



#### 4 NATIONAL POLICY AND LEGISLATION IN TRADE AND TRANSIT

The state regulation in trade and services of the Republic of Armenia is aimed at coordination of the legal and contractual relations, identifying and resolving existing problems, establishing conditions for equal competition in transport sector, protecting the interests of Armenian businesses at the national level and in international markets, as well as establishing the cooperation between state agencies and NGOs.

Recently, the foreign trade activities of the Republic of Armenia are built upon the principles of liberalization, maintenance of international obligations assumed by Republic of Armenia, establishment of favourable environment for businesses involved in foreign trade activities, but also promotion of domestic exports.

Key documents regulating trade and transit in Armenia are:

- Customs Code;
- Law On Electronic Documentation and Electronic Digital Signature
- National Programme for Establishing the “Excellence Centre” for Business and Investment Climate Promotion in Armenia (concept);
- Procedure for Establishing Free Economic Zone in “Zvartnots” Airport of the Republic of Armenia;
- Customs administration strategy of the Republic of Armenia for 2008-2012.

Armenia Customs code is in compliance with WTO requirements and international standards.

Certificate of country of origin or any other relevant document is required in order to ensure exceptions envisaged by the international agreements for goods transported through the Armenia’s Customs borders. Armenia has an agreement with Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan “On Free Trade and Creation of Free Trade Zone” for the goods, originating from their countries and imported into Armenian Customs territory, which are exempt from Customs duties.

According to that agreement, the commodities that originate from Armenia are exempted from Customs duties when imported to the aforementioned countries. Based on the provisions of this agreement, the document that confirms the country of origin is the Certificate of the Country of Origin. Transit shipment of goods and means of transportation through Armenia’s territory is regulated by the Customs Code and by the Government Decree N. 887 "On Confirming the Order of Transit Shipment of Goods and Means of Transportation through the Republic of Armenia Customs Territory and Cases of Mandatory Customs Accompaniment".

Cross border cooperation (CBC) is an integral part of European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which gives an opportunity both to European Member States and Partner Countries to initiate regional co-operation. CBC programs that are implemented within the ENPI frame involve Eastern European, Southern Caucasian, as well as Eastern and Southern Mediterranean countries. Armenia is involved in one of CBC programs for Black Sea region, which is set in the Black Sea Joint Operation Programme (2007-2013).

In addition to that, Armenia is also a beneficiary country for “South Caucasus Integrated Border Management” project funded by the European Union.

At last, Armenia’s membership at the WTO dates back from 2003. In this framework, Armenia signed Regional Trade Agreement (RTA) with Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Georgia and the Kyrgyz Republic. Armenia is also a signatory member of the RTA signed between the CIS countries in 1994. It is also worth underlining that an early



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announcement was made on October 18, 2011 concerning the creation of a free trade agreement between several members of the CIS (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan and Ukraine).