regional connectivity, in line with the EU's cross-regional connectivity agenda and Armenia's Crossroads of Peace initiative.

Bilateral contacts intensified, with several high-level visits by Armenia to Brussels, including a joint meeting between the Armenian Prime Minister and the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission in July 2025. The EU High Representative/Vice President visited Armenia in June 2025 for the first such visit in eight years. The Commissioner for Enlargement visited the country in September 2025. The sixth meeting of the EU-Armenia Partnership Committee took place in Brussels in July 2025, following the fifth meeting in Yerevan in June 2024.

2. Foreign and security policy

Armenia remains committed to consolidating peace and achieving full normalisation of relations with Azerbaijan. In a historic turning point for Armenia and the region, the two parties initialled the **Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and Interstate Relations** in Washington, DC on 8 August 2025. The parties also signed a joint declaration, which emphasised the need to continue efforts towards the signing and final ratification of the agreement and stipulated the parties' intention to create a **strategic transit link** through southern Armenia, connecting Azerbaijan with its Nakhchivan exclave. The parties also agreed to an appeal for the **dissolution of the OSCE Minsk Group**, which was enacted by the OSCE on 1 September 2025. The process of **border delimitation and demarcation** continued, albeit at a slow pace.

Armenia's cooperation with the EU in the field of foreign and security policy has continued to significantly broaden and deepen. Its **alignment rate** with the EU's common foreign and security policy continued to increase, rising to 37% in 2025 (as of October), up from 33% in 2024, 21% in 2023 and 7% in 2022.

The **EU Mission in Armenia** continued to contribute to peace, stability and human security in the areas along the border with Azerbaijan. The civilian mission is tasked with observing and reporting on the situation on the ground, contributing to human security in conflict-affected areas and supporting confidence building between Armenia and Azerbaijan where possible. Its mandate runs until February 2027.

The **framework participation agreement** allowing for Armenia's participation in EU crisis management operations was signed in June 2025, during the EU High Representative/Vice-President's visit to Armenia. On the same occasion, the HRVP and Armenia's Foreign Minister launched the **first security and defence consultations** between the EU and Armenia. The two sides discussed regional security, new initiatives in the area of defence, ongoing security cooperation, and ways forward on new areas of cooperation, with a particular focus on hybrid threats, disinformation, foreign information manipulation and interference, and cyber security.

In July 2024, the EU adopted its first **European Peace Facility** assistance measure for Armenia, consisting of a battalion-sized mobile field camp for the Armenian armed forces worth EUR 10 million. The measure aims to improve the armed forces' logistical capacities, and to help improve protection of civilians in crises and emergencies. It also aims to increase Armenia's resilience and press forward on the interoperability of its armed forces with international partners. This measure is currently being implemented.

The authorities are working towards **reforming Armenia's security sector**. The overall vision is to adopt a security approach that relies on 'all of society', rather than merely on the military. To this end, the Security Council continued work on a comprehensive security and defence strategy and an associated action plan. The EU will provide expert assistance to develop the action plan through the Security Sector Governance Facility. As part of the revamped security approach, the Ministry of Defence has been working to implement the **new concept for the transformation of the army**, published in November 2024, focusing on alignment with EU and NATO standards and diversifying equipment, among other things. In line with the concept, mandatory military service was reduced from 24 to 18 months. **Hybrid threats**, including cyberattacks and foreign information manipulation and interference, are still significant challenges and are expected to intensify in the run-up to the June 2026 general elections.

Armenian border guards assumed full responsibility for border controls at Yerevan airport in August 2024 and at the border crossing point with Iran in January 2025, replacing Russian FSB border guards. Since January 2025, Armenian border guards have also been patrolling Armenia's green borders with Türkiye and Iran, alongside Russian FSB border guards. These new responsibilities – and the prospect of gradually assuming additional responsibilities at the borders with Iran, Türkiye and Azerbaijan – require the border guards, who operate under the National Security Service, to significantly increase their capacities and resources. Armenia has started work on an integrated border management strategy, also drawing on EU assistance.

Regarding **Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**, Armenia has continued to take a cautious stance. It has continued to nurture a closer relationship with Kyiv and has provided humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The risk of **circumvention of EU sanctions** via Armenia remains an issue of concern.

Georgia remains a strategically important partner for Armenia, including in terms of connectivity. While Georgia's democratic backsliding and its repercussions on EU-Georgia relations have been followed closely in Yerevan, the two countries have continued to maintain close relations, based on a strategic partnership memorandum signed in January 2024.

Armenia remains committed to the normalisation process with **Türkiye**. Contacts between the two sides have continued, including at the highest level, with a first official visit by Armenia's Prime Minister to Türkiye in June 2025. While only limited substantial progress was made during the reporting period, the new momentum in the Armenia-Azerbaijan normalisation process has had a positive impact on the Armenia-Türkiye normalisation process.

Armenia and the **United States** signed a strategic partnership in January 2025 and, on 8 August 2025, three **memorandums of understanding** aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation on infrastructure, technology (AI and semiconductors) and energy.

Armenia signed a strategic partnership agreement with **China** in August 2025 and submitted an application for membership to the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**. It continued to maintain friendly relations with **India** as well as with **Iran**, announcing its intention to upgrade relations with Teheran to a strategic partnership. Armenia and **Pakistan** issued a joint communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations in August 2025.

3. Strengthening institutions and good governance

3.1. Good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights

In June 2025, the authorities arrested several businesspeople and clerics of the Armenian Apostolic Church for **allegedly attempting a coup** to overthrow the government. Moreover, in 2024 and 2025, a **series of protests** took place, partly organised by clerics, in opposition to the government's policy of pursuing normalisation with Azerbaijan. Following the alleged coup attempt, the government and parliament initiated steps to nationalise the national electricity distribution company Electric Networks of Armenia, owned by a businessperson allegedly involved in the coup attempt.

These developments further strained relations between the government and the church and heightened **tensions and polarisation in society**. The opposition and parts of civil society voiced concern over the allegedly disproportionate nature of the authorities' response, including the alleged instrumentalisation of the criminal justice system and the widespread use of pre-

trial detention. Despite these societal divisions, the domestic situation in Armenia remained stable and the democratic institutions operated normally.

Armenia has made progress in governance, democracy, the rule of law and human rights, supported by targeted EU assistance. The **civic space for civil society** remains relatively enabling, although it has deteriorated compared to the period 2018-2020. Strategic lawsuits against public participation (**SLAPPs**) have become a growing issue in Armenia, targeting journalists, environmental activists and human rights defenders. Armenia made progress in **electoral reform**, although further steps are needed to strengthen the independence, professionalism and inclusivity of the electoral administration.

Armenia progressed in **preventing domestic violence**, thanks to legislative reform in July 2024. The amendments removed references to ‘family harmony’, expanded the types of acts qualified as domestic violence, and recognised children who witness violence as victims. Stricter penalties for perpetrators were introduced, stalking was criminalised and provisions for police reconciliation removed. In December 2024, the Minister of Internal Affairs issued an order on compliance with urgent interventions and protective orders. Armenia has not yet ratified the Istanbul Convention.

Progress on **anti-discrimination** has been limited. The authorities have been working on an anti-discrimination law and a law on national minorities, but the proposals are yet to be adopted by the government. Discrimination and hate speech against LGBTIQ+ persons are still a concern, with civil society organisations documenting numerous cases of rights violations. Armenia made legislative advancements in combating hate speech, including through amendments to the Criminal Code. In October 2024, the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions reaccredited the **Human Rights Defender** of Armenia with A-status for its compliance with the UN Paris Principles. **Non-combat deaths in the armed forces** still persist.

In the field of **local governance**, Armenia made limited progress in implementing its action plan for 2021-2026 setting decentralisation as a policy direction, with further efforts needed to ensure full implementation. The draft concept of decentralisation, submitted by the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure to the government in November 2023, has not yet been finalised.

The socio-economic integration of the more than 100 000 displaced **Karabakh Armenians** continued to pose a significant challenge, despite substantial efforts by the authorities. Government programmes included cash assistance, grants for rent and utilities, support for the purchase of accommodation, as well as free access to education, healthcare, and social services. The rent and utilities programme provided universal coverage until June 2025, after which it was replaced by targeted assistance. More than 16 000 displaced children have been enrolled in Armenian schools. The EU has provided EUR 78 million in assistance to support the displaced Karabakh Armenian population since 2023.

The 13th **EU-Armenia Human Rights Dialogue**, held on 17 February 2025 in Yerevan, focused on advancing human rights, and addressed issues like gender equality, non-discrimination, electoral reform, refugee rights and labour rights.

3.2 Justice, freedom, and security

Armenia and the EU signed an international agreement in April 2024 to improve collaboration between Armenia's judicial authorities in criminal matters and the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (**Eurojust**). This partnership allows Armenia to second a liaison prosecutor to Eurojust, facilitating the exchange of information and coordination in combating serious cross-border crimes. The agreement has entered into force, but is not yet applicable, pending progress on Armenia's data protection framework.

Armenia continued reforms to improve the integrity, accountability and efficiency of the **justice system**. Reforms included introducing digital processing of civil cases, an e-administrative justice system, appeal mechanisms in judicial disciplinary proceedings, a performance evaluation system for judges and integrity checks for all sitting judges, prosecutors and investigators. Remaining challenges include the backlog of cases; effective implementation of integrity checks; prosecutorial self-governance and autonomy; ensuring objective, transparent and merit-based decision-making in selection procedures and disciplinary procedures for the prosecution service; and financial and human resources management. Incoming administrative cases rose by 215.7% in 2024 compared to 2022 and by 160% compared to 2023. By contrast, the civil caseload eased following the transfer of jurisdiction over small monetary claims (up to AMD 2 million) from courts to notaries.

The country made progress in establishing a comprehensive institutional architecture to **prevent and prosecute corruption**. This framework now includes the Corruption Prevention Commission, the Anti-Corruption Committee, the Anti-Corruption Court, as well as mechanisms for non-conviction-based asset forfeiture – together representing a significant advancement in institutional capacity and legal infrastructure. Ongoing challenges include effective implementation, strategic prioritisation, corruption-risk based assessments, and the institutionalisation of asset recovery management.

In terms of **data protection**, an expert gap analysis carried out in October 2024 revealed the need for thorough amendments to the data protection law and for adjustments to the institutional set-up in line with European standards.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs continued to advance strategic reforms to establish a four-pillar **police service**, focusing on structural efficiency, operational effectiveness and professional capacity. A police reform strategy and action plan for 2024-2026 was adopted in November 2024. The Criminal Police and Community Police were launched in November 2024, joining the already operational Patrol Service, while the Police Guard was expected to become operational in November 2025. A unified Educational Complex under the Ministry of Internal Affairs was established in December 2024, and an Operations Management Centre in April 2025. A new regulation on oversight in police units entered into force in January 2025, to ensure independent monitoring of police detention facilities and safeguarding the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.

Public trust in police has improved, according to an OSCE-commissioned public survey on Perceptions of the Police and Police Reforms in Armenia, but concerns remain over reports of police misconduct, disproportionate use of force during protests, and low police officer competency. According to the 2024 report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, most persons interviewed who were, or had recently been, in police custody reported being treated correctly. Some allegations of physical ill-treatment were recorded, primarily

concerning the excessive use of force during apprehension and physical abuse during initial questioning or while held in police custody.

The implementing instruments for the Agreement on Strategic Cooperation between Armenia and **Europol**, concluded in September 2021, entered into force in May 2024. Europol installed the necessary SIENA equipment in Armenia for secured communications. The deployment of an Armenian liaison officer to The Hague is now expected from the Armenian authorities.

The 14th EU-Armenia **Justice, Freedom and Security Subcommittee** meeting on 18 February 2025 focused on Armenia's judicial reforms, emphasising efficiency, transparency and independence in alignment with EU standards. Discussions included strengthening cooperation on organised crime, financial investigations, cybersecurity and data protection.

4. Economic development and market opportunities

4.1 Economic development

Armenia's **gross domestic product** (GDP) grew by 5.9% in 2024 and by about 5.6% year-on-year in the first half of 2025. The increase was driven by strong household consumption and investment activity supported by high consumer and business confidence amid a buoyant credit growth, moderate inflation and a stable currency. On the supply side, construction and services fuelled Armenia's economic expansion in the reporting period. The IT and financial sectors recorded a particularly strong expansion.

Inflation accelerated to 3.7% in September 2025 from 1.5% at end-2024 but remained within the target of the central bank. Price growth reflected strong domestic demand but also higher import prices, including of food. The Central Bank of Armenia suspended its easing cycle in early 2025 and has kept the **refinancing rate** at 6.75% since February. The **banking system** remained well-capitalised, highly liquid and profitable. Despite the strong growth in credit activity, in particular of mortgage lending, the level of non-performing loans remained very low, supported by the elevated economic activity and prudent supervision.

In 2024, the **consolidated budget deficit increased** to 3.5% of GDP in 2024 from 1.9% a year earlier. This was due to a rise in expenditures associated with social support granted to tens of thousands of displaced Karabakh Armenians as well as high capital spending, including on defence. The same factors led to a budget deficit in the first half of 2025 as well. At the same time, revenues recorded a strong increase in the first six months of the year on the back of high tax proceeds in line with the robust economic growth but also further improvements in tax administration. As of August 2025, Armenia's **public debt** amounted to USD 14.1 billion, or 50.5% of GDP. The coverage of public external debt by international reserves dropped to 56.8% at the end of August.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows declined sharply in 2024 to only 0.5% of GDP. While they increased slightly in the first six months of 2025, FDI inflows remain at very low levels historically.

Armenia underwent a peer review of its **national statistical system** in June 2025, carried out jointly by Eurostat, EFTA and UNECE. The objective of the peer review was to assess the alignment of the Armenian statistical system with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, such as professional independence, reliability, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and accessibility. ARMSTAT is expected to develop an improvement action plan

based on the recommendations from the peer review to further enhance the quality, coordination and accessibility of official statistics.

4.2. Trade and trade-related matters

Following a significant increase in **foreign trade** in goods in 2024, in the period January to July 2025, total foreign trade turnover fell by 42% year-on-year, with exports falling by 49.6% and imports by 35.8%. This reflects the dwindling re-export trade in precious and semi-precious stones, which accounted for nearly the entire overall drop in trade. However, this re-export activity brought little benefit to Armenia's economy, as no value was added domestically. From January to August 2025, Armenia's foreign trade turnover in goods reached USD 12.94 billion, with exports standing at USD 5 billion and imports at USD 7.94 billion. The trade balance remained negative at USD 2.94 billion over the period.

The **EU** remained Armenia's third biggest trading partner, with mutual trade growing modestly in value terms from January to August 2025. Armenian imports from the EU amounted to EUR 1.2 billion, while exports to the EU stood at EUR 0.33 billion, resulting in a sizeable deficit of EUR 0.9 billion. In 2024 the EU accounted for 4.7% of Armenia's total exports and 9.7% of its total imports, representing 7.5% of Armenia's total trade turnover. In 2024, Armenian imports from the EU amounted to EUR 2 billion, while exports to the EU stood at EUR 0.4 billion.

Russia remained Armenia's largest trading partner. From January to August 2025, exports to Russia amounted to USD 1.85 billion and imports from Russia to USD 2.76 billion, resulting in a bilateral deficit of USD 0.8 billion. Russia's share in total turnover was 34.8% in this period. This represented a sharp drop compared to 2024, mainly due to a decrease in re-exports.

The EU continued to monitor trade flows of sensitive battlefield items and to assess possible surges in the exports of these goods from the EU to Armenia and from Armenia to Russia to ensure that Armenia is not used as a platform for **circumvention of EU sanctions**. The EU has welcomed the actions taken by Armenia to stop the re-export of battlefield goods to Russia. Continued vigilance by the Armenian authorities remains crucial.

The **United Arab Emirates** remained Armenia's second largest trading partner as an important destination for the re-export of gold and diamonds. In the period January to August 2025, Armenia exported USD 1.26 billion's worth of goods and imported USD 0.25 billion, resulting in a significant surplus. **China** was the fourth largest trading partner, with USD 0.88 billion in imports into Armenia from January to August 2025 and USD 0.43 billion in exports to China.

In July 2025, the government adopted a **strategic programme for export promotion** for 2025-2030, a comprehensive effort to create a sustainable export structure focused on high value-added goods, technological innovation and enhanced global competitiveness. The initiative aims to address Armenia's longstanding structural challenge of concentrated export markets and reliance on temporary external drivers, and to foster stable and predictable conditions for Armenian exporters.

In June 2025, the seventh meeting of the EU-Armenia **Partnership Committee in Trade Configuration** outlined strategies to advance Armenia's trade diversification, with an emphasis on creating a transparent business environment and aligning with international standards. Discussions included deepening mutual trade relations, with Armenia seeking EU authorisation to export dairy and meat products. The sixth meeting had taken place in October 2024.

The sixth meeting of the EU-Armenia **Subcommittee on Geographic Indications** was held in June 2025 to discuss policy and legislative developments, updates to the geographical indications protected in both parties' jurisdictions, and implementation issues. This followed on from the fifth meeting in October 2024. The fifth meeting of the EU-Armenia **Subcommittee on Customs Cooperation** convened in May 2025, addressing legislative developments in the EU and Armenia, customs reform, e-commerce legislation updates, and plans for a customs logistics centre in Syunik. The fourth meeting of the EU-Armenia **Subcommittee on Economic Cooperation and Related Sectors** took place in November 2024, focusing on cooperation in financial regulation and public finance management.

5. Mobility and people-to-people

Following endorsement by the EU Council in July 2024, the European Commission and Armenia launched the **visa liberalisation dialogue** in September 2024. The dialogue aims to establish a visa-free regime for Armenian citizens travelling to the EU for short stays, contingent on Armenia meeting strict benchmarks, building on the satisfactory implementation of the 2014 Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements. Key reform areas include document security, integrated border management, migration management, public order and security, anti-corruption, judicial cooperation, data protection and protection of fundamental rights. The dialogue progressed well, and several EU technical and senior officials visited Armenia. Building on this progress, the Council in October 2025 endorsed the Commission's visa liberalisation action plan for Armenia, setting out the key benchmarks to be met by Armenia ahead of establishing visa-free travel. It was handed over to the Armenian authorities on 5 November 2025.

The eighth EU-Armenia **Joint Visa Facilitation Committee** took place in Brussels in October 2025 to discuss the state of play of implementation of the Visa Facilitation Agreement. Schengen statistical data confirmed again that Armenian applicants are largely benefiting from the facilitations provided by the agreement. The number of visas issued in Armenia, and the percentage of those entitled to multiple-entry visas, increased: by the end of August 2025, 76 300 visas had been issued by Member States in Yerevan since the beginning of the year, 44% of which were multiple-entry visas.

The 10th EU-Armenia **Joint Readmission Committee** meeting in October 2025 affirmed the very good cooperation on readmission between Armenia and the EU. The two sides discussed practical points pertaining in particular to cooperation on identification procedures and issuance of travel documents, including digitalisation.

The framework for cooperation between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (**Frontex**) and the National Security Service of Armenia continued to be provided by a working arrangement signed in 2012. Following authorisation by the Frontex Management Board in 2024, negotiations on a new working arrangement began in August 2025.

Armenia adopted a law on youth policy in March 2025, establishing a legal framework for **youth policies** and aimed at boosting youth engagement in public life, education and culture. Armenia continued to actively participate in the EU4Youth programme. A **Youth Advisory Council** attached to the EU Delegation was established in March 2025. The initiative aims to provide a structured mechanism for young Armenians to actively contribute to relevant EU-Armenia programmes in areas such as young entrepreneurship, education, democracy, and young people from vulnerable groups.

Armenia continued to cooperate with the EU in the area of research and innovation, notably through the **Horizon Europe** programme, with which Armenia has been associated since 2021. Armenia's association with Horizon Europe continued to contribute to reforms in Armenia's national research and innovation ecosystem and had a positive impact on people-to-people contacts, in particular the mobility of researchers. It also continued to participate in the culture strand of **Creative Europe** and EU4Culture.

Armenia further continued its active participation in the international dimension of the **Erasmus+** programme. Under the International Credit Mobility action, the programme has funded more than 2 500 placements for students and staff from Armenia to the EU and countries associated to Erasmus+ in the 2022-2024 period, while more than 1 100 students and staff from the EU and countries associated to Erasmus+ have been funded to go to Armenia to study or teach. Armenia continued its strong participation in the programme's expertise-building actions.

The 10th and 11th meetings of the EU-Armenia **Subcommittee on 'People-to-People' Cooperation**, held on 23 September 2024 and 14 October 2025, respectively, covered a broad range of topics including public health, research and innovation, digitalisation, education, youth, culture and social affairs. The third EU-Armenia **Joint Research and Innovation Committee** took place in November 2024.

6. Connectivity, nuclear safety, energy efficiency, environment, climate action and civil protection

Regional connectivity remained a priority for Armenia, including as part of the government's Crossroads of Peace initiative. It is likewise at the centre of the EU Strategic Approach to the Black Sea adopted in May 2025, which aims to develop transport, energy, digital and trade links between Europe and Central Asia.

In the field of **transport connectivity**, the modernisation of the Meghri border crossing point advanced over the reporting period. The review of the design of the Gyumri bypass is expected to be completed by the end of 2025, and negotiations on this important project should start next year. The Sisian-Kajaran road continued to be developed as part of the Trans-European Transport Network.

Armenia is preparing a **road safety** strategy to address its high road accident fatality rate, which significantly exceeds the average among Eastern Partnership countries. The government aims to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries on Armenian roads by at least 50% by 2030 as part of the commitments under the UN General Assembly Resolution 74/299 on improving global road safety. At a regional level, the regional Road Safety Observatory in Tbilisi is now operational.

All air companies registered in Armenia remained on the EU's Air Safety List due to **aviation safety** oversight issues. The authorities, with technical support from the EU, continued to address the outstanding issues. An on-site EU expert visit to evaluate the progress made took place in September 2025. Its results will be presented at the next EU Air Safety Committee meeting.

Nuclear safety remained a crucial priority for the EU. The EU continued to support Armenia in this area, particularly on the timely implementation of the remaining stress test

recommendations to improve safety while the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant is still in operation. Armenia submitted an updated national action plan, and a European expert team will assess progress in November 2025.

On **climate**, Armenia has committed itself to limiting greenhouse gas emissions (-40% by 2030 compared to 1990) and prioritisation of adaptation measures. The country's long-term low-emission development strategy aims at limiting emissions to 2.07t CO₂eq/capita/year by 2050. Armenia's new Nationally Determined Contribution to 2035 under the **Paris Agreement** is expected to be published shortly. Armenia undertook to gradually approximate its legislation to certain selected provisions of the Emissions Trading System Directive (2003/87/EC), notably on the monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions at installation level, ozone-depleting substances (Regulation (EC) 1005/2009) and fluorinated gases (Regulation (EU) 517/2014). Armenia ratified the Kigali Amendment to the **Montreal Protocol** in 2019 and amended accordingly its law on ozone-depleting substances, introducing a licensing system for hydrofluorocarbons. Quantitative limitations for hydrofluorocarbons imports came into effect in January 2024. The government adopted a draft climate law in August 2025, which still needs to be adopted by parliament.

In the framework of Armenia's national action programme for adaptation to climate change and the list of measures for 2021-2025, sectoral adaptation plans were developed, the water sector plan was approved in 2022, and the drafts for agriculture, energy, health and tourism have been or are being incorporated into wider sectoral strategies. A legal and regulatory framework for **energy efficiency** in Armenia was put in place with the support of the EU and international financial institutions.

Armenia made progress to comply with the reporting obligations under the **Basel and Stockholm Conventions** and the **Convention on Biological Diversity and Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**. However, an update of the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention was still outstanding. Armenia has also not yet actively engaged in the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**. Armenia's national biodiversity strategy and plan was adopted by the government but not yet approved by parliament. The government has stated its intention to ratify the **Nagoya Protocol** and work on conservation obligations (laws and protocols) to increase protected areas by 18%, to develop initiatives for the conservation of species (leopards) and to promote reproductive processes (deer). Armenia will host the next UN Biodiversity Conference in October 2026 (**COP17**).

Armenia continued to improve its **civil protection system** with EU support. The government prioritised implementing the national disaster risk management strategy, focusing on building expertise and integrating international best practices. The authorities launched community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives in vulnerable regions and modernised early warning systems. Armenia also adopted a law on disaster risk management and population protection in April 2025, which will enter into force in 2027.

The eighth meeting of the EU-Armenia **Subcommittee on Energy, Transport, Environment, Climate Action and Civil Protection** took place in October 2024. The second Joint Committee meeting under the **Common Aviation Area Agreement** was held in December 2024.

7. EU technical and financial assistance

The EU remains Armenia's **largest aid donor** and **most significant reform partner**, with cooperation guided by the CEPA, the EU-Armenia Partnership Priorities, and the Multiannual Indicative Programming (MIP) for 2021-2027. This framework is consolidated by the Eastern Partnership's recovery, resilience and reform agenda, alongside its economic and investment plan. In 2024, EUR 67.5 million was allocated to bilateral cooperation, complemented by regional programmes. Key developments included negotiations for the new Strategic Agenda and the launch of the Resilience and Growth Plan, committing EUR 270 million in bilateral grants from 2024 to 2027.

CEPA remains central to EU-Armenia relations, driving reforms in economic growth, governance, justice, education and infrastructure. Since it was signed, CEPA has supported tangible progress, with further milestones in 2024 and 2025. Under the EUR 270 million **Resilience and Growth Plan**, the EU complemented the EUR 600 million already disbursed under the economic and investment plan. Major investments included EUR 70 million from the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Commission for small- and medium-sized enterprises, and EUR 20 million in financial assistance from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The EIB also issued its first direct loans to Armenian banks, expanding access to credit.

Transport and connectivity were priorities. The EU is providing a guarantee for EIB loans for the Sisian-Kajaran section of the North-South Road Corridor. Energy cooperation included the Caucasus Transmission Network (an additional grant of EUR 15 million was agreed), boosting Armenia's energy security and renewable transition. The EU also supported Armenia's 'Crossroads of Peace' initiative, aimed at opening all borders.

Nuclear safety was strengthened further in 2024 and 2025 through EU technical assistance and equipment supply, including through an additional allocation of EUR 17.9 million under the European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation.

Education reform advanced in 2024 through a EUR 29.3 million budget support programme (2023-2026) focused on secondary education, STEM infrastructure, school management, and professional orientation. So far, implementation has progressed with disbursement of 100% (EUR 18 million). The review of the 2025 performance is expected in November 2025, and preliminary assessment shows that the rate will be slightly below 100%. Higher and vocational education benefited from Erasmus+, while a financing agreement aligned reforms with CEPA and European standards.

Social protection reforms advanced significantly in 2024, supported by a EUR 6.5 million project to build a resilient social protection system in Armenia. Key milestones included the adoption of the law on social assistance and the revision of the law on state benefits, introducing a more inclusive, efficient and shock-responsive framework for supporting vulnerable families. The government also approved a new vulnerability assessment system piloted in Kotayk and Syunik, paving the way for a nationwide rollout in 2026. The EU further supported the professionalisation of the social service workforce, the digital transformation of social protection programmes, the introduction of results-based active labour market programmes targeting disadvantaged groups, and the piloting of community-based social services in the Syunik region.

Justice and anti-corruption reforms were supported by a EUR 11 million programme (2023-2025) and complementary assistance. Achievements included integrity checks on 222 judges, the appointment of 52 judges through new selection procedures, and adjudication of 367 cases by the Anti-Corruption Court. The Prosecutor General's Office pursued over 180 cases on confiscation of illicit property. A TAIEX peer review in October 2024 assessed judicial and prosecutorial careers, recommending further reforms. Technical assistance strengthened the Ministry of Justice, Supreme Judicial Council and Corruption Prevention Commission.

Cultural engagement deepened with the drafting of an EU-Armenia roadmap for cultural relations, aligned with the national strategy on culture. Developed with EU Member States, Armenian authorities, civil society and stakeholders, it aims to strengthen cultural reform and capacities, with a sectoral dialogue planned in 2025.

The EU has provided EUR 78 million in crisis support since 2023: EUR 21 million in **humanitarian aid**; EUR 40 million in **budget support for refugee needs**; EUR 9 million for civil society-led initiatives; and a EUR 8 million contribution to the EBRD's Refugee Response Window in Armenia programme. Assistance targeted socio-economic integration, housing and entrepreneurship, with a special focus on refugee women.

Economic diversification remained a priority under the resilience and growth plan. Support included rebranding Armenian brandy to boost exports, alongside initiatives in wine, textiles and agro-food. SME finance was expanded, particularly for women and rural entrepreneurs. A blending contract with the EBRD financed the Yerevan Customs Terminal, reducing congestion and improving export capacity. The EU also promoted capital market development through debt financing for large enterprises.

Public administration reform progressed with the OECD/SIGMA assessment launched in December 2024, covering financial management, service delivery and human resources, to conclude in 2025 with recommendations. Disability reforms included a EUR 6.5 million project piloting a vulnerability assessment system in Kotayk and Syunik, with national rollout in 2026. Police reforms advanced with EU support for the new Ministry of Internal Affairs and the launch of Criminal and Community Police Services. Training merged police and crisis management education into a unified framework.

Local empowerment projects progressed, with LEADER methodology pilots set up in three northern regions. The Mayors for Economic Growth facility phase III continued to support municipal-level planning and innovation. The Kapan TUMO centre was officially opened, promoting skills development through extracurricular education. Support to non-formal/extracurricular education included the establishment of two COAF SMART centres co-funded by the EU, with construction expected to start in early 2026. The Team Europe initiative 'Resilient Syunik' will have supported over 40 projects worth EUR 120 million by the end of 2025, addressing socio-economic challenges in the southern region of Syunik. Adding currently planned investments, the Team Europe initiative is expected to harness more than EUR 200 million by 2027, strengthening Syunik's resilience.

Civil society engagement remained central. Close coordination between government, civil society and local authorities has been crucial to advance reforms and deliver services for the benefit of citizens. Contracts worth EUR 3.9 million to be signed by the EU by the end of 2025 will focus on supporting media transparency and accountability, as well as building expertise within non-governmental organisations. Following the withdrawal of US funding, the EU launched direct support for independent media to ensure they can continue to operate. CEPA

implementation advanced through a priority approximation exercise targeting compliance with 255 EU legal instruments by 2026 in sectors such as energy, environment and consumer protection. Monitoring and advisory mechanisms were launched, with the first Annual CEPA Monitoring Report due in 2025.

8. Concluding remarks and outlook for the future

Over the reporting period, EU-Armenia relations continued to deepen rapidly. The EU continued to be Armenia's key reform partner, largest donor and close partner in pursuing regional peace and enhancing regional connectivity. Once adopted, the Strategic Agenda for the EU-Armenia Partnership will provide an important blueprint for EU-Armenia cooperation, the domestic reform process, and the full implementation of the CEPA in all its dimensions.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have made important steps towards lasting peace and full normalisation of relations, contributing to stability in the region and laying the groundwork for shared prosperity. The EU will continue to strongly support this process and to step up support to regional and trans-regional connectivity.

Armenia continues to face challenges to its security and democratic reform process, including hybrid threats and external dependencies. Some of these are likely to increase in the run-up to the June 2026 general elections.

Despite these challenges, Armenia continued its reform process over the reporting period, including in the areas of justice, fighting corruption, police, education and social protection. Armenia should continue to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law and continue to pursue – and where needed speed up – its reform agenda.