

**Explanatory note on the situation concerning the Statement on the Armenian genocide  
adopted by the EaP CSF Steering Committee on 19 April 2016  
during its meeting in Berlin, Germany**

During its meeting in Berlin on 19 April 2016 the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum considered and adopted a statement on the Armenian genocide proposed by Hovsep Khurshudyan, the coordinator of Working Group 4 from Armenia. This statement condemned the Armenian genocide.

By an oversight the Steering Committee failed to apply its own rules for the adoption of statements, which stipulate that sensitive or controversial statements should have the support of all six National Platforms of the EaP CSF or a 75 per cent majority. This resulted in the failure of one of the Members of the Steering Committee to invoke this clause.

This fact was pointed out by one of the members of the EaP CSF Secretariat and resulted in a delay in the publication of the text of the statement.

In this case the text indeed proved to be sensitive arousing serious concerns among the members of the Azerbaijani National Platform. This resulted in a decision by the Co-chairs of the Steering Committee acting in the best interest of the Steering Committee to suggest to the SC Members to postpone publication of the statement until the Steering Committee decides on the advisability of publication.

The Steering Committee was motivated by a desire to retain the unity of the Civil Society Forum and voted by a small majority to postpone the publication.