



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Talking Points of the Director General of Security Issues and International Organizations, Mr. Spiro Koçi, on trafficking of human beings
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- Albania fully aligns itself with the EU statement. We would like to provide some highlights of our national efforts in combating human trafficking.
- Aware of the integrated and cross-dimensional approach needed to counter human trafficking in all its forms, the efforts of the Albanian authorities have focused mainly on the completion of the national regulatory framework and putting in place appropriate national mechanisms at a central and regional level.
- Following the ratification in 2002 of the **UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** and its **two Additional Protocols**, Albania has completed its legislative framework through changes to the **Criminal Code**, which include general provisions regarding the trafficking and smuggling of human beings, the trafficking of women and children in particular, child pornography and illegal border trespassing.
- Another step in providing support for the protection and reintegration of victims of trafficking relates to the adoption of new legal provisions within the **framework law on social assistance** – allowing for government funding for shelters and also providing victims of trafficking the same social benefits accorded to other groups at risk in Albania.
- With a view to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation on a nationwide level, the Government of Albania has established the following institutional mechanisms:
 1. The **Office of the National Coordinator on the Fight against Trafficking of Human Beings** at the **Ministry of Interior** was established in 2005 with the primary task of coordinating efforts of governmental, civil society and international stakeholders involved in the fight and prevention of human trafficking and smuggling.
 2. **Regional Committees on the Fight against Human Trafficking** and **Child Protection Units** have been established. Their goal is to ensure a concerted action of all involved stakeholders and in assessing and monitoring the situation of victims or potential victims of trafficking. Furthermore, **specialized police structures** focused on the fight against organized crime and illegal trafficking were established in all police directorates throughout the territory of the country.
 3. The **National Anti-Trafficking Task-Force** was established in 2008, mandated with mission of drafting, implementing and periodically evaluating anti-trafficking measures and initiatives in the country.
 4. The Government of Albania has started to implement the **National Referral Mechanism**, which comprises a countrywide network of state agencies and national and international non-governmental actors (including police structures, state social services, the diplomatic and consular services, as well as the civil society and shelters operating in the country) – providing for an enhanced

identification, protection, referral and reintegration of victims of trafficking in Albania.

- We avail ourselves of this opportunity to express appreciation for the fruitful cooperation with the **OSCE Presence in Albania**, whose support has been particularly important in regards to the training of human resources of law-enforcement structures, as well as different state and civil society stakeholders. More than 550 officials and practitioners involved in anti-trafficking activities were trained in the last 2 years with the support of the OSCE Presence in Albania.
- It is due to these measures and the increased capacity of our law-enforcement agencies that the fight against trafficking of human beings and the protection of victims of trafficking have seen major improvements.
- **Albania** is resolved to relentlessly fight against the phenomena of trafficking and smuggling of human beings, to increase cross-border cooperation and to improve return procedures, to strengthen cooperation with all partners in terms of prevention activities and to sustain an effective partnership with the civil society and international organizations in ensuring the protection and reintegration of victims or potential victims of trafficking and smuggling.