OSCE Office in Yerevan
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Regulatory Guillotine: Supporting Better Regulation in Armenia

"Regulatory Guillotine" is a reform that counts, reviews and simplifies the national regulatory framework (OSCE/Gohar Avagyan)

The OSCE was asked by the Government of Armenia to support reform of the country's regulatory framework in order to stimulate economic development. In response to this request, the OSCE Office in Yerevan invited a leading international expert in regulatory reform to assess Armenia's regulatory environment and its impact on businesses. The assessment found that outdated and often contradictory regulations hinder business development in the country.

Based on these findings, the Government of Armenia initiated a comprehensive review of the legal instruments associated with the regulatory framework. This process, known as the Regulatory Guillotine, first inventories the legal instruments in the country. These instruments are then assessed individually on the basis of three criteria: legality, necessity, and conduciveness toward economic development. In addition to creating a more effective regulatory framework, the planned reform will improve the legislative base of the country.

On 17 September, the President of Armenia officially launched the Guillotine process. Subsequently, letters of intent were signed in November by several members of the donor community and the OSCE Office in Yerevan in order to support this effort. It is anticipated that the entire process will last two years.

Human Rights in the Armed Forces

In order to establish effective crime prevention and human rights policies in the army, the Office worked closely with the Ministry of Defence on identifying the factors contributing to criminal activity in the armed forces and proposed recommendations. Based on these discussions, a package of legislative and institutional changes will be instituted in order to decrease crime and improve human right compliance in the Armed Forces.

The Office also assisted the Ministry of Defence in revealing causes of early demobilization. As a result, a package of recommendations on overcoming gaps in legislation as well as on improvement of monitoring and enforcement process was provided to the Ministry of Defence. The issue was discussed within the Standing Committee on Defence, National Security and Internal Affairs of the National Assembly in December 2011.

The Office initiated a project to support the Ministry of Defence improve Leadership and Management capacities in the Armenian Armed Forces. The project foresees the publication of a textbook on formal and informal leadership in the armed forces. This textbook will be included in the curricula of key military institutions and be used as the basis for a special training course for officers in 2012.

Issues related to human rights in the armed forces were in the focus of a discussion co-organized by the Office (OSCE/Gayane Ter-Stepanyan)

OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Office in Yerevan