

MINUTES
of the fourth meeting of the Armenian participants
of the First (Brussels) and of the Second (Berlin)
Civil Society Forums of the Eastern Partnership

June 17, 2011,

Hall in the building of the *Journalists Union of Armenia*

On 17 June 2011, the fourth meeting was held on the initiative of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership Coordinator in Armenia Mr. Avetik Ishkhanian. Invitations to attend the meeting were sent to Armenian participants of the First (Brussels) and of the Second (Berlin) Civil Society Forums of the Eastern Partnership.

Information about the upcoming meeting was emailed to all the participants of the First (Brussels) and of the Second (Berlin) Civil Society Forums of the Eastern Partnership. The meeting was attended by 12 participants (the list of participants is attached).

The agenda of the meeting had the following items for discussion:

- the issue of the existing options for the involvement in the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and subsequently in the Governing Committee of the Forum,
- presentation of the Working Groups' activities,
- preparation for the Poznan meeting, and
- other issues.

Mr. Avetik Ishkhanian gave an opening address presenting the activities undertaken and topics discussed at the Governing Committee meeting that was held in Antwerp in May 2011. In particular, the Governing Committee meeting focused on the Forum activities and on the preparation for the Forum to be held in Poznan. Also discussed was the issue of the existing options for the involvement in the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and subsequently in the Governing Committee of the Forum. During the ensuing discussion the majority of the meeting participants

opposed the idea, which had been floated by the EESC, about securing designated seats at the Forum and subsequently on the Governing Committee of the Forum. However, a decision was made to reach a final conclusion after getting and discussing the opinions on the matter expressed by other members of the civil society.

A suggestion of drawing up annual reports by the Human Rights Sub-Group was discussed during the May 2011 session of the Working Group I and a decision was made that such reports should be written out from 2012 on. As to year 2011, it is planned to draw up till 20 September 2011 a 2-page report on a human rights situation in each of the designated 6 Eastern Partnership countries. Therefore a decision was made to send coordinators of the Armenian Working Groups (*for details see Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 April 2011*) a reminder to revise and sum up the work done with a view to preparing the content of the report by the groups.

Mr. Ishkhanian also spoke about another local meeting held last May, *viz.* a meeting with other Armenian participants of the two Civil Society Forums of the Eastern Partnership. Both sides voiced their views at the meeting. Mr. Ishkhanian stressed that initial tensions somewhat subsided after discussions and the presentation of work in progress. The two groups of the Armenian participants carry out certain activities in line with the goals of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership and it is necessary to take steps to make sure that other activities are undertaken jointly. The 17 June meeting participants proposed that joint activities be carried out by groups thereby lessening tension and strengthening cooperation between the participants.

Based on the opinions voiced and agreements reached at the meeting, a decision was made:

- To recap the activities undertaken by each Working Group;
- To make a nomination for a position of Coordinator in the Working Group II;
- To get the opinions of the both sides on the existing options for the involvement in the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and subsequently in the Governing Committee of the Forum and to sum up those opinions and to submit them to the Governing Committee prior to the next meeting;
- To select participants for the Governing Committee meeting to be held in Poznan.

Adjourning the meeting, Mr. Ishkhanian thanked all those present for their participation. The next meeting was scheduled tentatively for July 10.

List of participants

	First and Last Names	Organization	Telephone	E-mail
1.	Mr. Avetik Ishkhanian	Helsinki Committee of Armenia	560372	avetik@armhels.com
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3.	Mr. Armen Alaverdian	<i>Unison</i> NGO	055774277	unison@unison.am
4.	Ms Sona Ayvazian	<i>Transparency International</i> Anti-Corruption Center	569910	sona@transparency.am
5.	Ms Hripsimeh Kirakossian	Mission Armenia Charity (NGO)	091408464	org@ngo.mission.am
6.	Mr. Boris Navassardian	Yerevan Press Club	530067	boris@ypc.am
7.	Mr. Stepan Grigorian	Analytical Center for Globalization & Regional Cooperation	091308557	stepangrig@hotmail.com
8.	Mr. David Amirian	Open Society Foundation-Armenia	533862	adavid@osi.am
9.	Ms Karineh Danielian	Association for Sustainable Development	522327	karined@web.am , askd@freenet.am
10.	Ms Armineh Tukhikian	Urban Foundation	091436104	atukhikyan@aua.am
11.	Mr. Arthur Sakunts	Vanadzor Office of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly	091200971	asakunts@hcav.am
12.	Mr. Seyran Martirossian	<i>A. D. Sakharov</i> Center, Gyumri branch	091434256	star@gyumri.am

The minutes were taken by Ms Lilit Verdian of Helsinki Committee of Armenia