



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2011/2315(INI)

12.1.2012

DRAFT REPORT

containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service on the negotiations of the EU-Armenia Association Agreement (2011/2315(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Tomasz Piotr Poręba

CONTENTS

	Page
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION	3

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service on the negotiations of the EU-Armenia Association Agreement

(2011/2315(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the ongoing negotiations between the EU and Armenia on the Association Agreement,
- having regard to the Council Conclusions of 10 May 2010 on Armenia which adopted the negotiating directives,
- having regard to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between Armenia and the European Union, which entered into force on 1 July 1999,
- having regard to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Action Plan adopted on 14 November 2006 and the Joint Communication on 'A new response to a changing neighbourhood' of 25 May 2011,
- having regard to the Joint Declaration issued by the Eastern Partnership Summit held in Prague on 7 May 2009,
- having regard to the Joint Declaration issued by the Eastern Partnership Summit held in Warsaw on 29-30 September 2011,
- having regard to the Joint Declaration on a Mobility Partnership between the EU and Armenia of 27 October 2011,
- having regard to its resolution of 20 May 2010 on the Need for an EU Strategy for the South Caucasus¹,
- having regard to its resolutions of 7 April 2011 on the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy - Eastern Dimension² and of 14 December 2011 on the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy³,
- having regard to the Commission Progress Report on Armenia adopted on 25 May 2011,
- having regard to the third round of the EU-Armenia Human Rights Dialogue held on 6 December 2011,
- having regard to the general amnesty adopted by the Armenian Parliament on 26 May 2011 on a proposal from President Sargsyan,

¹ OJ C161E, 31.5.2011, p. 136.

² Texts adopted, P7_TA(2011)0153.

³ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2011) 0576.

- having regard to the Declaration signed by the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation on 2 November 2008 in Moscow,
 - having regard to Rules 90(4) and 48 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A7-0000/2012),
- A. whereas the Eastern Partnership provides the political framework for strengthening bilateral relations by means of new Association Agreements, taking into account the specific situation and ambitions of the partner country;
 - B. whereas the Association Agreements constitute the appropriate framework to deepen relations, by enhancing political association and socio-economic and legal approximation with the EU, and to develop cultural relations;
 - C. whereas Armenia's active commitment to shared values and principles, including democracy, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights, is essential to take the process forward and to make the negotiation and subsequent implementation of Association Agreement a success;
 - D. whereas the Armenian authorities have repeatedly stated their willingness to adhere to these values and emphasised Armenia's European ambitions;
 - E. whereas the unresolved conflicts are undermining the stability and development of Armenia and the South Caucasus region; whereas in its Joint Communication on 'A new response to a changing neighbourhood' the EU stated its ambition to engage more pro-actively in conflict resolution in the South Caucasus;
 - F. whereas the proper conduct, in accordance with international and European standards, of the forthcoming parliamentary elections due to take place on 6 May 2012 will be of the utmost importance for the development of EU-Armenia relations, and whereas the elections are to be conducted in accordance with the new Electoral Code of Armenia;
 - G. whereas the negotiations on the EU-Armenia Association Agreement have been progressing at a good pace and providing impetus for internal reform;
1. Addresses the following recommendations to the Council, the Commission and the European External Action Service: they should
 - (a) ensure that the Association Agreement is a comprehensive and forward-looking framework for the future development of relations with Armenia, one which enhances political convergence and legal approximation;
 - (b) stress the utmost importance of the orderly conduct of the May 2012 elections and provide the EU Delegation in Armenia with the necessary resources to enhance the EU's contribution to the quality of electoral processes; commend the adoption of the new Electoral Code of Armenia, which is consistent with international obligations and recommendations;
 - (c) incorporate into the Association Agreement clauses and benchmarks on the protection and

promotion of human rights which reflect the highest international and European standards, drawing to the fullest possible extent on Council of Europe and OSCE frameworks and the ongoing EU–Armenia Human Rights Dialogue;

- (d) emphasise in the Association Agreement the importance of guaranteeing the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms, the development of civil society, the rule of law, the continued fight against corruption and the independence of the media;
- (e) encourage the Armenian authorities to continue to develop the office of Human Rights Defender, in particular by providing him with additional financial and human resources and supporting the newly established regional offices;
- (f) stress in particular the importance of the independence of the judiciary, transparent procurement procedures, the separation of politics from business, reliable court procedures, a safe environment for investigative journalism and access to information and social media; encourage the Armenian Government to continue complying with EU best practices and recommendations in these areas;
- (g) ensure that the Association Agreement is consistent with the principles of international law - in particular the non-use of force, self-determination and territorial integrity - and that the Agreement, once concluded, applies to the whole territory of Armenia;
- (h) strengthen the European Union's conflict-resolution capacity, *inter alia* by supporting the efforts of the Minsk Group and clearing the way for the implementation of confidence-building measures, as the Presidents of both Azerbaijan and Armenia have agreed;
- (i) emphasise the need to use the Association Agreement as a platform to promote regional synergies and cooperation by establishing a level playing field for all three countries in the South Caucasus;
- (j) urge Armenia to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
- (k) emphasise the importance of mobility in promoting European integration and, to that end, ensure the prompt launch of negotiations on visa facilitation and readmission agreements; treat youth and student mobility as a priority; ensure that the provisions on asylum are fully in line with international obligations and commitments and EU standards;
- (l) encourage broad sectoral cooperation between the EU and Armenia; in particular, explain the benefits of and promote regulatory convergence in this area;
- (m) take the necessary action to incorporate in the Association Agreement provisions enabling Armenia to participate in Community programmes and agencies, as a fundamental tool to promote European integration at all levels;
- (n) emphasise the need for a sustainable economy, including through the promotion of renewable energy sources; ensure that the development of the energy sector is carried out in accordance with the EU's environmental standards, particularly in the nuclear sector, noting that the situation of the Medzamor nuclear power plant remains a topic of major concern and that a specific date for its decommissioning should be set;

- (o) provide the necessary technical support to allow for the prompt launch of negotiations on all aspects of the Association Agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA);
 - (p) fully involve the European Parliament in the implementation and monitoring of the Association Agreement;
 - (q) incorporate in the Association Agreement clear benchmarks for its implementation and provide for monitoring mechanisms, including the submission of regular reports to the European Parliament;
 - (r) provide better-targeted financial and technical assistance to Armenia to ensure that it can meet the commitments stemming from the negotiations on the Association Agreement and its full implementation, by continuing to offer Comprehensive Institution-Building programmes;
 - (s) encourage the Armenian authorities to make full use of the expertise of the High-Level EU Advisory Group in the negotiation and implementation process and to keep the EU advisers fully informed also of the activities of the Eastern Partnership IBM Flagship Initiative Panel; consider providing such assistance to all the Eastern Partners;
 - (t) recognise Armenia's ambitious reform agenda under the Eastern Partnership and provide adequate assistance in accordance with the 'more for more' principle;
 - (u) increase, in line with the Joint Communication on 'A renewed response to a changing neighbourhood', EU assistance for civil society organisations in Armenia, so that they can carry out internal monitoring of, and to ensure that the government is held more accountable for, its reforms and commitments;
 - (v) encourage the EU negotiating team to continue the good cooperation with the European Parliament, providing continuous feedback, supported by documentation, on the progress made, in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, which states that Parliament must be immediately and fully informed at all stages of the procedure;
2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Council, the Commission, the European External Action Service and Armenia.