

PC.DEL/1479/14
18 December 2014

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

**STATEMENT BY
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1031st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 December 2014

**In response to the statement by the OSCE Special Representative and
Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings,
Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova**

The European Union and its Member States are pleased to welcome Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, for her first statement to the Permanent Council in that capacity.

As mentioned in the 2014 report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime referred to in your statement, trafficking in human beings is a crime committed most frequently at the intraregional level and predominantly for the purpose of sexual exploitation and forced labour. This calls for decisive action in the OSCE region, which is directly affected. In this regard, the Organization can play an important role in assisting participating and partner States. We hope that you will continue to distribute an annual report on the OSCE's anti-trafficking activities, which is an important document that will help guide our actions, particularly within the framework of the Organization.

On the basis of the 2003 Action Plan and the recent 2013 Addendum, we encourage you to operate simultaneously in the four areas, promoting a comprehensive and integrated approach. Efforts should be aimed at the reduction of demand so as to prevent the phenomenon; at the identification, protection and care of victims, including compensation for them; at the prosecution and conviction of criminals and confiscation of their assets and the proceeds of crime; and at partnership with all relevant stakeholders, including the key players in civil society, at the national and international level.

Madam Special Representative and Co-ordinator,

Your work should focus on raising awareness among decision makers and on action in the field.

As far as awareness-raising is concerned, numerous activities have taken place in 2014. Amongst other things, the conference co-organized by the Council of Europe has helped to strengthen international co-operation. We welcome the specific actions that resulted from it, such as the joint workshop organized at the end of October in Strasbourg for

prosecutors and judges. The conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons confirmed, not least through the high-quality parallel events, the OSCE's capacity for fostering fruitful discussion between representatives of institutions, the private sector and civil society. This was also the case at the session devoted to this subject at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw. We support this approach, which enables good practices to develop. Your work of raising awareness of the links between trafficking in human beings and other criminal activities such as illegal immigration is useful and should be continued.

As for action in the field, apart from the follow-up visits to the various countries, the year 2014 has also seen a wide array of publications, such as the study on combating the laundering of money obtained from the crime of trafficking in human beings, which highlighted one of the decisive approaches to the effective combating of criminal networks. In that context, we should also like to mention Directive 2014/42 of 3 April 2014 on the freezing and confiscation of instrumentalities and proceeds of crime in the European Union. We congratulate you on the handbook on the prevention of domestic servitude in diplomatic households presented last week to experts in the various capitals. We encourage you to enhance co-ordination, particularly with field missions, which are vital to the fight against trafficking in human beings. The important work carried out by them should be continued, and we hope you can assist them in it.

We reaffirm our determination to combat all forms of trafficking in human beings with a view to eradicating it. Between 2010 and 2012, a total of 30,146 victims were identified in the European Union, but there can be no doubt that the extent of the phenomenon is much vaster. Since the adoption of Directive 2011/36, the European Union has been actively engaged in specific activities to develop its 2012–2016 Strategy on Trafficking, based particularly on an approach that places emphasis on human rights and the protection of victims and their rights.

The mid-term report on the implementation of this Strategy, distributed during the eighth European Anti-Trafficking Day, mentions the numerous initiatives already undertaken by the European Union and confirms its intention to continue its efforts. Specific courses of action have been identified, including the establishment of the European Business Coalition, strengthening the informal network of national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms, and support for the European Union Civil Society Platform. There is real convergence with the OSCE's anti-trafficking policy, based on complementarity with the other partners. We urge you to co-operate together, noting the concordance between the OSCE's multidimensional approach and the European Union strategy.

The OSCE has a full set of commitments and competent structures to combat trafficking in human beings. It is a credible partner in fighting against trafficking, as a means of strengthening stability and security in our region. We thank all of the executive structures for the work they have accomplished and urge them not to slacken their efforts. It is important that you have the means required for your work.

The candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro¹, Iceland², Serbia¹ and Albania¹, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and

1 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Liechtenstein and Norway, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the European Free Trade Association and the European Economic Area.