



**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

**Warsaw, 22 September – 3 October 2014**

**Working Session 6 - Humanitarian issues and other commitments,  
Including address by the OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for  
Combating Trafficking in Human Beings**

**Contribution of the Council of Europe**

**Statement of Mr. Childerik Schaapveld  
Head of Council of Europe Office in Vienna**

## **The fight against trafficking in human beings**

Thank you, madam moderator,

Allow me to use this opportunity to once again congratulate the Special Representative, Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, on taking on this most important task.

For the last eight years, the focus of co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE in the field of action against human trafficking has been set on promoting the widest possible signature and ratification of the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and encouraging full implementation of the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments. The OSCE has observer status with the Committee of the Parties to the CoE Anti-Trafficking Convention and the two organisations are pursuing cooperation, making continuous efforts to avoid duplication and aiming for synergies.

This cooperation is shaped by the principles agreed between the President and the First Vice-President of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), the OSCE Special Representative and the OSCE ODIHR in June 2010. The cooperation is also provided with a more formal backbone by the annual CoE-OSCE Coordination Group of Ambassadors to the Permanent Council and to the Committee of Ministers' Deputies focusing on trafficking in human beings.

During its country visits, GRETA delegations consistently meet the local offices of the OSCE - where they have a field presence and an anti-trafficking Focal Point. Our mutual reports and other publications serve as a valuable source of expertise for CoE Member States and OSCE Participating States and provide the basis of joint initiatives. GRETA was also closely involved in the consultations surrounding the development of the OSCE paper on "Policy and legislative recommendations towards the effective implementation of the non-punishment provision with regards to victims of trafficking" as well as on the draft "OSCE Guide to Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons"

The high-level CoE and OSCE conference on the occasion of the Austrian Chairmanship of the CoE and the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship, entitled "Not for Sale - Joining Forces against Trafficking in Human Beings" that took place in February of this year has been highlighted by certain delegations and the first joint actions resulting from the conference's Framework for Joint Action have already been detailed by Ambassador Jarbussynova and the Swiss Chair at this session. Allow me to express the CoE's appreciation as well as gratitude to the Swiss Chair and the Special Representative's Office for the excellent joint initiative and its outcomes that we are keen to follow up closely.

Since May 2014, GRETA launched the second round of evaluation of the Convention by sending the new questionnaire to the first parties to be evaluated: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark and the Slovak Republic. GRETA had decided to examine during the second evaluation round the impact of legislative, policy and practical measures on the prevention of trafficking, the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking, and the prosecution of traffickers. The adoption of a human rights-based approach to action against trafficking in human beings remains at the centre of this new evaluation round. In addition, particular attention is paid to measures taken to address new trends in human trafficking and the vulnerability of children to trafficking. I believe that this focus will be of particular value to the Special Representative's Office work after having listened carefully to the two very insightful and helpful introductions. The relevance of harmonising our mutual work is further increased by the entry into force of the Convention in Belarus on 1 March 2014, the first OSCE and non-CoE member state to do so.

The CoE-OSCE cooperation in the field of trafficking served as a concrete example and inspiration at this year's Human Dimension Seminar, held in May in this same hall, demonstrating the worth of principles-based cooperation and of dynamic coordination to achieve a higher impact in pursuing our common objectives, in particular with regard to respective country visits as well as establishing an effective link between monitoring and delivering technical assistance.

Thank you