

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Yerevan, April 19, 2022

We, the undersigned,

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia in the person of Minister Karen Andriasyan, acting in accordance with Article 10, Part 12 of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On Regulation of Administrative Legal Relations" and Article 18 of the Annex to the Decision N 704-L of June 11, 2018 on the basis of the powers vested in him,

The Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Diaspora, Youth and Sports of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, in the person of Chairman Sisak Gabrielyan, acting on the basis of the powers vested in him by the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Armenia,

The Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression, in the person of Chairman Ashot Melikyan, who acts on the basis of the power of attorney issued by 10 non-governmental organizations (Yerevan Press Club, Media Initiatives Center, Asparez Journalists' Club, Freedom of Information Center, "For Equal Rights" Educational Center NGO, Comprehensive Information Institute - Armenia, Public Journalism Club, "Journalists for the Future" NGO, "Journalists for Human Rights" NGO, Goris Press Club),

considering the importance of developing a comprehensive policy for the development of the Armenian media sector, the need to reform the legislation of the Republic of Armenia regulating the media field, to develop the media self-regulation system, to bring it in line with modern requirements and to introduce international best practices in those processes,

expressing readiness for ensuring progress in the mentioned areas to unite the legislative and executive authorities, as well as structures specialized in the field of civil society journalism (hereinafter referred to as the "Parties"), signed this memorandum of cooperation on the following:

1. The goals of cooperation

The main goal of the cooperation envisaged within the framework of this memorandum is the modernization of the media development policy in the Republic of Armenia and the reform of the legislation regulating the media activity, in accordance with modern challenges and new conditions for the advancement of telecommunication technologies, using international best practices and norms. The reforms to be implemented through joint efforts will also be aimed at improving the information field in the country, promoting quality journalism, reducing misinformation, hate speech and propaganda of violence.

2. Subject and format of cooperation

2.1. Within the framework of this Memorandum, the Parties agree to cooperate in the following areas:

2.1.1. Development, discussion and adoption of a comprehensive information and media development policy (of which the information security concept should also be a part);

2.1.2. Concept of reform of legislation regulating the activities of mass media (media) (hereinafter referred to as the concept) development, discussion and approval,

2.1.3. Preparation, discussion and submission of drafts of new laws and other legal acts arising from the above-mentioned concept to the National Assembly.

2.2. The Parties accept the concept to be developed on comprehensive media policy development and media regulatory reform, based on summarizing ideas on media development, discussing legal issues and proposing optimal solutions, as a set of principles applied in the media field, on the basis of which new strategic programs, laws and drafts of other normative-legal acts will be developed in the future.

2.3. Until the concept is finalized, the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Diaspora, Youth and Sports are committed to

ensuring an inclusive consultation process with stakeholders, including civil society and the expert community, within the framework of relevant initiatives, apply the public decision-making mechanisms developed by the Council of Europe. The organizations that are party to the memorandum are obliged to organize discussions with the representatives of the field, collect, summarize and systematically submit proposals, if necessary, involving complete projects with local and international experts. If, in the exercise of their powers, the Parties become aware of legislative and other initiatives relating to the subject matter of the Memorandum, they shall inform the authors of the Memorandum and the resulting proceedings.

2.4. In exceptional cases when legislative changes and / or additions in the field of media are considered urgent, the Ministry of Justice and the Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Diaspora, Youth and Sports of the National Assembly are obliged to inform the other parties about the memorandum, discuss them, take into account comments and suggestions and ensure the participation of stakeholders in the further process.

2.5. The format of cooperation mentioned in paragraph 2.3 of the Memorandum will be consistently applied by the Parties in the process of elaboration of the concept, as well as the submission of new legislative drafts.

3. Coordination of cooperation

3.1. For the purpose of effective cooperation on matters relating to the Memorandum, coordination shall be exercised by the authorized representatives of the Parties. In order to organize joint events or business meetings and to resolve other technical issues, the Parties shall appoint one person responsible, who shall report directly on the work done or to be done to the signatories of this Memorandum or to their authorized representatives.

3.2. The Parties shall meet as necessary to discuss, evaluate the results of the work carried out under this Memorandum and to plan further cooperation.

4. Entry into force and termination of the Memorandum

4.1. This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature and shall be valid for an indefinite period.

4.2. Either Party may terminate the cooperation unilaterally by notifying the other Parties in writing at least one month in advance and noting the reason for that decision. The Memorandum may also be terminated (resolved) or amended by written agreement of the Parties.

5. Other provisions

5.1. The Memorandum does not limit the cooperation of the Parties to other organizations / bodies and relevant stakeholders, as well as other issues related to the field of information.

5.2. This Memorandum does not create any financial or other property obligations for the Parties, does not constitute a contract or other transaction in the sense of civil law and does not lead to civil legal consequences for the Parties. The parties act on the basis of good faith, morality and moral obligation.

5.3. This Memorandum consists of 3 equal copies in Armenian, one copy is given to each Party.

5.4. This memorandum was signed on April 19, 2022.

6. Signatures of the parties

Sisak Gabrielyan

Chairman of the RA NA SECDYS

Standing Committee

/signature/

Yeranuhi Tumanyants

RA Deputy Minister of Justice

/signature/

Ashot Melikyan

Chairman of the Committee to

Protect Freedom of Expression

/signature/
