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# EU4Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

## Bilateral meeting with Armenia

Discussion of preliminary findings of the environmental compliance assurance  
system review of Armenia

### DRAFT AGENDA

28 June 2021, 13h – 16h Paris time

Virtually through ZOOM

Please contact Olga Olson ([Olga.OLSON@oecd.org](mailto:Olga.OLSON@oecd.org)) or  
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information.

Action implemented by:



## Discussion of preliminary findings of the environmental compliance assurance system review of Armenia

28 June 2021, 13h – 16h Paris time

### Background

Within the framework of EU4Environment Action, the OECD has prepared a draft review of Armenia's environmental compliance assurance system. This review takes stock of the various components of the environmental compliance assurance chain, including the legislative and institutional framework, environmental monitoring activities, enforcement and promotion of environmental compliance, identifies gaps and provides recommendations for improvement by benchmarking the situation in Armenia against good international practice, particularly that of the EU. The review was prepared based on desk research and virtual interviews with stakeholders in Armenia carried out in the period July 2020 – March 2021.

### Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

The main objective of the meeting is to present and discuss the main findings of the review, and to discuss the next steps on the finalisation of the review as well as on strengthening the environmental compliance assurance system in Armenia. At this meeting, the OECD Secretariat will present preliminary results of the environmental compliance assurance review of Armenia. The Armenian stakeholders, including the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body of Armenia (EPMIB), will be invited to provide comments and additional information for the review.

### Participants

Participants will include representatives from Armenia's Ministry of Environment and the EPMIB, the OECD Secretariat, and compliance assurance professionals from European countries.

The meeting is funded under the EU4Environment Action programme.

### About EU4Environment

The "European Union for Environment" (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the six partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

The Action is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2022.

For further information contact: [EU4Environment@oecd.org](mailto:EU4Environment@oecd.org)

## Draft Outline of the Agenda

Time	Item
13h00-13h15	<p><b>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Krzysztof Michalak</b>, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate</li> <li>• <b>Representative of the European Commission</b> (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Vrezh Galoyan</b>, Deputy Head of the EPMIB</li> </ul>
13h15-14h00	<p><b>Item 2. Discussion of the legislative and institutional framework for environmental compliance assurance in Armenia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Olga Olson</b>, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will present key findings and recommendations</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Vrezh Galoyan</b>, Deputy Head of the EPMIB, will react to the findings and provide any additional considerations for the review in regards to the scope of control legislation of the inspection body</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Henk Ruessink</b>, Co-ordinating Special Adviser, Environment and Housing Network, External Relations and Services, Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate of the Netherlands, will share analytical insights on EU approaches to the legislative and institutional set-up</li> </ul> <p>Participants are invited to engage in an <b>open discussion</b> during the remaining time of the session.</p> <p>Questions of particular interest in this session are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What steps has Armenia taken to ensure that its main environmental legislation is effective and efficient in managing environmental protection, encourages environmental compliance and is enforceable?</li> <li>• What is Armenia's progress in implementing environmental provisions of the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the EU that can promote environmental compliance?</li> <li>• What is the motivation behind the current institutional set-up for environmental compliance assurance in Armenia and the reporting line of the Inspectorate for Nature Protection and Mineral Resources? Is this arrangement effective?</li> </ul>
14h00-14h45	<p><b>Item 3. Discussion of monitoring of environmental compliance in Armenia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Olga Olson</b>, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will present key findings and recommendations</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Armen Movsisyan</b>, Head of the Risk Assessment and Analysis Department, EPMIB, will react to the findings and provide any additional considerations for the review</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Simon Bingham</b>, International Development Manager at the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and former Cross-Cutting Expert Team Leader and Board Member of IMPEL, will share analytical insights on EU approaches to monitoring of environmental compliance</li> </ul>

Participants are invited to engage in an **open discussion** during the remaining time of the session.

Questions of particular interest in this session are:

- How does Armenia ensure a 24/7 response capacity to environmental incidents?
- How does the self-reporting regime on environmental pollution by permitted entities work in Armenia?
- How do the Ministry of Environment and the EPMIB make use of independent NGO studies of environmental impact of economic activities?

**14h45-15h00** *Coffee break*

**15h00-15h45** **Item 4. Discussion of enforcement and promotion of environmental compliance in Armenia**

- **Ms. Olga Olson**, Policy Analyst, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will present key findings and recommendations
- **Mr. Armen Movsisyan**, Head of the Risk Assessment and Analysis Department, EPMIB, will react to the findings and provide any additional considerations for the review
- **Mr. Duncan Giddens**, Freelance consultant, Owner/Director, Optimus Management Solutions Ltd. and former Senior Project Manager, Environment and Business, Environment Agency of England, will share analytical insights on EU approaches to enforcement and promotion of environmental compliance

Participants are invited to engage in an **open discussion** during the remaining time of the session.

Questions of particular interest in this session are:

- How does the environmental liability regime function in Armenia, and are companies required to remedy environmental damage that they cause?
- What are some of the positive characteristics and challenges of the current appeals system against penalties for non-compliance?
- Does the EPMIB and its work have any bearing on the government's distribution of funds collected from environmental payments and payments for non-compliance, and does the EPMIB use any of the funds collected from these payments?
- What tools do the Ministry of Environment and the EPMIB use to promote voluntary environmental compliance with environmental regulations (e.g. awareness-raising, training activities, Environmental Management System (EMS) certification, financial incentives to adopt green practices)?

**15h45-16h00** **Item 5. Conclusions**

- **Mr. Krzysztof Michalak**, Senior Programme Manager, Green Growth and Global Relations Division, OECD Environment Directorate, will sum up the outcomes of the meeting's discussions and will present the next steps on the environmental compliance assurance review of Armenia and on promoting compliance assurance in Armenia
- **Representative of the European Commission** (tbc)
- **Mr. Vrezh Galoyan**, Deputy Head of the EPMIB