**08th June 2020**

**European Business Association is organizing an online meeting.**

On 8th of June European Business Association has conducted on-line awareness session to introduce changes and existing opportunities in the Public Procurement System. The meeting has been conducted **i**n the scope of EU Project “Strengthening EU Business development in Armenia”.

The main objective of the online meeting was to make awareness regarding updates and opportunities of the Public Procurement System and present new opportunities to companies that are not aware about changes done and have concerns related to the fair competition and information transparency (especially for foreign investors). Main concern was presented during interviews with business representatives in the scope of EBA regular market exploratory study in the frame of the EU Project mentioned above. The survey results demonstrated that majority of companies’ owners/managers don’t have an appropriate access to information and equal opportunities sometimes. There is also no information in English, thus related difficulties are existing for foreign investors while applying to the public tenders.

Updates and discussion were presented by Mr. Sergey Shahnazaryan, Head of the Procurement Policy Department of the RA Ministry of Finance.

The opening speech was made by Mr. Karen Azaryan, Trade Officer at the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia.

As a result of the meeting, business representatives have become aware of detailed changes in the Public procurement system, they had an opportunity to voice their concerns and receive answers to questions of interest.

Furthermore, public sector representatives will gain insight on specific concerns of business sector and will be enabled to explain better some details that are not explored well by the business representatives.

During the meeting Mr. Shahnazaryan mentioned two main changes:

* + Full independence of the Public Procurement System
  + Procurements under newly launched program will be carried out through a national procedure as a result of the World Bank's assessment of the system.
* Under the new project, the electronic system will not be a mono-platform but a multi-platform, which means several platforms will be available and the business itself will choose the platform to participate in the procedure.
* It was noted that non-resident entities can also participate in the tenders by registering to the electronic system, which is free. However, all information presented only in Armenian language and document package should also be presented in Armenian.
* EBA members asked about IT tenders’ opportunities which is now in fact made based on the service contract basis.
* The participants of the meeting raised their concerns, in particular, about the possibility for international organizations to participate in tenders, bank guarantees, the list of intellectual services and questions regarding other services.