

Europe renewable energy armenia

I am very glad to host this meeting together with the HR/VP Josep Borrell here in the Berlaymont in support of Armenia. We are delivering on a promise we made last October: The promise to stand shoulder to shoulder with Armenia, and at the same time, the promise to set a vision for the future of our partnership. This is what we are going to be discussing today.

We are not forgetting, Prime Minister, about the plight of the displaced Karabakh Armenians. The humanitarian situation of refugees in Armenia remains a priority. We have provided over EUR 30 million in support for the refugees since last September. We are ready to do more to support the long-term integration of refugees.

To conclude, I want to say how happy I am to receive both of you here in the Berlaymont. Because Europe and Armenia share a long and common history. The time has come to write now a new chapter. And I am very glad, Secretary Blinken, to count on the United States as a committed and like-minded partner in these efforts. We will continue to work all together for the future of Armenia, in a stable and prosperous South Caucasus region.

The EU's relations with Armenia are based on the EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which was signed on November 24, 2017 and entered into force on March 31, 2021.

The European Union and Armenia have committed themselves to work together for the benefit of the citizens of Armenia and the European Union, to contribute to the strengthening of democracy and of political, economic and institutional stability. Both sides are committed to promote, preserve and strengthen peace and stability at regional and international level and to enhance cooperation in the area of freedom, security and justice thus reinforcing the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) has replaced the EU-Armenia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (1999), and provides a solid basis to further enhance the reform agenda in areas of mutual interest. Armenia and the EU continue their political and trade dialogue in areas where it is compatible with Armenia's new obligations to the Eurasian Economic Union.

The Partnership Council, which consists of representatives of the EU and Armenia at a ministerial level, governs the CEPA, meets at regular intervals, at least once a year, supervises and regularly reviews the CEPA implementation.

The Partnership Committee assists the Partnership Council in the performance of its duties and functions. Sub-committees and other bodies assist and regularly report on their activities to the Partnership Committee.

Civil Society Platform is a forum to meet and exchange views consisting of representatives of civil society, including members of the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Armenian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership. The Civil Society Platform may make recommendations to the Partnership Council, the Partnership Committee and Parliamentary Partnership Committee.

The EU is the largest development cooperation donor in Armenia. It has provided assistance to Armenia since the country gained independence. The EU will increase its financial assistance to ensure the effective implementation of the CEPA. The effective amount of the EU assistance to Armenia for the period 2017-2020 is over EUR 211 million.

Taking into account Armenia's economic growth record, in 2020, the World Bank classified it as Upper Middle Income Country for the third year in a row. Therefore, following a one-year transition period, Armenia will stop benefiting from the GSP and its special incentive arrangement for sustainable development and good governance (GSP+). This effectively means that Armenia will no longer benefit from the EU's preferential import tariffs as from January 2022; these will be replaced by the most favoured nation (MFN) duties as foreseen under the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The EU collaborated closely with Armenia and other partners to prepare and complete the Indicative Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) Investment Action Plan. The completion of the extended TEN-T core network by 2030 is expected to foster connectivity and development in the entire Eastern Partnership region and improving access to economic opportunities for citizens and businesses, as well as provide for increased road safety.

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