

Availability it is not yet a best possible implementation



Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment

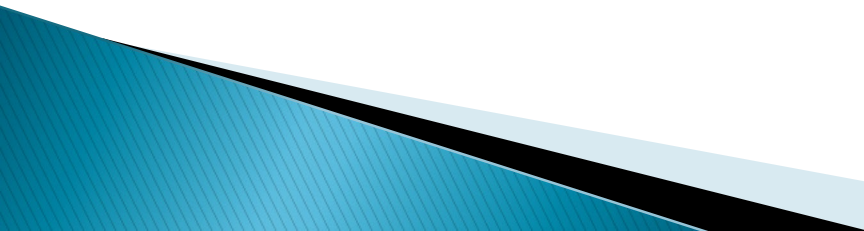
Gayane Gabrielyan

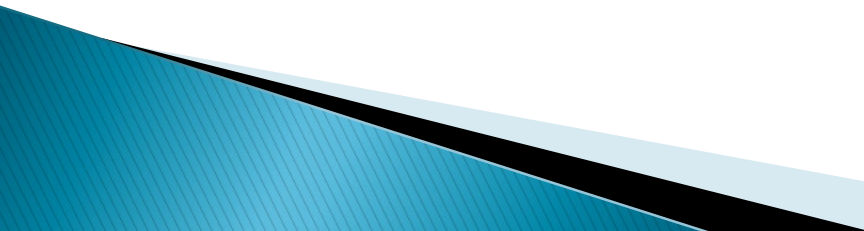
“The Republic of Armenia is ready to be closer to the European Union, as much as the European Union considers it possible”

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s speech at the European Parliament (17 Oct 2023)



Content

- ▶ **BAT-related highlights from Government Program 2021-2026;**
 - ▶ **EU-Armenia Comprehensive and extended partnership agreement (CEPA);**
 - ▶ **Atmospheric air protection: reformed legislative and policy framework and next steps.**
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- Some relevant highlights of Government Program 2021–2026 related to BAT:
 - ✓ Modernising the system of hydrometeorology and environmental permanent monitoring through the application of BAT for monitoring;
 - ✓ Improving capacities of technological centres, technoparks, accelerators and incubators existing in Armenia, as well as establishing new centres in the marzes.
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- On November 24, 2017, the Republic of Armenia signed a comprehensive and extended partnership agreement (CEPA) with the European Union (EU) and the European Atomic Energy Community and their member states.
 - The implementation roadmap for this agreement was endorsed by the RA Prime Minister's decision N666-L on June 1, 2019, and officially approved on June 13, 2019, during the second session of the RA-EU Partnership Council.
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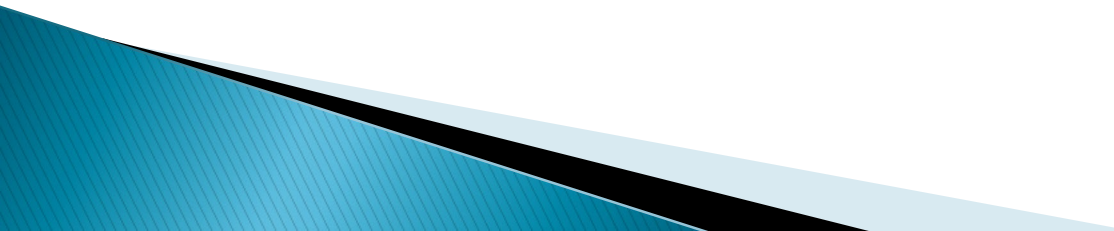
According to CEPA,


- Parties confirm their commitment to enhance the contribution of trade to the goal of sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions.
- Parties shall strive to facilitate the removal of obstacles to trade or investment concerning goods and services of particular relevance for climate-change mitigation and adaptation, such as sustainable renewable energy and energy-efficient products and services, including through:
 - ✓ the adoption of policy frameworks conducive to the deployment of best available technologies.


According to CEPA Roadmap,

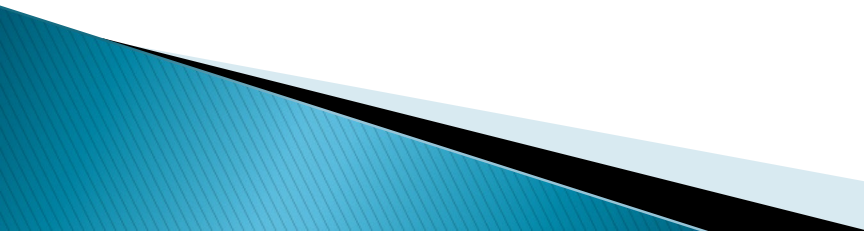
- Armenia is aimed to set out regulations and provisions to prevent or reduce pollution and GHG emissions into atmospheric air in accordance with the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) 2010/75/EU, via
 - ✓ Legal act for the approximation with the IED (under development).


Now, let's talk a bit more about management of atmospheric air protection in Armenia:


- ✓ regulated by the RA Law "On Atmospheric Air Protection" adopted in 1994,
 - ✓ along with sub-legislative acts that ensured the appropriate implementation of the law.
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- Due to significant developments in international and social relations, it became necessary to reassess outdated norms and adopt new approaches.
 - Radical changes were required to align the existing legislation with modern standards and address existing contradictions and gaps effectively.
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- As a result, the draft concept of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Atmospheric Air Protection" was developed, serving as a fundamental framework for the advancement of contemporary practices in atmospheric air protection.
 - The concept succinctly outlined an analysis of the existing legal framework pertaining to the issue, as well as the key challenges impeding the adoption of modern approaches.
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- Following the adoption of the concept, it became necessary to develop a draft of the RA Law "On Amendments to the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection."
 - This draft was developed to fulfill the first point of the 2018–2022 action plan for environmental protection and management of natural resources of the Protocol Decision No. 11 of the session of the RA Government on March 22, 2018.
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- Considering the obligation for Armenia to harmonize its national legislation with the requirements of the RA–EU Agreement, and the corresponding steps outlined in the Roadmap for its implementation, necessary amendments were made to the Law.
 - Furthermore, during the enforcement process of the Law, certain loopholes were identified, which required rectification as well.
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- On December 7, 2022, the Ministry of Environment formulated and officially adopted the revised edition of the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection.
 - The primary objective of this updated law is to establish a robust legal framework that enables the efficient management of atmospheric air protection, aligning it with contemporary approaches and the principles of sustainable development.
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The revised edition of the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection, incorporated several modern approaches to atmospheric air protection applied in other countries, in particular:

- regarding the assessment of atmospheric air quality

The concept of "critical level", as well as its determination methods, application, definition of pollution monitoring and control powers,

- regarding the limitation of emissions from stationary sources

Application of "technical norms" and "best available technologies" determination methods,

- regarding the limitation of emissions from mobile sources

The prohibition requirements and powers to enforce them

- regarding emission accounting

The provision of accounting for emissions of harmful substances (from stationary and mobile sources) and inventory of greenhouse gases.

- The newly adopted law aims to harmonize air quality assessment standards with global benchmarks, aligning them with the existing regulations in the country.
- By imposing restrictions on emissions and promoting the implementation of widely utilized "best available technologies" from developed nations, this law will enhance the effectiveness of atmospheric air protection management.

- Following the adoption of the law, the measures ensuring the implementation of the Law of the RA "On Amendments to the Law on Atmospheric Air Protection" were adopted by the decision of the Prime Minister N343-A, on 27 March 2023 which will facilitate the implementation of the law and make the implementation of the requirements of the law more flexible.

Thank you

