



for a better business environment

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February 2023



AmCham is an independent business association operating in Armenia since 2000. AmCham represents the interests of 150+ member companies from almost all sectors of the economy. AmCham's goal is to enhance the U.S.-Armenia business relations and improve the business and investment climate in the country. The Chamber is pleased to have both local companies and companies from all over the world among its members. AmCham Armenia is a member of U.S. Chamber of Commerce and AmChams in Europe.

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## PRESS CONFERENCE

On February 3 2023, AmCham Armenia organized a Press Conference on the Draft Law on Comprehensive Health Insurance. The speakers of the Press Conference were: Mr. Tigran Jrbashyan, AmCham Board Director Ms. Elina Markaryan, AmCham 1st Vice-President Mr. Haykaz Fanyan, Modex Mr. Armen Martirosyan, UMBA Mr. Armen Baldryan, Unicomp.



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## MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION OF THE RA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



On February 6 2023, on the initiative of the Union of Employers of Information and Communication Technologies, a meeting was held with the delegation of the RA National Assembly, headed by Hakob Arshakyan, Vice President of the RA NA. Members of the Parliament were accompanying Mr. Arshakyan during the meeting.

According to the principle of partnership in a new format formed between UIECT and partner Unions, the meeting was also attended by the president of the American Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Ashot Hovanesyan.

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## AMCHAM LEGAL COMMITTEE MEETING

On the 15th of February 2023, AmCham Armenia convened its first Legal Committee meeting of the year. In attendance were AmCham Legal Committee members as well as representatives from the Union of Banks, the Association of the Credit Organization of the Republic of Armenia (RA), and the Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen of Armenia (UMBA).

The attendees engaged in a productive dialogue and examined several agenda items in depth.



## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING



On February 23, 2023, AmCham Armenia held the first Digital Transformation Committee meeting of the year.

Insightful discussions were held on critical topics pertaining to our committee's mission, objectives, and policy priorities.

Active participation was observed from all members, who provided their valuable insights and perspectives.

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## DISCUSSION ON SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE EPR

On 23 February 2023 a successful meeting was held to discuss the extended producer responsibility model in the framework of sustainable waste management with producer and importer companies generating a packaging waste.

The meeting was organized by AmCham and focused on the transition process towards sustainable waste management.

The attendees were presented with extended producer responsibility model, informed about the waste management legislation being developed within the framework of the "Waste Management Policy in Armenia" program.



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## PARLIAMENTARY HEARINGS ON AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE LABOR CODE OF THE RA



On February 23, the AmCham leadership together with representatives of Union of Manufacturers and Businessmen, Union of Banks of Armenia, FinArm, Armenian-British Business Chamber were hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Grigoryan to discuss the Concept on Comprehensive Health Insurance.

Representatives of private sector presented their comments and concerns on the document as well as the related potential risks. The Minister of Health Ms. Avanesyan also participated in the meeting.

# PARLIAMENTARY HEARINGS ON AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO RA LABOR CODE

On 24 February 2023, AmCham Labor and Legal Committees representatives participated in the Parliamentary hearings on Amendments and Additions to the Labor Code of the Republic of Armenia.

During the hearings, we raised our concerns regarding the proposed changes and their potential impact on businesses operating in Armenia. We are proud to mention that our Legal Committee Co-Chair Ara Kzmalyan gave a speech, highlighting the importance of ensuring that the new amendments do not affect the competitiveness of businesses and the country's overall economic growth in a negative way.



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# WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



## GOLD MEMBER – ELDORADO



Eldorado is one of the largest retailers of consumer electronics and household appliances in Armenia. The company's geography covers more than 400 cities and over 600 stores in different countries and cities around the globe.

Eldorado is a two-time winner of Online Retail Regional Awards (2015, 2016) in the category “The Best Online Shop” in the consumer electronics household appliances segment and is a two-time winner of EMEA Channel Academy Award: “CIS. Retailer of the Year” (2015, 2016) as well as Regional Retail Awards 2016. Currently, the number of Eldorado club participants is about 16 million people.



## SILVER MEMBER – EPAM



EPAM is an international engineering company operating in 50+ countries, where we provide real business value to Forbes Global 2000 customers with software engineering and strategic business solutions, combined with innovation consulting, design thinking, and physical-digital capabilities.

EPAM joined Armenia in 2014, and since then we've grown to 1000+ team of professionals, working with international clients, inputting to the growth of IT specialists in Armenia through ongoing free training programs, promoting Armenia in the IT community worldwide.x



## SILVER MEMBER – ART-GROUP LLC



Art-Group was founded in 2020, Yerevan, Armenia. The Company is engaged in construction activities, in particular planning and construction of residential buildings and constructions of other purposes. We also do construction management.

The Company Art-Group builds exclusively in accordance with international standards, observing Armenian and international requirements for ecology, safety and building codes. During construction, all materials used are subject to appropriate examination. Then, after each stage, the entire constructed site is subject to inspection by licensed organizations both in order to verify the quality characteristics of the materials and the effectiveness of the joint launch of structural mechanisms.

At the core of every project is quality, and we take into account all the details, because our goal is to make your everyday life more comfortable by creating a safe, favorable and close to nature environment for the whole life.



## BRONZE MEMBER – MERAKIPAL



MerakiPal is a consulting and coaching company that offers various services based on the idea of Meraki to foster continuous improvement and an environment of growth in partner organizations. For the last 5 years we were focused on creating special products for our partners to meet their specific needs. All our products are customizable, and are tailored to the needs of our clients. We are outcome-oriented, focusing on the changes we can bring to the company, not the numbers and hours worked.

This is not an ordinary consulting company. We don't hire full-time consultants here. All our team members are employed by other companies, and work with them on an everyday basis. We don't want our clients to receive consultancy, coaching, training or facilitation by people who are not in the industry today. We visit our clients with people who are facing and overcoming similar challenges every single day.