
Ministry Of Economy To Implement First Twinning Program In Armenia

NOYAN TAPAN - 12/6/2008

The RA ministry of economy will implement the first twinning program in Armenia within the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), using a standard expenditure model for assessing the impact of regulation of legal acts. The deputy minister of economy Vahe Danielian announced this at the May 12 joint press conference with the head of the European Commission delegation's programs in Armenia Jean-Francois Moret and the chief of the expert group assisting with development of the concept of the model's introduction, legal advisor to Gulf International Legal Strategies company Joseph Deunay. The press conference was held following a working meeting on introduction of the model.

V. Danielian reminded that the ministry of economy coordinates the implementation of the EU ENP Action Plan in Armenia. According to him, the successful holding of the above mentioned working meeting laid a foundation for further programs. He also reminded that the Armenian prime minister has set their ministry the task to form a business environment excellency center in Armenia in the next one or two years, and the introduction of the standard expenditure model in the ministry will help solve this problem. The possible assistance of the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Finance Corporation will also help to deal with the indicated problem. The deputy minister added that the introduction of the model will pursue the goal of optimizing the prices and terms of services provided by the ministry to business, based on a consensus of the state and the private sector. The model will be applied by "7-8 departments in the economic field of Armenia".

According to him, after introducing the indicated model, in 2007 the Dutch government set the task of reducing the expenses of such services's provision by 25%.

J. Deunay said that the standard expenditure model was first used in the Netherlands in order to evaluate the expenditures needed for fulfilment of the obligations related to legislative and normative regulation. Later the model was used in other countries of the EU and Great Britain.

He informed those present that the RA ministry of economy has encouraged businessmen and NGOs to participate in discussion on the use of the model.

"Armenia may become a leader in the model's introduction among developing states," J. Denay noted, adding that a simplified legislative field is conducive to attraction of more investments.

In the words J.F. Moret, the above mentioned concept will be developed within a year, after which the draft document will be submitted to 27 EU countries for presentation of respective proposals within 3 months, as well as proposals on formation of a partnership twin. The proposals will be summarized at a conference in Yerevan with the participation of representatives of these countries. The conference also will mark the start of the first twinning program in Armenia. The program of the total cost of 1-1.5 million USD will be implemented within 2 years.

J. F. Moret said that the intention to start using Twinning and Technical Assistance and Information Exchange tools in Armenia was announced in

November 2007. The indicated tools will be first of all applied for ensuring civil aviation safety and in the activities of the ombudsman.
