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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Bilateral meeting with Armenia

**Discussion of the findings of the draft report
“Environmental liability provisions in Armenia: Damage prevention and
assessment”**

AGENDA

16 November 2023, 11:00 - 12:30 Yerevan time (8:00 - 9:30 CET)

Virtually through ZOOM

Please contact Olga Olson (Olga.OLSON@oecd.org) for more information.

Action implemented by:



Discussion of the findings of the draft report
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16 November 2023, 11:00 – 12:30 Yerevan time (8:00 – 9:30 CET)

Background

Since 2019, Armenia has been actively participating in the EU4Environment: Green Economy Programme. This included activities on promoting compliance with environmental regulations. As part of the EU-funded EU4Environment Action project, the OECD published a report “[The environmental compliance assurance system in Armenia: Current situation and recommendations](#)” in 2022. The report noted that Armenia lacks an environmental liability regime for environmental damage even though approximation of the EU Environmental Liability Directive (ELD) is foreseen by Armenia’s Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the EU.

The OECD prepared a draft report on “Environmental liability provisions in Armenia: Damage prevention and assessment” with the goal of assisting the government of Armenia with developing legal environmental liability provisions and approximating the ELD. It was based on guidance from the Ministry of Environment of Armenia, which selected the topic of focus. This report assesses Armenia’s legislation and methodologies relating to environmental liability and provides recommendations on how they could be improved to better align with the requirements of the ELD and the polluter-pays principle, specifically as regards prevention and assessment of environmental damage.

The report was prepared based on analysis of laws and documents shared by the Ministry of Environment of Armenia and secondary research.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

The main objective of this meeting is to present and discuss the findings of the draft report “Environmental liability provisions in Armenia: Damage prevention and assessment” as well as the next steps in its finalisation.

The author of the report will present the findings, and the experts from the Ministry of Environment and other relevant government agencies from Armenia will be invited to provide information on development of environmental liability legislation in the country and any last comments on the report.

Participants

Participants will include officials from Armenia’s Ministry of Environment and other relevant government institutions and the OECD Secretariat.

The meeting is funded under the EU4Environment: Green Economy Programme.

About EU4Environment: Green Economy Programme

The “European Union for Environment: Green Economy Programme” (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the Eastern Partnership countries 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 2019-2024.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org.

Agenda

Time	Item
11:00-11:20	<p>Item 1. Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Krzysztof Michalak, Acting Head of the Finance, Investment and Global Relations Division (FIG), OECD Environment Directorate (6 min) • Ms. Sonia Lopez Lopez, Cooperation Officer – Transport, Energy, Environment & Climate, Delegation of the European Union to Armenia (7 min) • Ms. Gayane Gabrielyan, Deputy Minister of Environment of Armenia (7 min)
11:20-12:20	<p>Item 2. Discussion of the findings of the draft report “Environmental liability provisions in Armenia: Damage prevention and assessment”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing environmental liability provisions in Armenia and the plans ahead: Ms. Mery Harutyunyan, Chief Specialist of the Strategic Policy Department, Ministry of Environment of Armenia (20 min) • Presentation of the main findings of the draft report: Dr. Colin Mackie, Associate Professor in Business Law, School of Law, the University of Leeds, England, the United Kingdom (20 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to the EU ELD ○ Findings and recommendations regarding Armenia’s legal provisions on prevention of environmental damage ○ Findings and recommendations regarding Armenia’s legal provisions on assessment of environmental damage ○ Other key recommendations for aligning Armenia’s environmental liability legislation with the ELD and the polluter-pays principle • Open discussion (20 min) <p>Participants are invited to engage in an open discussion during the remaining time of the session. The following questions would be of particular interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Armenia’s priorities and plans for approximating the EU ELD (e.g., does it envisage a stand-alone law on environmental liability)? • How does Armenia plan to practically apply the findings of the report to its development of environmental liability legislation? • What are the challenges for Armenia in developing environmental liability legislation, and in which areas does it need additional capacity building support?
12:20-12:30	<p>Item 3. Conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Olga Olson, Project Manager, Environmental Compliance Assurance and Liability Regimes, FIG, OECD Environment Directorate (5 min) • Ms. Gayane Gabrielyan, Deputy Minister of Environment of Armenia (5 min)