



**European Movement
Mouvement Européen**



**European Movement
Եվրոպական Շարժում**

Programme

EMI CONGRESS

20 - 21 October 2011 in Yerevan, Armenia

*“Fostering Civil Society’s role for further European integration
in the Eastern Partnership countries”*

Wednesday, 19 October

Arrivals

7.30pm Reception hosted by Mr Gagik Tsarukyan, Honorary President of the European Movement in Armenia

Thursday, 20 October

8.30am Registration

9.30am Welcome words and opening speeches

Moderator: Mr Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, Belgian Minister of State, Vice President of the European Movement International, Chair of the Political Committee “The European Union and its Neighbours”

Mr Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia

Mrs Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (tbc)

Mr Gagik Tsarukyan, Honorary President of the European Movement in Armenia

Mr Pat Cox, President of the European Movement International

10.30am COFFEE BREAK

11.00am Plenary Session: Civil Society Development in the Eastern Partnership Countries

Moderator: Mr Diogo Pinto, Secretary General of the European Movement International

Keynote speaker:

Mr Alex Sardar, Vice President of Programs of the Civil Society and Government Strengthening Practice Area, Counterpart International

Commentators:

Mr Kakhaber Gogolashvili, Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies

Mr Siarhei Varankevich, Chairman of Belarusian Liberal Youth NGO “Civil forum”

12.00pm Questions and answers session

1.00pm LUNCH

2.30pm Parallel Workshops

Workshop 1 - *Development of and EU Support for the Civil Society*

Moderator: Mr Viktor Yengibaryan, President of the European Movement in Armenia

Rapporteur: Mr Oleksandr Biletskyi, President of the Preparatory Committee of the European Movement International in Ukraine

Mr Jacek Krawczyk, Vice President of the European Economic and Social Committee

Mr Miroslav Lajcak, European External Action Service, Managing Director for Russia, Eastern Neighborhood and Western Balkans (tbc)

Mr Marco Boaria, Resource and Development Unit Coordinator, ALDA

The development of the Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership countries is characterized by a qualitative progress as a result of the European Union’s assistance and of local authorities’ efforts. But how should the EU strategy be interpreted: as a contribution to the socialization of the Eastern Partnership member states or as a conditionality policy, as a preparation for the status of potential membership or as a proof of mutually beneficial coexistence without any prospects of this membership? The workshop should also examine the necessity to increase the participation of CSOs in programming and implementing EU instruments in order to improve the effectiveness of the support for Civil Society in the Eastern Partnership countries.

Workshop 2 - *The Process of National Reforms*

Moderator: Mr Surkhan Latifov, President of the Preparatory Committee of the European Movement in Azerbaijan

Rapporteur: Mr Karen Zadoyan, President of the Armenian Young Lawyers Association

Mrs Sopio Benashvili, Deputy Head of the Department of Justice of the Office of Public Defender of Georgia, Georgia

Mr Aurelia Gregoriu, Centre for Human Rights, Moldova

Mr Armen Zakaryan, Director of the Yerevan School of Political Studies of the Council of Europe

The workshop should emphasize the role of the cooperation between the Civil Society and the European integration in inducing national authorities to undertake reforms. For this purpose it is necessary to enhance the representation of the population in political life and the participation of CSOs in the decision-making process and to increase their possibility to monitor the implementation of EU projects by public authorities. Most states have a liberal legislation, guaranteeing the right to association, but organisational weakness and complicated registration procedures restrict this right. The priorities in national reforms should be the enhancement of the CSOs' participation in the realisation of an anti-corruption campaign, the strategy of independent media and democratic and transparent elections, judicial reform and respect for the rights of national minorities. It is necessary to examine the role of cross-boundary cooperation mechanisms in this enhancement.

Workshop 3 - *Visa Liberalisation and People-to-People Contacts*

Moderator: Mrs Arina Kraijdan, President of the Preparatory Committee of the European Movement in Moldova

Rapporteur: Vasili Tchkoïdze, President of the Preparatory Committee of the European Movement in Georgia

Mr Laurent Muschel, Deputy Head of Cabinet of European Commissioner for Home Affairs (tbc)

Ms Viktoria Boian, Project Coordinator of Foreign Policy Association

Mrs Iryna Sushko, Head of NGO "Europe without Barriers"

There are some achievements on the path to the institutionalization of secure and well-managed mobility of population between the EU and Eastern Partnership countries. The Visa Liberalization process is realized on a case-by-case basis according to the peculiarities of the

individual states of the region, but it is necessary to provide the CSOs of these countries with a possibility of cross-border information and experience exchange on this issue. The Civil Society should also be engaged in the implementation of the people-to-people programs, especially for younger generations, in order to make this implementation more effective and to enhance a mutual understanding between the EU and Eastern Partnership states.

7.30pm Reception offered by the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia

Friday, 21 October

9.00pm Presentation of the Political Strategy/Charter

9.45pm Political Debate *CSOs challenge Public Authorities*

Moderator: Mr Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, Belgian Minister of State, Vice-president of the European Movement International, Chair of the Political Committee “The European Union and its Neighbours”

Mr Leonidas Dokskis, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)

Mrs Naira Zohrabyan, Chair of the Committee on European Integration, National Assembly of Armenia

Mr Fuad Muradov, member of Azerbaijani Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly

Mrs Khatuna Gogorishvili, member of the Georgian Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly (tbc)

Mr Tudor Deliu, Chair of the Socio-political Movement for Nation and Country (tbc)

Mr Borys Tarasyuk, Head of the Committee on European Integration, Parliament of Ukraine

11.45am Questions and Answers

12.15pm COFFEE BREAK

12.45pm Closing words/ Final Remarks

Mr Krzysztof Stanowski, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Mr Hovik Abrahamyan, Speaker of the Parliament of Republic of Armenia

Mr Eduard Nalbandian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Armenia (tbc)

Mr Pat Cox, President of the European Movement International