



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU statement on Democratic Processes in Armenia

The EU thanks the Ambassador of Armenia for his briefing on recent developments in Armenia. We welcome his openness and recognize that this is a fluid and ongoing situation. We call on all concerned to work for a democratic formation of a new government, in accordance with Armenia's constitution and OSCE principles and commitments. A national dialogue involving all political stakeholders remains crucial.

The EU trusts that the peaceful nature of the changes we have been witnessing will continue and urges all involved to show restraint. During the recent demonstrations, the people of Armenia were exercising their fundamental right to peaceful assembly, as enshrined in international obligations and OSCE commitments, notably Copenhagen 1990. As ODIHR Director, Ingibjorg Gissladottir, said in her statement of 19 April, "all people have a fundamental right to express their opinion in peaceful protests." This has also been pointed out by the Spokesperson of the EU High Representative/Vice President in her statement of 22 April.

We expect all States to fully respect this right, and the rights to freedom of expression and opinion, and to freedom of association and peaceful assembly. These fundamental freedoms are the foundations on which democratic societies are built. In this respect, we welcome the actions of the Office of the Armenian Human Rights Defender and local human rights defenders, who visited police units, discussed complaints and met citizens. It remains imperative that the current situation is resolved swiftly and peacefully.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely, including the next steps by the Armenian National Assembly as it carries out its constitutional obligations. The EU stands ready to support the State Institutions and Civil Society of Armenia in their

work to build a prosperous and democratic Armenia, including, in future, through the framework of the EU Armenia Comprehensive Enhanced Partnership Agreement.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.