



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Review Conference
Astana, 27 November 2010**

EU statement - Working Session 6: Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, with a Particular Focus on Trafficking in Children

Thank you Madam Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

OSCE commitments to find and treat the root causes of trafficking, to encourage states as key actors to face and address the problem of exploitation of vulnerable people in today's societies respond to real questions and real needs. Addressing in particular the problem of trafficking in children and women is of utmost importance, as they are the primary targets of human trafficking and violence.

Children represent between 40% and 50% of all victims of trafficking globally. This number in itself is a clear sign that the well functioning of comprehensive child protection and social welfare systems are and will be of utmost importance in order to effectively prevent child trafficking and to protect vulnerable and exploited children.

The EU has been paying special attention to the prevention and the fight against trafficking in human beings and the protection and assistance of its victims. This commitment is manifested in several legislative and strategic documents.

In its Stockholm Programme the EU prioritises trafficking in human beings as one of the forms of serious and organised crime. It underlines that the strengthened and enhanced prevention of and fight against trafficking in human beings should be based on coordinated and coherent policy response. As in the Action Plan to implement this Programme, the European Union is now preparing a new directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, and protecting victims.

Furthermore we would like to highlight the Commission Communication on the Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2010-2014), published in May 2010. This initiative mirrors the special attention given by the Kazakh Chairmanship to child trafficking. The Action Plan aims to give common approach to this very important segment of trafficking which would be based on the respect for the rights of the child, in particular the principle of „the best interest of the child”. The aim is to provide the best possible protection to all children who need it.

The OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century underlines the OSCE's efforts to target younger generations, because their outlook and perspective of the future are key. The OSCE decided to take on a stronger role in the field of education, and human rights education in particular. Numerous children in the OSCE area are victims of human trafficking, it is therefore of the utmost importance to disseminate information on this issue, also to the children themselves. Human rights education covering the issue of protection against trafficking of children should include this issue and be strongly promoted in countries of origin, transit and destination.

The EU notes with satisfaction the existing, effective cooperation between the OSCE and the EU, which is also clearly reflected in the initiative on EU national rapporteurs or other equivalent mechanisms.

During the Corfu Process, and further at the Review Conference, the EU strongly advocated the need to strengthen the implementation of existing OSCE commitments. This notion is undoubtedly valid in the field of combating trafficking

in human beings. Furthermore we share the view that the OSCE Summit here in Astana, only days away from now, offers a unique opportunity to clearly and unequivocally reconfirm our commitments in this field.

Finally, let me thank the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms Giammarinaro, and her dedicated team for their tireless efforts to tackle trafficking in human beings and to assure her of our full support in her future endeavours.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA* and ICELAND, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, ARMENIA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

** Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.