



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՊԱՏՎԻՐԱԿՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

**Statement
in response
to the EU statement on freedom of assembly legislation in Armenia
delivered by the Delegation of the Republic of Armenia
at the 708th Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council
April 10, 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

First we would like to thank the European Union for the statement made by the distinguished ambassador of Slovenia, which makes us believe that we are not alone facing our difficulties and there are faithful partners and friends who are always ready to extend their hands and provide us with valuable suggestions and recommendations. We truly appreciate those efforts.

As you know yesterday in Yerevan took place the inauguration of the new President Mr. Serzh Sargsyan. During his inaugural address, President Sargsyan among other issues also referred to the human right issues and particularly to the right of freedom of assembly in Armenia to which today the European Union refers to in its statement. And here we can not do better than quote verbatim from his inaugural address delivered to the members of the National Assembly, dignitaries, delegations from foreign countries and the Armenian public in general. I quote:

”Unchecked freedom can result in conflict with the public interests and the rights of others. To prevent such conflicts and to reconcile various rights and interests, the state may interfere with the exercise of certain fundamental rights.

Limitations of fundamental rights, however, cannot be absolute, as they would

simply render the fundamental right meaningless. Limitations should not undermine the essence of fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

For any limitation of rights and freedoms, including the right to peaceful assembly, we must strike a fair balance between the public order and respect for the rights and freedoms of others, on the one hand, and the right to peaceful assembly, on the other.

Over a short period of time, along with dozens of other laws, we should revisit the legislation regulating the right to peaceful assembly with a view to safeguarding everyone's right to peaceful assembly in accordance with European standards". End of quote.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.