



## EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2012  
Warsaw, 28 September 2012**

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### **EU statement – Session 8**

#### **COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS**

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It is my honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States in this working session.

Trafficking in human beings impedes the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitutes a serious threat to the whole society.

We attach great importance to the work of the OSCE committed to the fight against trafficking in human beings and welcome the discussion on the Rule of Law Framework for combating trafficking in human beings at the Human Dimension Seminar earlier this year. We share the approach of the OSCE that puts human rights and the rights of victims at the centre of our efforts.

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.

Given that last year the EU adopted the Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (2011/36/EU) and many other legislative and policy measures came into force lately, the European Commission launched and adopted a Strategy in June this year, to provide a coherent framework for existing and planned initiatives and to set priorities.

This Strategy identifies five priorities the EU should focus on:

- A. Identifying, protecting and assisting victims of trafficking
- B. Stepping up the prevention of trafficking in human beings
- C. Increased prosecution of traffickers
- D. Enhanced coordination and cooperation among key actors and policy coherence
- E. Increased knowledge of and effective response to emerging concerns related to all forms of trafficking in human beings

The Commission has also appointed an EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator who started her tenure of office in March 2011 and will oversee the implementation of this Strategy. The Commission has also developed a website dedicated to anti-trafficking that is regularly updated. The Commission intends to establish effective monitoring and evaluation procedures while avoiding duplication. Member States are encouraged to develop their own evaluation and monitoring of national strategies and activities.

The EU is committed to working with the OSCE and the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in order to accomplish the aims of the new EU Strategy, and to respond to the challenges of this threat of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular by strengthening co-operation with OSCE participating states that are not members of the EU. We are convinced that within its area OSCE is a credible partner for combating trafficking and strengthening stability and we note with satisfaction the existing, effective cooperation between the OSCE and EU.

Finally, let me thank the OSCE, Special Representative Ms Giammarinaro and ODIHR for their tireless efforts to tackle trafficking and let me assure the Organization of our full support in the future.

Thank you

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Georgia and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

*\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

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