

Advocacy paper

Advancing Anti-Corruption Reforms in Armenia under CEPA

This advocacy document highlights key findings from civil society monitoring of Armenia’s implementation of anti-corruption reforms under the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA). Carried out as part of the EU-funded project “Support to CEPA Monitoring, Implementation, and Communication,” the monitoring assessed progress on CEPA Articles 4 and 12, focusing on 2023–2026 Anti-Corruption Strategy. Despite moderate progress, major gaps remain in enforcement mechanisms, institutional capacity, and addressing high-risk sectors.

Priority Recommendations

- **Align the CEPA roadmap with Anti-Corruption Strategy’s objectives** to create a unified framework to track the government’s commitment to implementing CEPA-mandated reforms.
- **Improve the Conflict of Interest System** by amending the Law “On Public Service” or draft a standalone act covering all related provisions, including incompatibility requirements, restrictions, and gift prohibitions.
- **Strengthen enforcement of conflict of interest** violations by going beyond fines – such as confiscating profits, and/or invalidating the deals made under a conflict of interest.
- **Improve the asset declaration system** by introducing robust verification and analysis procedure using risk-based criteria, and enhance the Corruption Prevention Commission’s capacity with more staff and technological resources.
- **Target high-risk sectors** with tailored preventive and enforcement measures to address specific vulnerabilities effectively.

Armenia’s anti-corruption reforms under CEPA have been affected by a focus on procedural outputs rather than strategic impact indicators. Weak enforcement mechanisms in conflict of interest and asset declaration systems contribute to non-compliance. Institutional challenges, including staff shortages in key anti-corruption bodies further weaken reform effectiveness. Addressing these gaps is essential to fulfill CEPA obligations and increase public trust in anti-corruption efforts.

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