

Strasbourg, 30th April 2018

Statement of ALDA on the political situation in Armenia

ARMENIAN PEOPLE CALL FOR DEMOCRACY AND A BETTER FUTURE

Since 2008, elections in Republic of Armenia have allegedly been marked by widespread fraud and continued abuse of administrative resources. But Armenian people, especially youth, stood against non-democratic processes with massive peaceful demonstrations against the government and new-elected Prime-Minister, ex-president Serzh Sargsyan, which led to the resignation of Sargsyan.

Due to well-organized, peaceful 10 days of demonstrations led by 3 MPs of the opposition (although being detained by the police upon the Government demand and then freed), Prime-Minister Serzh Sargsyan resigned under the Pan-Armenian pressures. This result can be considered as a real expression of peoples' will for democratic values, for a better future without poverty and corruption.

Protest are continuing all over Armenia and Diaspora supporting efforts to establish democratic and human rights values. The way ahead towards prime-minister election based on peoples' will looks difficult – it will mean to coordinate extra-ordinary parliamentary elections in the context of external border conflicts.

We, as European Association for Local Democracy, as promoter of democratic values:

- Remind Armenian authorities that freedom of public assembly, free speech and peaceful demonstrations are fundamental democratic rights that have to be respected unconditionally by national authorities;
- Call upon the international community to closely monitor the situation in Armenia in order to avoid escalation out of democratic and peaceful boundaries considering the current critical situation;
- Call upon all development partners of Armenia, including European Union and Council of Europe, to offer all necessary support for a peaceful democratization process.

At the same time, ALDA reaffirms its strong support towards democratic evolution in Armenia that is actively promoted by its Local Democracy Agency since 2011. We reaffirm our openness and readiness to work closely with donors' community in promoting good governance and rule of law at both national and local level in Armenia.

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