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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

ENGLISH only

Statement

**In Response to the *EU* Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and
Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn
delivered by the Delegation of Armenia at the 1169th Meeting of the OSCE
Permanent Council
18 December 2017**

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to warmly welcome EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn to the Permanent Council and thank him for his address.

Armenia values the development of the Armenia-EU cooperation. The Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement-CEPA signed last month in the margins of Brussels Eastern Partnership Summit has been an important outcome of consistent and joint efforts channeled also through high-level political dialogue. We highly appreciate your contribution, Mr. Hahn, in this regard.

The agreement establishes a comprehensive legal basis for further strengthening the political dialogue, broadening the scope of economic and sectoral cooperation, creating a framework for new opportunities in trade and investments, and for increased mobility.

It should be also stressed that by reaffirming joint commitments to democratic institutions, human rights, the rule of law the CEPA will serve as an important framework for further assistance to the reform agenda of the Government of Armenia.

Many issues of EU and Armenia cooperation belong to the OSCE agenda as well. It is important that the CEPA reaffirms the commitment of the European Union to support the efforts and approaches of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group for the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict based on the norms and principles of the international law, in particular: non use of force or threat of use of force, equal rights and self-determination of peoples and territorial integrity.

It is worth to mention that the CEPA was welcomed by the participants of the Brussels Eastern Partnership Summit in their joint Declaration.

By signing the CEPA, Armenia demonstrated that the membership to one integration framework, in this case to the Eurasian Economic Union, does not preclude cooperation with the others. We hope that pragmatic and result oriented dialogue will be the driving force of the inclusive economic cooperation in the entire OSCE area without dividing lines. In this regard, we would like to recall the recent address of the

Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Commission Board Tigran Sargsyan to the Permanent Council.

The European Union was one of the strongest partners of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. Unfortunately, the closure of the Office which occurred against the will of the host state reduced possibilities of cooperation aimed at the implementation of the OSCE commitments. We hope that Armenia Cooperation Program will provide a workable solution to continue the EU engagement on the ground.

In conclusion, we would like wish Commissioner Hahn every success in advancing inclusive cooperation and partnership in Europe.

Thank you.