



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

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Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**Permanent Council No. 718
26 June 2008**

EU Statement on Freedom of Assembly Legislation in Armenia

At the Permanent Council on 10 April, the European Union expressed its hope that amendments to the Armenian Law on Conducting Meetings, Assemblies, Rallies and Demonstrations, made during the State of Emergency, would be revoked to address the concerns of the Venice Commission and the OSCE/ODIHR Expert Panel on Freedom of Assembly.

We welcome the adoption by the Armenian National Assembly, on 11 June, of amendments to the Law removing the restrictions. We also note that on 20 June a peaceful opposition demonstration was held without incident. We encourage Armenia to ensure the law is implemented so as to enable the right of assembly for all.

The EU also notes the adoption by the National Assembly on June 16 of a bill to establish a temporary parliamentary commission on the investigation of the events of 1-2 March and their causes. We hope that this will be a first step towards the establishment of a full and independent inquiry. The EU calls on both the Armenian authorities and the opposition to engage in a constructive dialogue in order to overcome persistent tensions and to address the wider social discontent that has contributed to the recent internal polarisation.

The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential

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candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland and Norway, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

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