



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Burden of the Unions of Legal Entities has been alleviated: Discussion on Legislative Reforms**

On January 25, a meeting-discussion on new legislative amendments was held for the representatives of the unions of legal entities.

The National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia adopted the amendments to the Law on Non-Governmental Organizations on January 16. As a result the problem that had arisen for the unions of legal entities was eliminated.

The bases of the reform were the legislative proposals submitted by the EU-funded "Commitment to Constructive Dialogue" project.

Project Manager and President of the Armenian Lawyers' Association Karen Zadoyan presented the legislative amendments to the attention of about 10 representatives of unions of legal entities.

As a result of the adopted legislative amendment, the term for reorganization of the Union of Legal Entities (ULE) as a non-governmental organization has been prolonged for two years, till 2020.

The requirement for an act of transfer of property, other property rights and obligations has been removed. The requirement to make decisions by the competent authorities of all legal entities member of the Union of Legal Entities has been removed. The requirement to inform it to the Agency of the State Register of Legal Entities of the Republic of Armenia in case of change of the location of the non-governmental organization has ceased as well.

"We are very happy that we have achieved the implementation of certain changes. However, some controversial issues remain, which we will continue to discuss and make suggestions. The important thing is that the re-registration period has been extended and we can do it without a hurry," Satik Badeyan, President of the Social Enterprises Association of Armenia said.

Arkady Sahakyan, Lawyer of the Union of Information Technology Enterprises noted that the meetings organized within the framework of this project are very useful. "We have understood that unanimous voices and challenges raise the effect and bring changes. It is important that this experience becomes exemplary for the future."

If you are a representative of ULE and have questions about new legislation, please contact us for legal counseling and assistance.



This Project is funded  
by the European Union.

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The European Commission is the EU's executive body. The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

The **“Commitment to Constructive Dialogue”** project is implemented with the financial support of the European Union by a Consortium of civil society organisations, which are the Armenian Lawyers’ Association (lead organisation), Agora Central Europe (NGO based in the Czech Republic), the Armenian Centre for Democratic Education-CIVITAS, the International Centre for Human Development, the SME Cooperation Association and the Union of Communities of Armenia.

The project aims to enhance the influence of civil society organisations (CSOs) and CSO coalitions/networks on public policies in Armenia. This will allow organisations that are already working in sectoral coalitions to access additional resources, new groups of civil society experts to come together and encourage place their causes on the local and national policy agenda, to identify common concerns and priorities and approach government bodies with constructive and strategic policy engagement initiatives.

The project will provide sub-grants to CSOs and CSO coalitions for developing public policies and bringing significant changes in the 9 target sectors selected within the project, including those of justice, education and business.

The **Armenian Lawyers’ Association** (ALA) was established in 1995 with a mission to promote to the establishment of the rule of law, democracy and formation of the civil society in Armenia, where the people are aware of their rights and where their rights are protected. Before February 2016, ALA used to be called Armenian Young Lawyers Association.

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