



# EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

## News Release

### *Referendum on Constitutional Amendments in Armenia*

*30 November, 2005*

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005 citizens of the Republic of Armenia voted in a Referendum on Amendments to the Constitution. The amended draft of the Constitution was approved of by the National Assembly, following political debates among various political forces in Armenia, and the recommendations of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission.

The adopted amendments are introduced to improve the balance between the legislative, executive and judicial branches of power, to secure a higher degree of their independence, and to guarantee a better protection of human rights in the country.

According to the Central Electoral Commission of Armenia, about 1.4 million people came to the polling stations to cast their vote on that day, constituting 64 percent (or nearly two thirds) of the population eligible to vote. About 93 percent of the participants voted in favour of the amendments, and around 5.4 percent voted against.

A polling station was open on November 27<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy of Armenia in London, in order to provide the right to vote for Armenian citizens currently residing in or visiting the UK. Of those who cast their votes at the Embassy, 69.2 percent voted in favour of the amendments.