



PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY IN RESPONSE TO
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE EVA BIAUDET

As delivered by Ambassador Guttorm Vik
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
9 July 2009

Madam Chairperson,

Let me first join previous speakers in welcoming the Special Representative, Ms Eva Biaudet, back to the Permanent Council and thanking her for her thought-provoking report. And let me also join you, Madam Chairperson, in congratulating her on the informative and illustrative Occasional Paper on Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in the Agricultural Sector that we found on our tables.

We generally welcome the initiatives of the Special Representative in the fight against trafficking in human beings for the purpose of Labour Exploitation and in the prevention of all forms of Modern Slavery.

Norway is deeply concerned with the gaps in the implementation of international and regional instruments against trafficking. We are convinced that more independent **monitoring** will help us achieve and measure progress as well as define needs for technical assistance. We therefore welcome the country assessments and country visits of the Special Representative.

Norway together with Argentina has taken the initiative to establish a monitoring mechanism for the UN trafficking protocol and would like the Special Representative to pay attention to the working group established under the **UNODC** for this purpose. The group will have its first meeting in Vienna 28 – 30 September 2009. Its mandate is to propose mechanisms to

review the implementation of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime including its protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

Norway welcomes the cooperation and coordination of the Special Representative with the **EU** on national monitoring and reporting. We recommend that these activities take into account the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention against trafficking and the work of its group of experts “**GRETA**”. We also encourage the Special Representative to coordinate her efforts with the work of the **UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking** and the **Universal Periodic Reviews** of countries carried out by the Human Rights Council.

In general, Norway encourages **coordination** between the existing and new monitoring mechanisms in Europe and in the UN, in order **to avoid duplication and achieve maximum effectiveness**.

Finally Madam Chairperson,

Let me stress our strong support to the Special Representative, and we look forward to continuing our close co-operation with both Ms. Biaudet and her dedicated and competent staff.