

**Address by Mr Angel Tîlvăr,  
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Trafficking**

The 18<sup>th</sup> Conference on Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons  
Meeting on 24 April 2018, 09:00 – 12:30; *Neuer Saal, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*  
Debate on “*Towards more inclusive partnerships*”

Dear Chair, distinguished guests, dear colleagues,

- It is a high pleasure for me to speak in this frame and **I would like to appreciate the efforts made by the organizers for providing all conditions for having a successful Conference in Vienna.**
- Combating trafficking in human beings continues to be a **political priority for Romania.**
- The Romanian authorities have made significant efforts to prevent and fight against trafficking in human beings (THB). Romania values the importance of partnerships in the area of preventing and fighting trafficking and will continue to work with all international stakeholders towards this goal. Thus, Romania is an active partner working with organizations such as Europol, Interpol, Eurojust, Frontex, and the SELEC (Southeast European Law Enforcement Centre)
- The relevant **legal framework** has been set up in accordance with the highest international standards in this field. Romania is party to all major international legal instruments addressing trafficking in persons. We have also invested efforts into updating the national legislative framework in this field.
- **The civil society also plays an important role** by supplementing, where needed, the governmental efforts. In our view, the cooperation with the civil society in the area of assistance, reporting and repatriation of victims of the trafficking of persons is a necessary condition for supporting the services focused on the superior interest of victims.
- Romania implements the **National Identification and Referral Mechanism for the victims of the THB** and is part of the Transnational Referral Mechanism in the South-Eastern Europe. It has helped improve data collection system and this information is useful in elaborating new policies and adapting ongoing activities to the new trends and problems identified.
- **Specialized anti-THB training** on identifying and assisting victims of trafficking and/or investigating and prosecuting THB cases is constantly provided to government officials with attributions in combating THB, such as police officers, investigators, prosecutors, diplomats etc.
- The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons runs **awareness-raising campaigns** at national level and abroad covering a wide range of forms of trafficking and targeting both the general public as well as vulnerable groups. The messages promoted through the awareness-raising campaigns are related to the risks and implications associated to THB and tailored to the specific of the local communities and the target groups (for example, vulnerable categories, the public at large, persons who come in contact with THB victims or potential victims etc.). Usually,

the campaigns are implemented in cooperation with the local authorities, institutions involved in preventing and combating THB, NGOs and aim to strengthen the aspect of prevention and to change the negative social attitudes towards victims of trafficking.

Dear participants,

- The Romanian authorities are equally focused on the **transnational dimension of trafficking in human being** which requires a close cooperation between the Romanian and foreign authorities through a multi-disciplinary approach – from prevention to identifying presumed victims, facilitating their safe return to the country of origin and prosecuting perpetrators.
- On 15 February 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons signed a **Partnership Agreement**. As a result, the Project “*Reducing the human trafficking amplitude through better information of citizens*” is currently being implemented with the aim to increase awareness of the general population and of the persons at risk on the implications of trafficking in human beings.
- **The Romanian MFA has participated** along with the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons and various NGOs **in public and joint activities**, in order to share its experience and expertise and for a better understanding of the competencies of the Romanian authorities involved in preventing and combating THB. For example, in 2017, representatives of the MFA’s Consular Department participated in the activities conducted during the implementation of the national awareness campaign “*Keep being informed in your country! Be safe abroad!*”. The campaign, initiated by the Ministry for Romanians Abroad, was carried out in the counties of Botoșani, Suceava and Neamț with the aim of informing, preventing and combating the risk factors that may occur for the Romanian citizens residing abroad, simultaneously with supporting the integration process of Romanian citizens in the countries where they live, study or work, as well as their social insertion and reintegration with the decision to return to Romania.
- Additionally, the MFA - through the diplomatic missions and consular offices - grants **general consular assistance to the Romanian citizens**, including those presumed victims of THB. According to the Romanian legal framework, consular assistance consists of issuing, free of charge, emergency travel documents for returning to the country of origin, providing possibilities of returning to Romania, offering in collaboration with local authorities’ accommodation, food and other facilities, if possible, providing with useful information on accommodations centers, contact points and details of NGOs.
- The MFA, through the Consular Department, has implemented the **Information System for Integrated Management of Services for Citizens (SIMISC)**, a tool for modernizing and computerizing the consular services provided for the citizens. All diplomatic missions and consular offices register in SIMISC cases of Romanian citizens identified as victims of trafficking in human beings.
- The prompt notification of the competent local authorities in the state of residence by the Romanian diplomatic and consular offices refers to requesting urgent investigation of presumed offenses related to THB or other forms of abusive treatment by the local employers in relation to the Romanian citizens, the punishment of the offenders, as well the restoration and the

observance of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims (e.g. social rights, freedom of movement etc.) and, where appropriate, their safe repatriation.

- Also, the Romanian diplomatic missions and consular offices monitor the progress of court proceedings, facilitate per request the contact with lawyers specialized in domestic law and/or with Romanian language translators, cooperate with other competent public institution and authorities and with associations able to intervene in favor of the victims.

Dear colleagues,

- The Parliament has an important role in fighting against HT. Romania. As a brief conclusion, based on other expressed opinions, Romania may be assessed as a good example for coping with THB in which the Parliament is a core player. (în acest paragraf a fost incluse elemente la sugestia organizatorilor)