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Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU

Présidence tchèque du Conseil de l'UE

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Vienna 2 April 2009

Permanent Council No.757 "Joint Analysis, Joint Action" – conference of EU National Rapporteurs on Trafficking in Human Beings"

The Czech delegation is pleased to inform the Permanent council that on 30-31 March 2009 in Prague, EU government officials and experts on national monitoring and reporting mechanisms, and data collection on trafficking in human beings, participated in the "Conference of EU national rapporteurs on trafficking in human beings", organized under the auspices of the EU Czech Presidency.

The Czech Republic perceives the fight against trafficking in human beings as one of its priorities; therefore trafficking has been chosen as one of the Czech Presidency's topics. The conference was organized by the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic in co-operation with the European Commission and the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human beings.

Examples of best practice of various national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism were introduced during the conference, thus attesting to the rich experiences of implementation found throughout the European Union. The discussion was focused on the role, function and mandates of this mechanism, as well as specific issues such as the national reports on THB. The Ministry of the Interior created on the basis of the questionnaire as the constitutive tool for the closer co-operation a specific web site on the following address: <u>www.national-rapporteurs.eu</u>. This web site provides the unique information on the offices of

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national rapporteur or equivalent mechanism within EU MS, including contact point, relevant national web sites and national documents. Such a tool was highly welcomed by the participants as the excellent basis for the information sharing and exchange.

The conference was aimed to open the discussion on the possibility to create an effective EU national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms network. Considering the cooperation with European Commission and OSCE Special Representative the tie-in system with the non-EU region, from which many victims of THB subsequently exploited within the EU territory come from, hence is assured as well.

As visible from the discussions during the conference, CZ PRES call for the closer cooperation of national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms was highly welcomed; the subsequent process will be subjected to the further discussions with the national representatives of the multidisciplinary working group of the Council of the EU for the fight against organized crime (MDG).

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