



**Permanent Mission of Greece  
to the OSCE**

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### **Trafficking in Human Beings**

A. In Greece criminal offences relating to trafficking in human beings are punishable under the Penal Code (articles 312, 323, 336, 337, 338, 339, 341, 342, 343, 345, 346, 348, 349, 350, 351, texts available in Greek only). These provisions are being supported and in some cases completed by a number of international treaties and conventions as well as covenants that Greece has signed and ratified during the many last decades, thus allowing formation of a comprehensive corps of legal texts for the prosecution of the crime under review.

However, the aforementioned legal provisions do not name "trafficking in human beings" as a particular crime and the currently imperative need of such an innovation in the legislation is reflected into the draft law, which was made public last December, and has actually been introduced to the Parliament for discussion and vote.

The draft law came as a result of a fruitful inter-ministerial cooperation in the framework of a high-ranking Group of specialists (judges, policemen, sociologists, civil servants etc) named OKEA, operating under the chair of National Police's Chief.

Some cardinal points of the draft proceed as follows:

- It amends and augments legal provisions that already punish a wide range of criminal activities relating to trafficking in human beings.
- The henceforth-particular crime falls under the provisions of Law 2331/99 prosecuting organized crime and accordingly provides to some extent for the same special procedures to be applied in cases of terrorism and organized crime, particularly in connection with protection of witnesses.
- The unlawful gains from the crime and its perpetrators will face the severe consequences of the law on money laundering.
- The crime is punishable even if it was committed outside the national borders and is irrelevant for the court if the criminal offence is not being punished in the country it was perpetrated. .
- Last but not least a special care is being taken for punishing pornography of children and immediately assisting its victims.

B. As in the course of the last ten years Greece experienced the sudden impact of a unique flux of immigrants, the draft law pays particular attention to those among them who are victims of such violence.

Notwithstanding the fact that immigrants who are willing to testify as witnesses or to co-operate with law-enforcement agencies, in cases of trafficking of

human beings, will be given the possibility either to regulate their situation in Greece or to eventually choose their safe repatriation, the draft law protects equally male and female immigrant victims as well as nationals and provides for all kind of aid they will be in need of (social, legal, psychological etc).

C. Taking into account the fact that in the year 2001 the police have successfully inquired 440 cases of trafficking of human beings with 725 identified victims and arrested 529 perpetrators, either nationals or immigrants, a number of best practices appear on a non-exhaustive list:

- a police effort to inquire an increasing number of similar cases every year, as well as to co-operate closely with Municipalities and local (elected) administration in general, with regard to issuing temporary residence permit cards (green cards) to immigrants.
- a program of permanent education of all civil servants dealing with the problem either directly or with its different parameters leading to the inter-connection of the particular crime with other criminal offences, such as money laundering, blackmail, extortion, bribery, drugs etc.
- a need for international police and judicial cooperation aiming particularly at the creation of data banks, that will provide statistical as well as any other relevant information concerning the hideous crime of trafficking in human beings.

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