

**European Commission**

**High Representative / Vice-President  
Josep Borrell Fontelles**

**Commissioner for Neighbourhood and  
Enlargement  
Olivér Várhelyi**

[cab-borrell-fontelles-contact@ec.europa.eu](mailto:cab-borrell-fontelles-contact@ec.europa.eu);  
[cab-varhelyi-contact@ec.europa.eu](mailto:cab-varhelyi-contact@ec.europa.eu)

Ref.: JWG/cb

Brussels, 2 March 2021

Dear Mr. Borrell Fontelles and Mr. Várhelyi,

The Armenian-EU are linked by the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) which came into full force 1 March 2021. It is a modern agreement that is to strengthen democracy, the rule of law and human rights. It should help to create jobs, good public administration, address corruption and support initiatives to improve health and much more. Armenian workers, their families and communities are facing many difficulties now. The war has created chaos, economic problems, and an instable social situation. And the health situation although improved since October/ November remains difficult and vaccines are not arriving in the quantities needed.

EPSU, the European Public Service Union represents workers and their unions in Armenia. We have several affiliated unions in the public administrations, municipalities and health and social services sector.

1. Can the Commission inform us about the concrete economic and social support that is being given to Armenia now the economic situation has deteriorated so much? We would argue that the European Commission should assist the working people.
2. How is the Commission preventing that the military take over and stage a coup? Does the Commission continue to impress upon the parties and including the military that a military intervention is not acceptable? Will human rights defenders be protected?
3. How does the Commission evaluate the situation regarding social dialogue in the country and what will the Commission do improve and strengthen it, including regarding collective bargaining between employers (and including the government as employer) and the trade unions? Are specific programmes available that can support the trade unions and capacity building?
4. How will the Commission assist the health and social services sector, contribute to the resilience of the public health system, give access to vaccines and other ways in which

Armenia (like other countries in the Eastern partnership) can benefit from the procurement and vaccinations in the EU?

The situation is dramatic and the stories we receive from unions and their members worrisome.

Thank you for your response.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan  
EPSU General Secretary